

18 October 2019 update

Following the significant erosion that has occurred recently at Port Waikato, Council is providing fortnightly (or as needed) updates to the community about the situation and plans going forward.

- The projects design team has come up with a concept design for a one-way system at the Sunset Beach car park. Due to the possible temporary status of the car park it is a low cost option but involves car going down Centreway Rd and Ocean View Rd to enter by the surf club entrance. A one way system is needed to reduce congestion in the already narrow car park. The traffic flow has been proposed the way it is so that cars turn in from Ocean View Rd rather than out into it. Please see the image at the bottom of the update for a diagram. If you want to provide any feedback on this please email projects@waidc.govt.nz
- We will also be moving the fencing back in the car park in the next week or so, probably to where the orange temporary barriers are.
- There will also be improvements made to the beach access by the car park in the next week or so.
- Our thanks go to the many residents who attended the community meeting on 5 October. While the meeting was often tense, it appeared that attendees valued the expert thoughts of Jim Dahm and it is our intention to keep working with him as we go forward.
- Our staff are speaking regularly to the property owners of 7 and 9 Ocean View Rd to guide them through any process should building relocation or demolition be required.
- We will also be in touch with all owners of property on Ocean View Rd in the coming weeks to help plan for the future with the assumption that erosion may continue at its current rate.
- We are also committed to working with the whole Port Waikato community on the medium and long term issues arising from coastal erosion. A series of independently facilitated discussions is envisioned regarding the cost and effectiveness of various options ranging from protective structures and methods to managed retreat.
- A potential outcome could be an adaptive management plan which will enable the community and/or Council to take required action at various trigger points and to revise the approach as required as new information comes to light.
- Our Proposed District Plan team will be at Port Waikato tomorrow (19 October) at the surf club from 10am-1.30pm. Their visit is part of the consultation process of Stage 2 of the Proposed District Plan which deals with natural hazards. Please note this was initially scheduled for 23 October but was moved to make it easier for more people from the Port to attend.
- If anyone has any comments or suggestions please email our Community Resilience Team at IMT@waidc.govt.nz