



Proposal to double capacity at the Deep Creek Turk and develop relationship with Queenstown Trails Trust (QTT)

Background

- The Mountain Turk Club (MTC) was established in March 2020 as an organisation to own and manage huts (Turks) in the back country for recreation use.
- A Turk is a low-cost alpine hut based on a modified plastic water tank. It has 4 bunks and can accommodate 2 additional people on the floor. The structure is insulated, equipped with cooking facilities and approved by a registered engineer.
- The interior is of high quality, comparable with huts on the Great Walks. There is solar lighting, cooking facilities, artwork and a small library. There is also a long drop toilet.
- The club currently owns and operates 6 Turks, all on the Mahu Whenua Traverse. These are located at: Crown Peak, Deep Creek, Vanguard Peak, Mt Saint Just, Mt Hyde and Polnoon Saddle.
- Membership of the MTC is gained by either:
 - contributing materials towards a Turk (minimum value of \$300);
 - 10 hours of labour helping build or install Turks ; or
 - 10 hours of conservation effort to improve the land the Turks occupy such as wilding pine control or tree planting.
- Club members pay \$20 per person/night to use a Turk. Non-members can use the Turks for a fee based on the cost of doing a great walk such as the Routeburn (\$70 per person/night).
- The club also has family and founding members who have made greater financial contributions and do not pay nightly fees.
- The Deep Creek Turk is within 150 metres of the new Coronet Loop Cycle Trail. Mountain Turk club members have been incorporating an overnight stay in the Turk as they cycle the trail.
- The 6 existing Turks cost \$21,000 to build (including helicopter installation time) all using voluntary labour. The estimated current replacement cost including a toilet would be \$25,000.
- The club runs a booking system on the Turks to collect revenue and guarantee people a reserved bunk. The booking system runs on the Ibis platform for which a monthly cost is payable.



Proposal

- To expand the Deep Creek Turk site so that it contains two Turks and two toilets, which can accommodate 8 people in bunks (or 12 using the on-floor mattresses).
- Additional water-storage tanks are added (as required) to meet seasonal needs;
- The QTT find \$20,000 (of the estimated \$25,000) to build an additional Turk.
- The QTT and MTC work together to build the Turk.
- Revenue from night stays would be split 60% to the MTC to fund maintenance, upkeep and ultimately replacement of the Deep Creek Turks, (including consumables such as fuel and toilet paper, running costs such as insurance and the booking system costs), with the remaining 40% paid to the QEII Trail Maintenance Fund (as managed by the QTT) for upkeep of the Coronet Loop.
- QTT promotes the Coronet Loop Trail with the overnight stay. The MTC manages reservations and accounting. Both Turks can still be booked either via the MTC or by the QTT websites on an first-come first-serve availability basis.



Considerations

- This proposal needs acceptance from the members of the MTC and the MTC Committee's recommendation will be voted upon at the MTC Annual Meeting on 3 May 2022.
- Agreement may also be required from the QEII National Trust, Soho Properties Ltd, LINZ and the QLDC (extension to existing resource consent)
- Construction is proposed for summer 2022/23 subject to approval and funding;
- Lifetime members of the QTT (\$10,000 towards construction of the additional Deep Creek Turk) and their families (that accompany them) would pay no nightly fees for staying at the Deep Creek Turk. If the Lifetime member wished, a plaque with a simple sentence would also be erected inside the Deep Creek Turk;
- Friends of the Trust supporters for the QTT or members of the MTC would be eligible for a concessionary rate of \$20 per person/night whilst non QTT supporters/ non MTC members would pay the public rate of \$70 per person/night;

Next steps

- This proposal is accepted by the MTC members and QTT board of trustees;
- Acceptances are received from QEII National Trust, Soho Properties Ltd, LINZ and the QLDC as required;
- A 'heads of agreements' is signed between QTT and MTC;
- Funding is secured;
- Construction of the additional Deep Creek Turk;
- Booking and accounting systems implemented.



MOUNTAIN TURK CLUB

