

## **NEILS BEACH – BEACH EROSION**

### **Notes on Informal meeting held on-site**

**On Tuesday 1 April 2014 at 11.00 a.m.**

As a result of a previous request from a small group of concerned landowners in the Neils Beach area, represented initially by Mr. Jim Murray, regarding potential serious erosion and ongoing risk issues an informal meeting was held on-site on with potentially affected ratepayers to determine the risk and discuss possible future options for the area.

Present:

Liz Scott, Lyndon Hewer, Paul Maynard, Robin Manera, Geoff Robson, John Hare, Dianne Davison, Doreen Lyon

In Attendance:

Wayne Moen (WCRC Engineer)

Wayne Moen welcomed those present and placed apologies for several ratepayers, including Jim Murray, who could not attend.

He explained that the purpose of the meeting / inspection was to discuss and quantify the erosion problem and to discuss future options for the area and indicated that he had sent out the notice of the meeting to 45 potentially affected landowners.

Wayne gave those present an outline of his experience with West Coast coastal problems and citing the Okuru, Punakaiki and latterly the Hokitika foreshore works as a medium-term solution to coastal erosion problems.

He explained that these 3 works have been successful, to date, in halting the erosion phases in these areas, giving affected landowners some protection from the sea.

Wayne outlined the Council's role in the

- a) Consultation Stage
- b) Potential Resource Consent Applications and Associated Issues
- c) The Types of Construction Required
- d) The Establishment of Special Rating Districts for Funding of Such Works
- e) The Funding of Works through a Loan Process

The group then proceeded to inspect the problem areas. The inspection revealed considerable erosion along the foreshore area.

W. Moen pointed out that the main problem associated with the Neils Beach area, was that it was in the “shadow” of Jacksons Head. This effectively prevented the movement and deposition of gravel material from being washed in and deposited in the Neils Beach area by the predominant northerly coastal drift. This depleted area was then subject to erosive wave action.

He also explained that by analysing aerial photographs taken in 2005 and 2011, that approximately 25 -30 metres of coastline had been eroded over this time. This equated to an average of 5 – 6 metres per year.

Wayne explained a typical rock-faced seawall construction and how this would impact on the existing beach profile.

He also advised that the cost of any such construction would be borne by the ratepayers and explained the concept of a possible internal loan and the methods of repayment through a special rate.

It was generally felt that nothing be done at the present time, however, people were now more aware of the issues and possible solutions.

It was suggested by those present that this issue would not disappear and that the local residents should keep an on-going watch and report back on any potential changes to the foreshore.

Wayne enquired about localised rock and gravel sources and pointed out that if any future work was proposed, Council could assist by competitive tendering to ensure the best possible price was obtained on behalf of the ratepayers.

All present agreed that this had been a very worthwhile meeting and thanked Wayne for his and the Council’s promptness in addressing the ratepayers concerns.

Wayne suggested that it would be prudent for the ratepayers to appoint an interim spokesperson so that the Council had a point of contact.

Those present, felt that Jim Murray would be the most suitable contact in the meantime.

Wayne agreed to supply Jim Murray with a list of ratepayers and indicative potential estimated costs.

The meeting concluded at approximately 12.00 a.m.

Wayne Moen  
River Engineer  
2 April 2014