# Te Araroa – More than a trail

**Introduction**

Te Araroa - New Zealand's Trail - is a continuous 3,000 km walking trail from Cape Reinga to Bluff. Te Araroa is the ultimate 5-month New Zealand experience, that also offers section tramps lasting anything from a few days to a week or more, and many attractive day or overnight walks. It is a different kind of trail from the traditional back-country tramping tracks; Te Araroa has been designed to connect townships and cities. It's a corridor that encourages social and economic transactions en route and showcases a wide variety of New Zealand experiences – natural, cultural and historic. Officially opened in 2011, the trail has seen year on year growth in the numbers of walkers taking on the challenge.

**Topic**

Te Araroa Trust is determined to ensure the ongoing sustainability of the trail; in doing so, the focus of the Trust is to encourage more Kiwis to experience the trail, either as a complete 3000 km through walk, or by competing sections across their life time. The people the walkers meet along the 3000 km trail is very diverse. We encourage walkers to take their time, not only to take in the many sites they will come across, but also to meet the people who make this trail unique and very special.

The number of walkers completing Te Araroa is increasing year on year; this brings several challenges that the Trust is currently wrestling with and will continue to do so in the foreseeable future. Out of these challenges comes opportunities; some of which have been identified, and some of which will arise as the future sustainability of the trail evolves.

In 2020 the Te Araora Trust signed a MOU with Walking Access Commission our presentation will cover off how that partnership is progressing and

What are the major challenges we face?

* Kauri Dieback impact on the Northland sections of the trail
* Use of private land
* Managing increase in walkers using the trail and the pressure on key infrastructure – e.g. toilets, huts and camping spots
* Walker behavior and how we develop a culture of what is expected by TA Walkers
* The ongoing enhancement of the trail – improving the walker experience e.g. reducing road walking
* Obtaining sufficient resources to sustain and enhance a New Zealand Icon, including having key volunteers in each our key regions.