

4 February 2018

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Gisborne

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Dear Madam

Re. Wainui Beach Erosion Management Strategy, August 2014

Further to the invitation from Neil Daykin at the pre-hearing meeting on 20 December 2017 I wish to amend my submission as follows:

1. The Gisborne District Council (GDC) has removed sand push-ups. I commend this removal. When Neil Daykin was asked of a back up plan that provides a cohesive approach for beachfront dwellers in high erosion events at the 20 December 2017 meeting, his response was 'evacuation'. I am not satisfied with Daykin's approach. It does not take into account historical nor recent supporting evidence for alternative approaches. Historically in the Wainui Beach Management Strategy¹ (2003) the peer reviewer, Dr Paul Komar, proposed geotextile sand bags as an alternative. A more recent GDC response to a high erosion event was the placing of rocks at the toe of the bank adjacent to the Millton property.

2. In summary of historical supporting evidence for alternative approaches, Komar's geotextile sandbags are referred to on:

- Page 22
2. Foredune Protection and Rebuilding Using Geotextile Sand Cushions/Bags, proposed 'Geotextile "Soft Rock" Sand Cushion..' in response to the most extreme storms.
- Page 24
3. Emergency Use of Geotextile Sand Bags in Erosion Events, to have a stock of Geotextile Sand Bags available to protect areas where dwellings have come under threat from erosion.

3. As referred to in 1 above the most recent GDC emergency response was the placing of rocks at the toe of the bank adjacent to the Millton property. From my daily observations of this rock placement I note that:

- The rocks are settling in well
- Vegetation is growing
- Sand is covering
- No further erosion has occurred
- No end-effect has occurred on neighbouring properties.

¹ Wainui Beach Management Strategy 2003

It appears to be a good example of an appropriate intervention in an emergency.

4. In a NZ Herald article of 7 January 2018 in response to the storm that swept through the country, Insurance Council Chief Executive, Tim Grafton, said that improving community resilience to extreme weather events was a priority.

“New Zealand needs to plan and adapt in ways that will reduce the impact of natural disasters – because every dollar spent in pre-disaster adaptation measures saves many more after an event.”

5. Radio NZ Nine to Noon on 22 January 2018 discussed 2017 NIWA reports, ‘Coastal hazards and climate change: Guidance for local government’, with a call for a nation-wide strategy to deal with the risk of coastal erosion and the funding to make it possible. Currently NZ lacks a nation-wide strategy and similarly at a local level Wainui Beach residents are recipients of a Wainui beach Erosion Management Strategy that is not dealing cohesively or strategically with erosion.

6. The WBEMS favours some and disregards the others. It is inequitable. I refer here to the protection at the southern end of the beach and the groyne intervention at Hamanuatua Stream. Those residing between these two points are not protected. Such an approach in a small community is counter-productive to harmonious and good neighbourly living.

7. We live in times of extreme weather events. As responsible Wainui Beach residents we need a cohesive whole-of-beach strategy for high erosion events so in times of emergency effective measures can be implemented. Most importantly the response needs to be able to be delivered within a 24 hour period of the particular dune site being targeted by the swell. To not have such a measure in place is irresponsible.

8. Previous and current research shows that at Wainui Beach gabion baskets are an effective measure against high erosion. We also have expert advice from Dr Paul Komar on geotextile sand bags. We have the more recent effective measure with the Millton’s rocks. What other current technology may be available in 2018 to future proof our community? I request that a cohesive whole-of-beach strategy for high erosion events is explored.

9. It is my submission that the Wainui Beach Erosion Management Strategy, now having had sand push-ups removed as a response, needs to be amended within a reasonable time frame of say six months so that an effective response is available to the Council in the event of a rare episodic assault by the ocean on beach front dunes adjacent to private property.

My previous filed submission with respect to sand push-ups/beach scraping may now be removed from the record as that application has been discontinued.

Yours faithfully

Nicola McCartney