

PARALYMPICS NEW ZEALAND



586 GREAT SOUTH RD
GREENLANE
AUCKLAND
NEW ZEALAND

PO BOX 99178
NEWMARKET
AUCKLAND
NEW ZEALAND

TELEPHONE
64 9 526 0760
FACSIMILE
64 9 526 0762

www.paralympics.org.nz

ADDRESS

POSTAL ADDRESS

CONTACT

WEBSITE

Stephen Brown
Adidas Auckland Marathon

Feb 29th 2008

Dear Stephen

Please accept this letter as a formal response and position to your enquiry re the Adidas Auckland Marathon and wheelchair users.

Paralympics NZ (PNZ) and the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) require all events to provide a safe environment for all entrants as our first criteria to entering an athlete with a disability into an event. It is the opinion of PNZ (and agreed by the Athletics Manager for IPC) that the Adidas Auckland marathon course does not provide and cannot provide a completely safe environment for wheelchair users due to unique aspects of the course and TMP (Traffic management plan) restrictions.

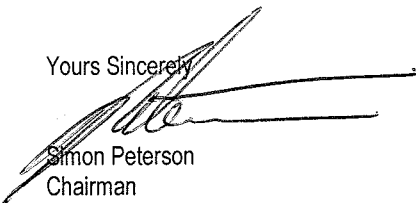
Both the CEO of PNZ and myself (Chairman) have either previously entered the event, provided support for another entrant in the event or we have been previously asked to scrutinize the course relative to wheelchair users. We provide a unanimous response (with the IPC Athletics Manager) in support of the event manager/ organisers of the Adidas Auckland Marathon to not include wheelchair users due to the above mentioned challenges, safety criteria and our experience with the event.

We note that the Adidas Auckland Marathon continues to be open to people with disabilities that do not compromise their safe participation in the event and that there are also age restrictions on general participation due to safety concerns.

We are aware that this issue has been raised previously and we are disappointed that an athlete(s) continue to challenge the event, the regulatory authorities', Police and the event organisers' valid, practical and professional criteria for its decision to not include wheelchair users.

Best wishes for a successful event in 2008

Yours Sincerely


Simon Peterson
Chairman
Paralympics NZ