

Talking points: James Jonathan Airey, DOC Supervisor Heritage and Visitor.

1. I am currently employed as the supervisor of the Murihiku District Heritage and Visitor team.
2. This team is responsible for the maintenance of historic sites, walking tracks, visitor site. We also facilitate volunteer projects and are the local site experts and ambassadors for DOC.
3. The Waituna Lagoon site is one of our responsibilities.
4. The DOC assets at Waituna Lagoon include,
 - a. A picnic area and toilet, near the main carpark.
 - b. A boardwalk that leads to a covered viewing platform with interpretation panels.
 - c. A 4.5km loop track with interpretation panels.
 - d. Alternative access at Moffat Road with a small carpark and signage.
 - e. Access to the gravel bar, with a small carpark and signage.
5. The lagoon is in a rural location. Access is via an unsealed road.
6. Based on my team's observations and maintenance schedule I consider the DOC tracks at Waituna to have low levels of visitor use.
7. Outside a core group of users, the low use and low popularity of Waituna as a visitor destination has led DOC to prioritise maintenance at other locations.