

STAFF REPORT

TO: Chairman and Members, Engineering Services Committee

FROM: Utilities Asset Engineer, David Stephenson

REFERENCE: C404

DATE: 3 October 2006

SUBJECT: **OLD MILL WALKWAY – COASTAL PROTECTION WORKS**

1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform the Engineering Services Committee of progress with respect to the coastal protection of the Old Mill Walkway, Ruby Bay and seek approval to pursue a preferred protection option.

2 BACKGROUND

The coastline in the vicinity of the Old Mill Walkway, Ruby Bay, has been subject to on-going erosion in recent years.

In response to the concerns of local residents, Council in 2004 agreed to assess the feasibility of options to address existing erosion and inundation problems in this area. To fund this work, Council identified a targeted rating area of approximately 900 properties, from which a rate of \$10 per property has been collected (the Mapua Stopbank Rate).

In the LTCCP adopted this year, \$938,000 has been budgeted for the construction of coastal erosion protection along an 800m section of the Old Mill Walkway Reserve in the 2007/2008 and 2008/2009 financial years. The funding for this work anticipates a cost-share between locally adjoining property owners, ratepayers in the immediate Mapua /Ruby Bay area via a targeted rate and district ratepayers via the general rate.

3 RECENT ACTIVITY

Recent storms in this area have continued to erode the shoreline, and have resulted in the useable land area reducing to five metres in places, in particular the southern 100-150 m of the reserve. In order to protect the immediately threatened reserve land in this southern section, it is clear that erosion protection works will be required prior to the 2007/2008 financial year when the project is scheduled.

In August of this year, Council engaged Tonkin & Taylor Ltd, consultants previously involved in this work, to:

- Undertake a site visit and inspection of the existing coastline,
- Identify the design issues, standards and the most appropriate design for the immediately threatened length of shoreline, including indicative design cost,

- Identify the consent requirements and likely consent process for the proposed works.

This work has now been completed, and the consultant's report is attached. In brief, Tonkin & Taylor advise:

- A rock revetment structure is the only practicable solution in the short term, for the immediately threatened section of the Old Mill Walkway,
- The recommended works would require resource consents for occupation of the Coastal Marine Area (CMA), disturbance of the foreshore or seabed, landuse in an Open Space zone and land disturbance.
- The works would be considered as a Discretionary Activity, and because the effects are no more than minor, the application is likely to be treated as a non-notified application (provided affected parties are consulted and give their written approval to the works).

In parallel with this work Council staff have arranged for an updated topographic survey of the threatened shoreline in preparation for the design of works in the immediately threatened area.

In early September, Council staff and Mayor Hurley, Cr Higgins and Cr Norris met with immediately adjoining landowners to discuss proposed short and medium term works and potential cost-sharing options. These discussions were amicable and a further meeting is proposed. A petition, collected in the surrounding area, calling for the protection works to proceed was also delivered at the meeting on behalf of others.

3 PROPOSED WORK

In the short term the following work is proposed:

- Preparation and submission of a Resource Consent Application for approximately 150m of erosion protection works in the southern section of the reserve, with a view to obtaining a non-notified consent for this section.
- Consultation with other affected parties with respect to the application.
- Review of the revised cost-estimate with respect to funding options for immediate construction of the southern section of protection.
- Continuation of on-going discussions with adjacent landowners – to discuss funding options and to consult as affected parties in the Resource Consent process
- Preparation of construction drawings and tender documents for the construction of the southern section of protection.
- Preparation of a long term strategy and/or consent for the construction of the remaining 550m of erosion protection.

These activities are expected to continue in parallel in order to enable the construction of the southern section of protection. While operating in parallel these tasks are not intended to restrict other activities, for example, preparation of the Resource Consent will not presume agreement of adjacent landowners or provision of funding for the works.

4 RECOMMENDATION

That Council staff be given approval in principle to:

- **Adopt a rock revetment type structure, as shown in the report of Tonkin & Taylor report of 3 October, as the preferred option for the protection of the southern 150m of the Old Mill Walkway.**
- **Prepare and lodge Resource Consent Application(s) and tender documents for the construction of this option.**
- **Continue to consult with adjacent landowners with respect to cost-sharing and preparation of the Consent Application(s).**
- **Consult with other affected parties in preparation for lodging Consent Application(s).**
- **Confirm funding options for the construction of both the proposed works and the remaining 650m of the Old Mill Reserve Walkway.**

David Stephenson
Utilities Asset Engineer