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Waikawa Beach Ratepayers Association

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WAIKAWA STREAM MOUTH

Thank you for your letter dated 20 November 2013 concerning various matters at the Waikawa Stream mouth. I will respond to your queries in the order you have raised them.

Is the resource consented work based on good scientific knowledge? Most streams or rivers meander as they approach the sea, and may erode the foredune. At Waikawa Beach the stream indeed meanders, largely to the south, but also to the north. The most immediately vulnerable land is adjacent to Manga-Pirau Street. Properties to the south adjacent to Reay McKay Grove are also vulnerable to erosion.

Detailed mapping of the stream mouth area shows a significant accretion at the stream mouth in 1965, with the stream orientated more to the north. However, currently it has eroded to the south. The limit of erosion to the south was reached in the 1942 survey and it is important this erosion does not re-occur. Refer attached Figure. As significant property is vulnerable it is important that options are assessed.

A detailed report entitled "Horowhenua District Council Waikawa Stream Mouth Management Plan", was prepared in October 1997, by GA Campbell of AC Consulting Group Ltd. Mr Campbell is a very experienced engineer with particular expertise in river and coastal processes. The investigation considered the coastal and ecological environment, the history of the stream movement and identified a range of management options. The report recommended option 5.3, being Foredune Planting and Mouth Cutting.

Accordingly, Horowhenua District Council applied for Resource Consent to implement that option. They applied for a renewal of that consent in December 2008. Several submissions were received in support, including one by your association, a copy of which is attached.

Thus I can report that the decision to cut the stream mouth was made on sound knowledge and with present and future outcomes assessed. It will always have to be recognised however that fluctuations in the coastline will periodically occur.

What is hoped to be achieved by the cut? The expectation of this option is that within 20 to 30 years the coastline will have accreted far enough seaward to be able to stop the regular mouth cutting. Indeed included in the submissions for the consent renewal was the fact that "the latest cut is holding up very well and this

Kairanga

Marton

Palmerston North

Taihape

Taumarunui

Wanganui

Woodville

time the operators have not stockpiled the sand up in front of the house at 55 Manga-Pirau Street”.

Are local residents consulted? Residents were consulted in respect of the mouth cutting proposal through the original and renewal resource consent processes.

Is it true that some residents have undue influence on what work is, or is not, done? Decisions around river management activities are made by suitably qualified and experienced river engineers having considered all relevant information, which could well include observations by local residents of historic river mouth movement.

Who is responsible for the footbridge over the stream? I am advised that the bridge is a Horowhenua District Council asset.

Who is responsible for notices displayed at two entrances to the beach? Assuming you are referring to the large coloured signs conveying general information and ‘rules’, then they have been erected by Horowhenua District Council, whose loge appears on the signs.

What are the current rules concerning vehicles and dogs on the beach? Again, these are matters that come within the Horowhenua District Council’s jurisdiction.

Is there a proposal to mark the boundary between Horizons and Greater Wellington Regional Council’s areas of jurisdiction on the beach? We see little benefit in marking the boundary in the way you suggest, and incurring costs in the process. However for your information, the boundary is identified on the enclosed map.

I trust the above responses adequately answer your queries.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allan Cook". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Allan Cook
GROUP MANAGER OPERATIONS