

① Submission about the Seawall - Juliet Adams.
Hokitika 13-7-23
The Cry of the Weka 🐙 Thank you for the conversation.

25 years ago my late husband and I bought this property. (247 Reven St). - A wild cottage on a wild beach. That's how we liked it, that's why we bought it. It had what was advertised in the "For Sale" notice - uninterrupted sea views.

That has changed, plenty of vegetation is around, birds of all description and animals, still some sea views plus other "surprises". It's a delightful place to live and I feel fortunate.

Now the "big threat" of the sea "seems" to hang over things. The dunes have come, gone, come, gone, come, gone ad infinitum; part of the dynamism of living here.

I believe if a really big wave wanted to it would quite easily inundate massive areas, especially perhaps nearer the town where the dunes are wider but less high - currently anyhow.

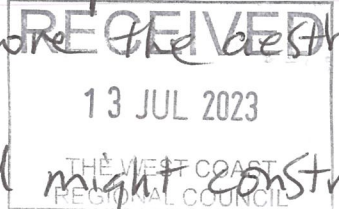
The tectonic plate movement seems to help us on the west where things factually rise somewhat whereas in the east, things drop.

I do not believe that vegetation of any description or size would save things. The sea has power none of us can predict. Vegetation is more of a cosmetic thing in life in this situation.

Neither would any wall humankind might construct be of any use under extreme circumstances.

I have learnt that "change is the only constant in life" and no-one knows when or if that might happen.

Probably the only honest answer is to buy people out and clear the beachfront of houses.



②

But in the meantime we've got to cope with where we are at.

It has all happened rather suddenly for me, consenting applications thrust under my nose at a time of difficult health for me.

I do see merit in many of the ideas, including the Beca one. But that would really intrude on the natural dune depletion/accretion cycles (and destroy most of the vegetation).

Besides, it costs rather a lot; the cost would no doubt increase and already 'high rates' could become prohibitive.

For me it would be like starting again, no vegetation, no weka etc which I could cope with because I've been there, done that, the naked beach, a wall of sorts "controlling" the sand. I can't at the moment see that we need the Beca idea. Too extreme.

We need to wait longer and observe the beach. It is working just fine.

The Alliance (H.C.P.A.) allows for this; not rushing in.

Maybe create some bunds in places, especially on the flatter dunes.

The homework behind the Alliance (H.C.P.A.) is impeccable. I support this approach.

I support this submission (The Alliance H.C.P.A.)

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Also

If you look from the town end northwards, you see the beach not as one but as in fact several beaches, in a way with perhaps differing needs;

Individual approaches might be the best answer, cheaper and can be very efficient.

In places there are virtually no dunes, there are more spread out dunes, there are higher but less dunes, all sorts of scenarios are present just with the naked eye.

Also (25 yrs ago)

When we first moved here the sea used to roar up through a dune gap delivering enormous logs to the back fence. We asked the council to look in to this, the response was TOTAL SILENCE.

Today, none of that happens, in fact the high tide is well back from that point.

Makes you think.

The dunes once again evening out.

I do wish and need to speak to this submission.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Yours Sincerely,

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