

7. Public access

Transwaste Canterbury Ltd is committed to establishing recreational opportunities and facilitating public use as part of the management of the Kate Valley CMA. It will develop a track down Kate Valley to the coast. It will also outline the options to enhance use of the area for educational and scientific purposes.

A public walking track linking Mount Cass Road and the coast will be established within two years of the commencement of the restoration programme. This track will incorporate existing sections of farm track as well as some newly established track. The walking track will pass close to the Ella Ponds and Ella Bush SNAs, and provide access to the coast and Ella Peak Reserve along spur tracks. The final location of the track will be determined based on site inspections. However, it is not proposed to allow open public access to the whole of the Kate Valley CMA because of the risk of fire and to protect the security of restoration operations (e.g., areas of new plantings), and public use of the track system will be controlled. Dogs will be prohibited.

Interpretation information will be provided on the restoration project in a number of forms including the positioning of interpretation panels along the walking track and through making brochures available. Details will be developed in consultation with the Restoration Advisory Group and identified in the annual restoration work plans.

Use of the area for educational and scientific purposes will also be fostered by encouraging visits by local Canterbury schools (in conjunction with the landfill and waste education programmes) and through inviting teachers and scientists to visit the site.