

Warning to anyone causing landowner strife Respect trails Or else - boss

PHILIP CHANDLER

QUEENSTOWN'S trails trust boss will get tough on anyone causing strife for landowners along the 110km walking/cycling trail.

Queenstown Trails Trust chief executive Kaye Parker repeats a plea by Deputy Prime Minister Bill English made at a function held to recognise landowners' generosity in providing easements.

"Their generosity in giving up something puts the responsibility on the rest of us to make sure that generosity is respected," English said last Friday.

Parker says the \$5.4 million community-funded Queenstown Trail - officially opening in three weeks - crosses five working farms.

Signage along the Kawarau River section will warn trail users to keep to the track and that farmers have the right to shoot dogs trespassing on their land.

"I've also undertaken that I will go to the media if there is a continuing issue with dogs and stock and warn that if dogs aren't controlled this section of the trail could have to be closed to dogs."

Parker says her trust has even put in an overpass at the request of a landowner to allow deer to go over the trail to assist farm management.

Track users will also be warned against smoking to prevent the risk of fire.

Motorbikes which could destroy the trail are also banned.

Parker says she's happy for trail users to dob in those abusing the track: "Either ring the police or send photos to *Mountain Scene*."

Parker's concerns follow vandalism to trail construction machinery early this month.

Vandals unscrewed the fuel caps on a 12-tonne roller and a 20-tonne excavator and poured Shotover Delta sand into the tanks.

That set work back by about a week and cost \$9500 to fix.

The owners of the vandalised machinery are Wilson Contractors - and contracts

