

Port Waikato Erosion Update 19 November 2019

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

Beach car park

- We will be trialling the peel-back of the first metre or two of chipseal from the edge of the bank of the car park by peeling back a section of it to assess how run off from the car park itself would effect it and the rate of erosion on the peeled back section. The information will help in the decision of peeling back all the chipseal if we have to close the car park. If we have to move the barrier fencing inland again we will be closing the beach car park.
- We will also be removing the concrete pad, hall septic tank, concrete poles and cable from the beach car park in the next couple of weeks.
- The bigger sign at the top of the beach accessway, warning the public of the danger of being close to the bottom of the bank below the car park, was due to go in last week. It is now scheduled to go up by tomorrow.

Ocean View Road

- Meetings between the most imminently affected property owners on Ocean View Road and our building and consents teams have started. Council will be rolling out a programme to provide this same opportunity to property owners further along Ocean View Road and will advise the community of these dates as we make progress. If you would like to register your interest in attending a one-on-one meeting as part of this programme, please email imt@waidc.govt.nz

Regional and central government

- Our staff have connected with staff in the policy and hazards teams of the Regional Council, and they are happy to take part in the adaptive management planning discussions with the Port Waikato community and other stakeholders. We have also met with our regional advisor from the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management (MCDEM), who has provided advice and connections to other relevant work in central government.

Beach toilets

- We were called out to Sunset Beach yesterday after a member of the public feared there was another spill from the toilets at the beach following the heavy rain. We had an assessment carried out by the plumbing supervisor from our contractor Cushman & Wakefield.
- The report we received was that there was no sign of an overflow from the septic tank, despite significant flooding of the reserve where the effluent field for the toilets is located. This flooding is caused in part by water ponding but is also from of the drain/stream at the back of the reserve breaching the banks. The water from the stream has a lot of silt in it and does look like effluent.
- The plumber was certain that the septic tank had not failed but we have decided to proceed with emptying the tank with the sucker truck as a precaution.
- The flooding does prevent the septic tank from draining properly into the effluent field as the water pressure is the same outside of the line as it is inside of the line, however as the tank has so recently been emptied it was considered very unlikely that backflow would cause the septic tank to overflow or leak.

- The condition of the drain/stream was assessed and it was found that there is a lot of vegetation- mostly invasive pampas grass and a few flaxes that have blocked the flow of the drain and this is a reason why the reserve is flooding so badly.
- To reduce flooding and the consequent potential of the septic tank overflowing in the future we will be clearing the drain of the vegetation blocking it and excavating it approximately half a metre deeper so it is able to cope with the volumes of water we have seen with recent heavy rain.
- As a further precaution we have closed the public toilets until the drain has been cleared, the flooding has receded, and the plumber has checked the system is secure.

If anyone has any comments or suggestions please email our Community Resillience Team at IMT@waidc.govt.nz