# 3,000,000kms to Bluff - Tour Aotearoa 2020

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| In February and March 2020 one thousand cyclists from around the world left Cape Reinga heading for Bluff, taking part in the 3,000km 2020 Tour Aotearoa Brevet (TA2020). The TA2020 Brevet was a non-competitive Adventure Cycling journey that required each participant to follow the same fixed course, with no external support. Riders solely relied on locally available facilities, the generosity of the communities they cycled through, and the support of their peers.  This paper presents the results of several comprehensive post-event surveys, providing insights into many areas of cycling policy, economics, community engagement and best practice cycling provision in Aotearoa.  The positive economic benefits of long-distance cycle tourism will be assessed and presented. As would be expected, the riders also provided considered views on the wide range of cycling provision along the whole route - a 1,000 strong 3,000km long benchmarking exercise. The results may surprise and certainly stimulate debate, there are also candid comparisons between seven of the Great Rides that formed part of the route.  Perceptions and realities of cycling safety were gathered, with early indicators showing that that environmental factors and the rider’s own experience all influenced safety.  No event in 2020 was untouched by the COVID-19 pandemic, and whilst a proportion of riders were obliged to end their ride due to the Lockdown, more withdrew for other reasons. These reasons will be presented along with lessons for riders, organisers, the wider cycling community and infrastructure providers. |