

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL/ WESTLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE HOKITIKA JOINT SEA WALL COMMITTEE HELD ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2021, HELD VIA ZOOM, COMMENCING AT 2.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

B. Smith (Chairman), S. Challenger, D. Magner, A. Birchfield, D. Carruthers, P. Davidson, J. Keogan, J. Neale

IN ATTENDANCE:

H. Mabin (WCRC Acting CEO), R. Beal (WCRC Operations Manager), S. Bastion (WDC CEO), S. Baxendale (WDC Engineer), B. Russ (WCRC Engineer), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk)

APOLOGIES:

There were no apologies

WELCOME

R. Beal welcomed all present to the meeting and introductions were made.

EMERGENCY WORKS FOR HOKITIKA SEAWALL

R. Beal advised that the purpose of the meeting is to seek support to commence emergency work to address the erosion at the northern end of the Hokitika foreshore. It was noted that this has been monitored for a number of years.

The rate of erosion has been very significant in the recent month with private property and infrastructure now under threat. Mayor Smith stated that he walked from the Beachfront Hotel towards Richards Drive and this area in particular is causing concern. He stated there is about three metres of the dune left. Over 20 metres of land has been lost in this area in the past six months. Cr Davidson stated that another half a metre has been lost today. It was noted that a resident of Spencer Street has lost 4 – 5 metres of land over the past six weeks.

R. Beal advised that a decision on the resource consent for the IRG project is at least three months away, and therefore any works approved need to be under the emergency works provision which can be used to progress this work.

B. Russ displayed the areas of concern to the meeting. He stated that this area has been monitored with the erosion line and GPS information containing a lot of data. He advised that during August over four metres of land has been lost in the Revell Street area, with an estimated further 3 – 4 metres lost in the past few days. He advised that temporary rock was put in place at the southern end of the seawall several years ago and this is working well.

B. Russ explained the likely costings of the emergency works to the meeting. He advised that 600 metres of rock will be placed with 9,000 tonnes of rock, with filter fabric being placed under the rock. It is likely this work will cost around \$530,000 but he is hopeful it could be less than this figure. Cr Magner asked how this is likely to impact on capital expenditure work. B. Russ advised that the rock will be used for the seawall upgrade but it is likely this will cost more than usual as the rock will have to be shifted. B. Russ advised that by doing this work upfront it may save money in the long run because future erosion may need to be back filled. He advised that 30,000 tonnes of rock is available at the Camelback quarry.

B. Russ advised that this work is a stop gap until the upgrade of the seawall is started but he is unsure how long this work will last. He advised that the rock used is salvageable.

Cr Challenger expressed concern regarding the erosion bite. He stated that sand is building up at the Hampden Street section. He is concerned that the emergency work is being rushed.

S. Bastion asked if the costings include the placing of the rock. B. Russ advised that costing is for the supplying, cartage and placing of rock. There is currently no threat to houses in this area. B. Russ advised that height is being lost in some places and there is a possibility that big waves expected and large seas could cause water to enter properties. B. Russ stated that it could take years for the sand dunes to be replenished. Cr Challenger spoke of the importance of the right vegetation being in place. R. Beal stated that debris can be concerning for properties close to the erosion area. It was noted that there is a significant area of residential properties exposed to risk.

Ian Goss advised that the current escarpment is where the new seawall should be. B. Smith stated that the sand dune is disappearing and once it has gone this will become a problem for WCRC. B. Russ advised that there is debris on the road in this area and waves could enter Hampden Street. Extensive discussion took place. B. Smith stated he would like to see the whole job done. Cr Neale stated that she agrees with Cr Challenger. It was noted that the design for the emergency work has been recommended by Ian Goss. B. Russ stated that this is not a huge structure. He explained how the work would be done. R. Beal stated that the emergency works are recommended as a short term solution. Cr Davidson stated that he has visited the area over the past few days and residents are very concerned. He feels this work is urgent and that the sand dunes must be protected. Mayor Smith feels this work is urgent and Cr Birchfield agreed. Cr Magner agreed but feels that a long term plan needs to be worked through. Cr Keoghan stated that she feels that whatever can be done should be done as Council has a responsibility to property owners.

R. Beal stated that he would email all present and take a recommending report to his Council seeking to progress the emergency works.

Moved:

"That the emergency works are commenced as per B. Russ's plan".

*D. Magner / A. Birchfield
Against
Cr Challenger and Cr Neale
Carried*

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2.32 pm.

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Chairman

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Date