

STAFF REPORT

TO: Chairman and Members, Engineering Services Committee

FROM: Steve Elkington, Road Asset Engineer

REFERENCE: T528

DATE: 11 September 2007

SUBJECT: **PARKING - MARAHAU BOAT RAMP**

1 PURPOSE

To inform Council of the outcome of a meeting held on Friday 7th September 2007, of a working group, setup from an earlier meeting, between Council staff and representatives of the Marahau Residents Association and commercial operators.

2 BACKGROUND

Residents had raised concerns earlier this year regarding various issues concerning the commercial water taxi and kayak operators at Marahau. One of these issues that concerns roading, is the level of congestion around the boat ramp at Marahau.

3 COMMENT

From an earlier on site inspection, it was decided to undertake a number of improvements to the parking and ramp area these include;

3.1 Proposed Work

1. Increasing the area adjacent to the road available for manoeuvring and loading/unloading by creating a large loading zone. Unfortunately this required the loss of a number of parks;
2. Reducing the number of parks available to ten (10), thereby encouraging the operators to take their tractors and trailers back to base. The lost parks would be the longer parks closest to the boat ramp (There are currently 12 angle parks and 6 right angle parks, total 18);
3. Install a short barrier between the existing marked parking and the proposed loading zone;
4. Repairing the seal at the head of the boat ramp and using asphalt to resurface this area to resist the existing sealing chip being turned-over on hot days exposing sticky bitumen;
5. Installing some larger rocks at the southern end of the boat ramp parking where there is currently 5minute parking, to prevent these rocks being moved and parking occurring in behind and;
6. Scarify the area behind the rocks referred to above, to allow landscape planting.

3.2 Maintenance Work

As well as the above improvements, a number of maintenance issues were also noted and are in-hand, involving:

- infilling the edges of the gravel footpath at various locations along the revetment where slumping has occurred;
- repairing several broken barrier seats;
- repairing several areas of seal failure;
- sweeping and removal of excess sealing chip;
- re-marking the pavement markings;
- replacing several "No Over-night Camping" signs and adjusting the height of their poles so these are lower and of the same height;
- replacing a number of missing parking signs.

4 MEETING OUTCOME

4.1 Parking Beside Boat Ramp

Both representatives of the Commercial operators, as well as those of the Marahau Residents Association, preferred the level of marked parking remain as per the approved layout, over an increase in tractor movements. There were no objections to the proposed loading zone, however, this it was felt would need to be policed. Because the main concern is to improve the efficiency of the boat ram we still consider some reduction in parking spaces is required.

Recommendation: That the end park nearest the ramp be removed to allow a larger area for manoeuvring and loading/unloading as well as easier direct access to the jetty.

4.2 Parking Area at Spit

The area on the southern side of the corner that is used for parking and access to the spit, it was agreed the status quo should remain, and the area left untouched for now. Neither DoC nor Council has control over the spit, and it is believed to be *Unalienated Crown Land*. When road widening is undertaken there may be the opportunity to bollard off this area to vehicles.

5 FUTURE INVESTIGATIONS

While discussions have addressed urgent concerns for the immediate season, staff acknowledge that additional work needs to be investigated in order to achieve a permanent solution to the parking and congestion problems at the boat ramp/launching area. These further investigations will be undertaken jointly between Engineering and E&P staff to look at a range of options for better management and control of boat ramp users; administration costs and income recovery methods; and on-road and off-road parking.

It is expected that staff will report back on the range of options and possible regulatory measures during 2008.

6 RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council proceed to put in place a loading zone and for the park nearest the ramp to be removed reducing total parking from 18 to 17, to give better direct access to the jetty.

Steve Elkington
Road Asset Engineer