

STAFF REPORT

TO: Chair and Members, Engineering Services Committee
FROM: David Stephenson, Utilities Asset Engineer
REFERENCE: R382
DATE: 21 March 2007
SUBJECT: **OLD MILL WALKWAY - UPDATE**

1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of progress towards the construction of Stage 1 of the Old Mill Walkway Coastal Erosion Protection.

2 BACKGROUND

The committee resolved at its meeting of 12 October 2006:

THAT Council staff be given approval in principle to:

- a) *Adopt a rock revetment type structure, as shown in the report of Tonkin & Taylor report of 3 October 2006, as the preferred option for the protection of the southern 150m of the Old Mill Walkway.*
- b) *Prepare and lodge Resource Consent Application(s) and tender documents for the construction of this option.*
- c) *Continue to consult with adjacent landowners with respect to cost-sharing and preparation of the Consent Application(s).*
- d) *Consult with other affected parties in preparation for lodging Consent Application(s).*
- e) *Confirm funding options for the construction of both the proposed works and the remaining 550m of the Old Mill Reserve Walkway, prior to raising a loan to fund the project.*

3 PROGRESS TO DATE

Preparation of information for resource consent application has progressed well. It is expected that the application will be dealt with on a non-notified basis. A draft Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE) is currently with all directly affected parties (DoC, iwi and adjacent landowners) for comment. Comments have been received from some of these parties, and Council expects to meet with the remaining parties and lodge the application prior to the date of the committee meeting.

Detailed design of the rock revetment structure and associated works is now largely complete. As a result of the consultation process, some modification to the proposed design was required, and the proposed design now commences slightly north of the southern boundary of the reserve and concludes 175 m north of this boundary (to protect a existing low area to the north).

A cobble beach, approximately 20m in length, is proposed between the rock revetment and the existing structure to the south; this beach will provide enhanced public access from the walkway to the beach and will be design to withstand erosion (with some maintenance). In addition to the proposed “hard” engineering solutions there may be scope in the Stage 1 works to place excess sand and gravel material and provide planting above mean high water in the area north of the revetment.

Preparation of tender documents is largely complete. It is expected that tender documents will be issued to four invited tenderers in late March, with tenders closing prior to the next Engineering Services Committee meeting, and construction commencing in late May.

Funding arrangements for the proposed works (Stages 1 and 2) have been discussed with the four directly affected landowners and, at time of writing, verbal agreement has been reached with three of the four parties. Council staff expect to have formal commitments from all four parties prior to the close of tenders for Stage 1.

Preliminary work has commenced towards the assessment of options for Stage 2, which will require a publicly notified consent process and approval of the Minister of Conservation should significant works be required below mean high water spring.

4 RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be received.

David Stephenson
Utilities Asset Engineer