

Stony Batter project decision nears

The Department of Conservation is closing in on a decision to develop Fort Stony Batter as a cultural tourism, star-gazing and education destination.

DOC Auckland operations director Andrew Baucke says the application from Fort Stony Batter Heritage Park Ltd is in its final stages.

"We're still considering an application for a visitor concession at Fort Stony Batter Historic Reserve," says Mr Baucke. "We're hoping to meet with the applicant in a few weeks to inform him of our decision."

The public was able to provide submissions on the proposal for the site at the north-east tip of the island in September last year.

"We received four submissions supporting the application and one that was opposed," says Mr Baucke.

The applicant wants a 20-year lease to develop the historic site as a regional destination activity for cultural and educational purposes.

The site's underground tunnel complex was built in 1943 as part of the coastal counter bombardment network to protect New Zealand's shores during World War



The Department of Conservation is considering an application to develop Fort Stony Batter as a tour and education destination. Photo Zephir Delamore

Two. Stony Batter Protection and Restoration Society took guided tours through the tunnels from 2003 to 2011. The tunnel complex has been inaccessible since 2015 when it was closed due to safety concerns. The applicant has requested permission to establish walking tracks linking archaeological, ecological and geological features

at the site, to run guided tours through the tunnel system and to repurpose historic war shelters and gun pits.

The proposed development includes a picnic area, astronomy tours, a ticketing office, museum exhibition space and overnight accommodation for up to 20 visitors. • Erin Johnson

Waiheke Escapes
HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

Sign your property up with us
and we will include...

- ✓ Listings on AirBNB, Booking.com, Holiday Houses, Bookabach, Homeaway VRBO, Stayz
- ✓ Lock box (incl. installation)
- ✓ Property signage (incl. installation)
- ✓ Promotion on Facebook, Instagram & Pinterest
- ✓ Leather bound compendium
- ✓ Sign up gift

waihekeescapes.co.nz
09 638 2551 / holiday@waihekeescapes.co.nz

SKAPES CONTRACTING

CREATING OUTDOOR HABITATS FOR HUMANS

EARTHMOVING

- Diggers
- Bobcat
- Kangas
- Trencher
- Roller
- Trucks (4WD)
- Driveways
- Excavations
- Footings
- Drilling
- Drainage
- Cartage

GRAEME ANDERSON
Phone: 372 4030 or 021 544 448
Email: graeme@skapes.co.nz
OVER 15 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE ON ISLAND