

25 September 2019 update

Following the significant erosion that has occurred recently at Port Waikato, Council is providing weekly updates to the community about the situation and plans going forward.

- Our apologies again for the postponement of the community meeting about erosion. This was simply due to a mix-up on the availability of the venue.
- As mentioned, the meeting is now on Saturday 5 October at 10am at the surf club lounge.
- For clarification purposes, this will not be a meet the candidates/election meeting. The meeting will only cover erosion and we feel this issue is not one to be politicised so any election candidates attending will not have the opportunity to campaign or speak on other issues.
- Our Chief Operations Officer and Mayor will be there, along with coastal scientists and Waikato Regional Council staff.
- It is our intention to either livestream the meeting on Facebook or at least record it, depending on how the technology is working.
- Coastal scientist Jim Dahm will be building on previous discussions with members of the local community about why it is not feasible to protect the Sunset Beach shoreline against erosion.
- Ways of how we can work together with the community to plan for the future will also be discussed, and demolition of the hall and car park work will be outlined.
- A staff member from the District Plan Policy team will give a summary of the draft natural hazards section of the Proposed District Plan and its relevance to Port Waikato.
- The hall demolition process starts next week when temporary fencing will go up in the car park.
- There is a bit of asbestos in the hall so asbestos clearance and removal will take place next week.
- Then the plan is for the actual demolition to take place the following week, with the scheduled completion date being 14 October.
- Once the hall is demolished, work will start on the car park. We plan to put a one-way system in to try and ease the congestion within the car park. This would be done by forming an accessway through to Ocean View Road once the hall is gone.
- Council is monitoring erosion at the beach and it will be taking drone footage on a regular basis to improve monitoring.
- Extra signage is being put up at the car park warning people to stay away from the extra barrier and at the beach access point.
- The building team is continuing to speak to the owners of the two baches which are near the cliff face on Ocean View Road.

