

**SUBMISSION
ON AN APPLICATION FOR RESOURCE CONSENT
UNDER SECTION 96
OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT 1991**

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5 JUL 2023
THE WEST COAST
REGIONAL COUNCIL



PART A: DESCRIPTION OF APPLICATION

CONSENT NUMBER: **RC-2022-0039** APPLICANT: **WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY:
TO CONSTRUCT A SEAWALL

LOCATION:
HOKITIKA - NORTH BEACH (STAFFORD ST TO RICHARDS DRIVE)

PART B: SUBMITTER DETAILS

Full name/s	CAPTAIN MAXWELL DOWELL, QSM		
Postal address	[REDACTED]		
I am the owner/occupier (delete one) of the following property:	(AS ABOVE)		
Primary contact person/s	MAX DOWELL		
Email address	n/a		
Phone number/s	Home:	[REDACTED]	Business: n/a
	Mobile:	[REDACTED]	Fax: n/a

Signature:	Capt. Maxwell Dowell QSM	Date:	3-07-23
Name (BLOCK CAPITALS):	CAPTAIN MAX DOWELL, QSM		

*If this is a joint submission by 2 or more individuals, each individual's signature is required
A signature is not required if you make your submission by electronic means.*

- I/we **support** the application numbers indicated by a tick on the back of this form
- I/we **oppose** the application
- I/we **neither support nor oppose** the application

(tick one)

(tick one)



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Public information
 The information you provide is public information. It is used to help process a resource consent application and assess the impact of an activity on the environment and other people.
 Your information is held and administered by the West Coast Regional Council in accordance with the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the Privacy Act 1993. This means that your information may be disclosed to other people who request it in accordance with the terms of these Acts. It is therefore important you let us know if your form includes any information you consider should not be disclosed.

Important information – please read carefully

I/we seek the following decision from the Local Authority: (give precise details)

- Reject the Application on the basis that it does not fully address alternative more natural defence options [removal of all artificial hard structures, or at least reduce the amount to a bare minimum].
- Have the applicant at least investigate and cost the options I outlined in (9) above. It might be that it saves that community money in the future by removing maintenance cost and the beach may grow back as it did in the 1960's.
- Maintaining the river channel may have the added benefit of reducing river flood risk to the township.

My/our submission is that: (state in summary the nature of your submission. Clearly indicate whether you support or oppose the specific proposal, or wish to have amendments made, giving reasons)

(1) Viable, more natural alternatives to further seawall may exist – the building of the beach in the 1960s proves this. In the 1960's there was no rock along the beach and the north spit to the Hokitika River was much shorter.

(2) The dumping of rock along the beach since the 1960's is not fixing the root cause of the problem: right from the river mouth north, the placement of artificial hard structures has severely interrupted the natural sediment supply to the beach fronting the township causing the sand dunes to decline.

CONTINUED (ATTACHED)

I/we have served a copy of my/our submission on the Applicant as per Section 96(6)(b) of the RMA Yes No *This, submission*

If you indicated you wish to be heard, you will be sent a copy of the S.42A Officer's Report and a copy of the Decision once it is released. Please indicate below which format you would like to receive these documents in:

Electronic (CD) copy Hard (paper) copy

If you wish to be heard, and others make a similar submission would you consider making a joint case with them at any hearing Yes No

I/we wish to be heard in support of my/our submission.

