

Submission on RC – 2022 – 0039 - Hokitika Seawall Extension

From Danielle Sheets, [REDACTED]

Submitting as an individual.

I wish to speak to my submission and I may consider presenting a joint case with those making similar submissions.

I oppose RC - 2022 - 0039 in its current form.

As an owner and future permanent occupier on the seaside of Revell St, Hokitika, I am thankful to be a part of this amazing place and appreciate the vibrant community and the natural surroundings are some of the best in the world. I am grateful to be a part of this place.

We have been here for over twenty years and look forward to being permanent residents in the future. We have seen many changes in this living coastal environment and many submissions have reported their experiences and observations on this point.

I am worried about the proposed development. I believe that more research and development is needed in this area. While the proposed plan does include much research. Is it fit for purpose? Could the proposed development make the situation worse over the long term as a result?

I believe that there is a need for a long-term plan, including ongoing monitoring and research integrating the entire west coast which is not geographically separated by council or government lines.

The coastline is a natural, ever-changing environment. I would hope that any planning and implementation of works as large as the one proposed would include a more robust assessment, additional research and preventative planning. Not reactionary planning only considering a small section of coastline.

And, I would hope that this planning would include research and evaluation of human uses on this land including but not limited to

effects of various practices, such as removing materials from rivers for building and construction purposes.

I believe that Max Dowell spoke of some of his experiences and observations of the river system and sediment at a past hearing that I attended. He has seen many changes.

What impact do current human practices such as removal of shingle and materials used for other purposes have on the beach? Would these materials being removed naturally replenish beaches over the long term and does removal of such material harm the natural processes?

What other factors need to be considered more thoroughly? What factors need to be considered as they relate to this area specifically in New Zealand?

A number of years ago I approached neighbours about the groyne project as they were still being built. I was informed that the University of Canterbury was involved in research and planning of that project in the 1970's or 1980's.

Why have they not been involved in ongoing research and development?

Universities are where engineers learn. These plans have been done by engineers, potentially past students of UC. So why wouldn't we involve UC in ongoing research and development in this area? Why wouldn't we consult researchers and experts with the most up to date and targeted information?

I believe the focus of this project is relatively big and expensive, but is it fit for purpose if the research is not robust considering the scale of this project and the natural environment? Is the scope too narrow?

I am certainly worried about the effects on native flora and fauna. I see the submissions from the Penguin Trust and DOC. They are neutral, I

believe. Is there more that may be done and integrated into the planning to accommodate native flora and fauna?

The proposed seawall has the potential to adversely affect the last remaining natural beach environment, a point raised by Nigel Snoep in his submission. How would the demolition of this last remaining corridor affect native flora and fauna? I appreciate many of the points and research outlined in his submission.

I would support those speaking on any of the points above as well as:

A Trigger Line

A plan integrating coastal hazards and climate adaption

A pre-consented plan with more comprehensive research and planning

The addition of a long-term plan to complement the short 10-15 year plan

I also support and appreciate the efforts of HCPA to organise an alliance of interested individuals and to bring this matter into a public arena and ongoing efforts to work within the community and government to protect our coastline.

We are all doing our best from a wide perspective in this area and thank you to the council for the opportunity to be a part of the process.