

## Day 2: Jim Barnett Reserve to Whakamaru

- 0.0 km Leave Jim Barnett Reserve through the gate, and turn left onto Waotu South Road. Continue along Waotu South Road all the way to the end, following the signs for the Waikato River Trail (5.5 km)
- 5.5 km When the road ends, turn right and follow the gravel path up the hill, then down a huge series of switchbacks all the way down to the river (3 km)
- 8.5 km The trail continues along the river, including some steep pinch climbs, over the Mangawera Suspension Bridge, and along forestry roads. Just keep following the signs for the Waikato River Trail (12 km)
- 20.5 km When you reach a sealed road, turn right and go across the Waipapa Dam (550 m)
- 21.1 km At the T junction, turn left. 25 metres further down, the trail continues to your left (25 m)
- 21.1 km Keep following the Waikato River Trail. This is a very hilly section, so don't underestimate it (14.6 km)
- 35.7 km When the trail ends at a road, turn right and climb up the hill towards the highway (200 m)
- 35.9 km Turn left and follow the highway towards Mangakino (1.6 km)
- 37.5 km When you reach the Mangakino Village sign, veer left into Lake Road and head downhill towards the lake (1 km)
- 38.5 km Turn right into Rangatira Drive (700 m)

***There is a small shopping centre 700 metres down this side road, including a Four Square, a café, a bakery and a takeaway shop. No doubt you'll be hungry.***

- 39.2 km After restocking, head back the way you came along Rangatira Drive, and turn right to continue down Lake Road (600 m)
- 39.8 km At the lakefront are public toilets, the "bus stop" café (cash only), and a camping area. Continue straight ahead onto the next section of the Waikato River Trail (500 m)
- 40.3 km The trail opens onto a gravel road; just keep riding along this road (400 m)
- 40.7 km The trail restarts, following along the edge of the lake. Just keep following the signposted trail all the way to Whakamaru (10 km)
- 50.7 km When the trail comes out onto a driveway beside the power station, keep going straight ahead and out to the road (300 m)

***If you want more supplies, there's a café and shops 350 metres down the road to your right.***

- 51.0 km To continue along the route, turn left and ride over the dam (850 m)
- 51.8 km Just past the dam is a car park on your right. The Waikato River Trail continues from the back of this car park (2 km)
- 53.8 km The Waikato River Trail passes right through the middle of the Whakamaru Camping Area, where we will be camping for the night.