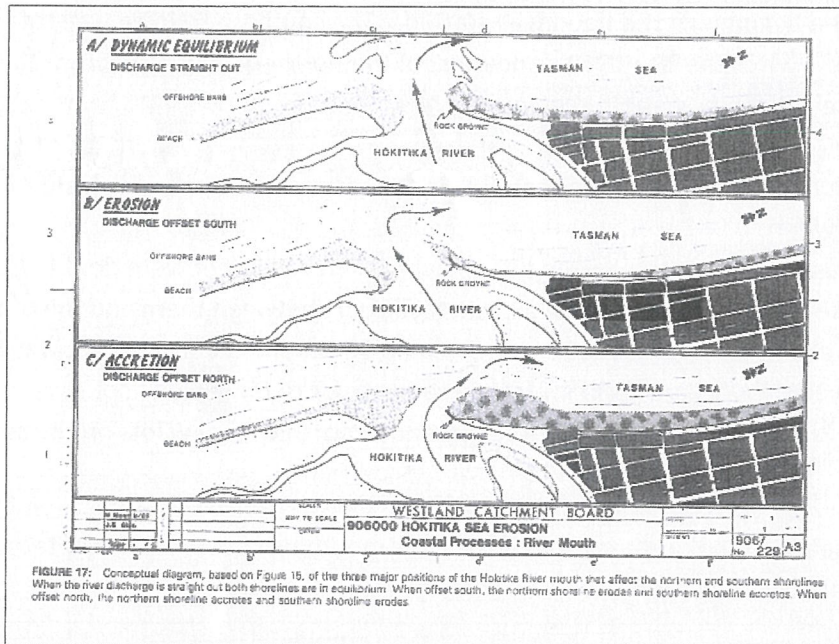
I/we DO NOT wish to be heard and hereby make my/our submission in writing only.

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I oppose the Application

My submission is that: (Continued from submission form)

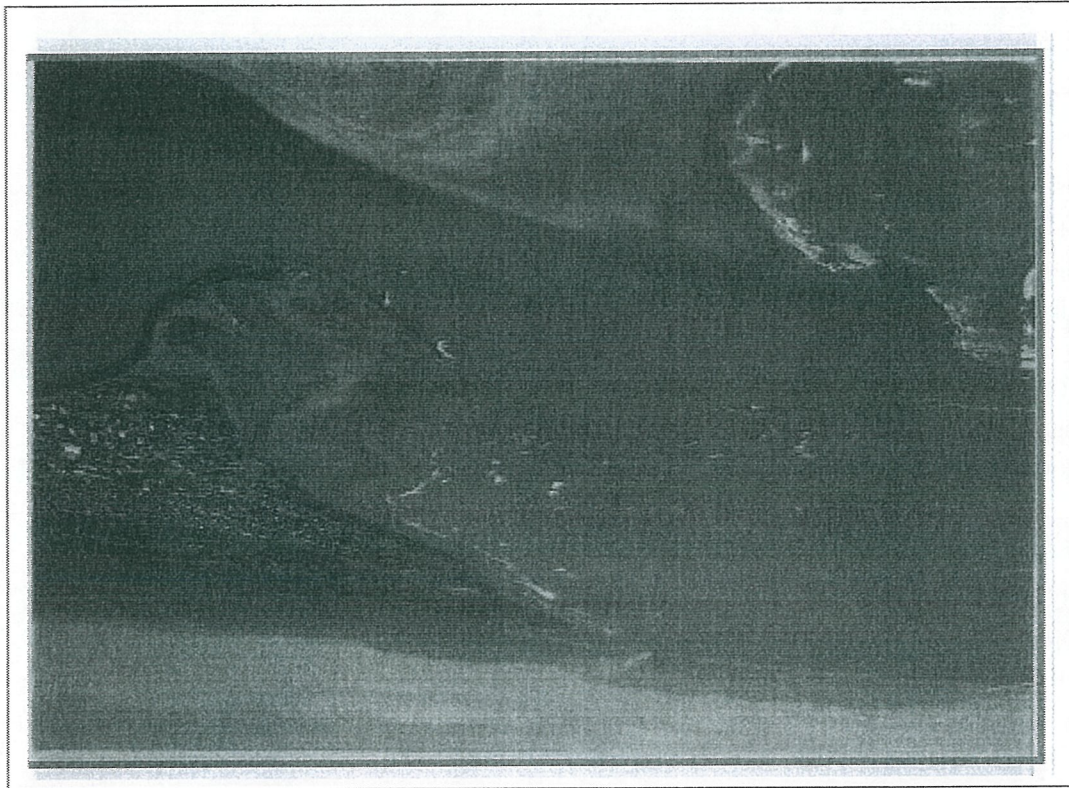
- (3) The Gibb Report (A Coastal Hazard Management Plan for Hokitika – NWSCA Water & Soil Technical Publication 29 - 1987) identified that if the Hokitika River enters the sea on a more northerly angle, the beach fronting the township builds and if it enters to the south the beach erodes. [Figure 17]



