

STAFF REPORT

TO: Community Services Committee
FROM: Reserves Officer
DATE: 25 May 2010
SUBJECT: Proposed Tapu Bay Coastcare Report –RCS10-06-06

BACKGROUND

Last December Graeme Knapp from Tapu Place requested a meeting with senior staff and Councillors to discuss coastal erosion at Tapu Bay beach. As a result Eric Verstappen, Cr Norriss, Cr Inglis, David Ogilvie and Stephen Richards met with 16 residents at Tapu Bay on 24 February 2010 to discuss their concern about erosion along the foreshore. They were also concerned with the need for a toilet facility at the Reserve.

Erosion Management Options

The residents' favoured solutions for erosion protection included construction of rock walls or timber walls. The merits and failings of these options were discussed. Eric Verstappen suggested that sand replenishment or CoastCare initiatives were also possible alternatives worthy of consideration, given the relatively minor nature of the erosion problem. The possible options for managing erosion on the reserve margin were discussed in detail. This discussion included commenting on potential effects on the environment of each proposal as well as its interaction with the use of the reserve. In the end, a general consensus was reached that the most appropriate initial solution for the erosion problem at Tapu Bay involved a soft engineering approach. It was agreed that a plan which reflected the discussions should be drawn up and circulated for comment.

Ninety five copies of the proposed plan were sent out to neighbouring residents on 26 March 2010. Twelve responses were received, all opposing the plan.

Most of the responses received expressed concern that:

- re-grading the eroded scarp and planting along the head of the beach will cause additional erosion and flooding into the reserve,
- a loss of valuable reserve area would occur
- posts with ropes will be visually intrusive along the reserve frontage.

Two submitters provided details and costings for the construction of either a timber wall or rock wall, and other submitters supported these proposals.

Eric Verstappen has been asked to prepare a report in response to the residents concerns. This report would outline all of the options for managing erosion along the Tapu Bay foreshore as well as comment on the proposals put forward by the residents. In the interim, it has been suggested reconvening a meeting of key staff, Councillors and residents, to reconsider the issues and to determine a solution that satisfactorily deals with the problem.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT a working group be formed which will consult with the Tapu Bay Residents and wider community to discuss and develop the most appropriate solution(s) for managing erosion on Tapu Bay beach in conjunction with other reserve uses and for these solutions to be approved by the Community Services Committee.

The Working Committee should include Cr Bryant, Cr Inglis, Cr Norris, Stephen Richards and Eric Verstappen

Stephen Richards
Reserves Officer

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