

REPORT

TO: GB Community Board
FROM: Cr Borlase
REFERENCE: E855
DATE: 2nd May 2006
SUBJECT: Tata Beach Frontage

INTRODUCTION

For many years, cars have had access along the esplanade strip that circumvents Tata Beach, between the houses and the beach. In reviewing the Management Plan in 2001, Council staff and consultants presented arguments for closing the reserve to cars so that the Coast Care Programme could be given every opportunity to work, thereby protecting the reserve from erosion. This became a major issue with a number of submissions received being strongly against the closure to cars.

In the end, the Hearing Committee agreed to keep open the existing length of roadway running south from the boat ramp to the first pedestrian accessway and limit its width to allow adequate room for implementation of the beach stabilisation policies.

PRESENT POSITION

The 2001 Management Plan detailed the Coast Care Programme and what could happen in the future as quoted from Section 8.1.2:

“Protect and revegetate the sand behind the beach, by establishing a Coast Care Programme to re-fill eroded areas with sand, plant and care for appropriate sand trapping plants, place sand trapping fences, and place fences and boardwalks to prevent trampling of plants and sensitive areas of sand. If over time the Coast Care Programme builds out the top of the beach ridge to give adequate width for vehicles to drive along the reserve, turn, and pass each other, and to provide parking bays, then the stretch at the south end, currently closed to vehicles, may be re-opened. If the width continues to reduce despite the Coast Care measures, then the stretch at the boat ramp end, currently open to vehicles may need to be closed”.

Obviously Council is using the Coast Care Programme to try to protect the neighbouring reserve. To date this is proving reasonably successful but there are thoughts that for it to work properly the reserve may need to be closed to cars to allow sand and plant build-up onto this reserve.

During the 2005 holiday period, several concerns were expressed to Council and councillors regarding not only concerns for the reserve area but safety issues and questioning the legality of allowing a road to be open for traffic on an esplanade strip.

Five years have elapsed since the last review so it is probably the right time for a further review to be undertaken giving full cognizance of the issues raised above.

RECOMMENDATION

“That the Golden Bay Community Board write to Tasman District Council requesting that a review of the 2001 Tata Beach Management Plan be undertaken giving full cognizance to the continual threat to the reserve area, safety, and the legal issues of allowing cars to continue to use part of the Esplanade Strip as at present.”

Stuart Borlase