- (4) In the 1960's the beach built out considerably. At this time the old wharf and timber training walls still partially existed although they were falling into decay. [Hokitika Port, the reason for the training walls, officially closed in 1952] The training walls directed the river mostly square to the beach and confined the river to a narrow channel which allowed best flushing out of a deepish water channel for shipping movement.

Depending on the predominant weather (wind, current and sea) that prevailed, the beach was generally in its neutral position for erosion/ accretion from the help of the river training walls. The odd storm tipped the balance occasionally, but the beach was generally stable apart from some exceptions such as:

- Severe beach erosion in 1914 following extension of the river mouth training walls seaward in late 1913 [Like Greymouth today]. At the time the port was warned that they were risking causing erosion of the beach [West Coast Times Newspaper 22 October 1913]. This led to a series of timber groynes being installed along the beach to arrest erosion and prevent (more) buildings falling into the sea. The timber groynes were a big success.



At this time the beach to the northern spit of the river mouth was covered in vegetated sand dunes (Gibb Report Cover picture).

- Tudor St and Richards Drive – Revell Street extended north with new lots on the seaward side.
- over several years in the late 1980's – from a sandy track to tar-sealed.
- The portion of Beach Street between Camp Street and Stafford Street was formed towards the sea and there used to be a basketball court between them and the of the
- Camp Street and Stafford Street – the lots seaward of Revell Street were doubled in depth existing town between
- (6) In 1964 the beach had built out enough that building sites were developed seaward of the
- some of which are still there, went in the early 1970's.
- disappeared on its own in the late 1960's and most of the northern wall apart from the piles, of the river and the beginnings of a flood wall started. The southern training wall totally
- (5) In the early 1960's the wharf was removed and replaced with rock armour on the northern side and much of the coastal fringe went from being underwater to dry land.
- Events inland, such as earthquakes, landslides, heavy snow packs and floods may also affect sediment supply and going back seven further to 6500 years the land that Hokitika now sits on
- Heavy rain in 1935 then again in the early 1940's, the later which caused flooding, damaged bridges (deformed the old Maltrays bridge over the Arahura River) and altered many natural landforms and possibly caused another severe beach erosion event in 1943.
- A drought in 1947 caused the river mouth to block and the river water level built up flooding the town.

- (7) The present elevated north spit at the river mouth was artificially pushed south and armoured with rock in January 1979. Included in the fill is an old Bren Gun Carrier and two old cannons that used to be in front of Seddon house. While this helped protect the town from river flooding, it had the negative effect for the northern beach in that it tended to promote a south exit of the river to the sea and this was probably the origin of the severe beach erosion of the 1980's that led to groynes being placed on the beach from 1986 to 1989.

The groynes have helped to protect the town but also did some damage – the football fields (with embankments on landward and seaward sides) that was on the back of the beach immediately north of the Richards Drive groyne was eroded away.

- (8) Since 2013 more and more rock has been placed along the beach and I think this is just compounding the problem, all at mounting cost to the community to pay for the construction and ongoing maintenance.
- (9) It might be that going back to the beach configuration of the 1960's will help the town beach grow again. To do this would require the bold steps of:
- removing all of the rock from the beach, and
 - Rearranging the north spit so that the river exits square or at a slight northern angle, either by truncating the northern spit, or realigning the river channel as far inland as the Kaniere bridge, or a combination of both.

END

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