



greater WELLINGTON  
REGIONAL COUNCIL  
Te Pane Matua Taiou

29 October 2012

Patrick Dougherty  
Chief Executive  
Kāpiti Coast District Council  
Private Bag 60601  
PARAPARAUMU 5254

PO Box 11646  
Wellington 6142  
142 Wakefield St  
New Zealand  
T 04 384 5708  
F 0-4-384 1826  
www.gw.govt.nz

Dear Patrick

## Management of Kāpiti Coast River and Stream Mouths

Kāpiti Coast District Council has recently released coastal hazard assessment information (Shand 2012<sup>1</sup>) projecting where the shoreline is likely to be along the Kāpiti Coast within 50 and 100 years in managed and unmanaged shoreline scenarios. From Shand 2012, the managed shoreline scenario for inlets (river and stream mouths) assumes that channel management will continue, and the unmanaged scenario is the 'natural' scenario, assuming that channel management is discontinued.

As some of the river and stream mouths identified in this coastal hazard assessment are managed by Greater Wellington, you have asked that we clarify our management regime, so that this information may also be included in your advice to the public.

Greater Wellington management of the mouths of Kāpiti Coast watercourses involves the use of a range of river management techniques and may entail maintenance of structures at the river mouth, such as guide walls and training walls, realignment of the watercourse mouth and gravel extraction. The general management regime for watercourses managed by Greater Wellington is set out below.

### The Current Level of Service

#### Waitohu Stream

Management of the Waitohu Stream mouth consists of mouth cutting. Under the Regional Coastal Plan (Rule 30), the Waitohu Stream mouth may be cut as a Permitted Activity when:

- the channel outlet within the coastal marine area migrates either north or south of the area defined by the projected lines 250 metres south and 1000 metres north of Konini Street or the channel outlet creates a vertical scarp in the sand dunes which exceeds 2 metres in height; or
- the water level increases 500 millimetres or more above normal river levels adjacent to Mahoe Street.

<sup>1</sup> Shand, Dr R.d. Kāpiti Coast Erosion Hazard Re-assessment. A report prepared for the Kāpiti Coast District Council. Client Report 2012-B CRep August, 2012

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In 2010 the 'Waitohu Stream Mouth Cutting Guidelines & Management Review' was carried out<sup>2</sup>. This review recommended more frequent cuts, a preferred cut alignment and methodology, and new trigger lines including that the northern trigger is reduced from 1000m to 750m. The outcomes of this review have been trialled and are currently being used within the overarching requirements of the Permitted Activity Rules in the Coastal Plan.

#### Otaki River

Management of the Otaki River mouth consists of maintenance of the rock line and rock groyne (northern bank) that maintain the river within its preferred alignment, gravel management, stopbank maintenance and mouth cuts. Under the Regional Coastal Plan (Rule 30), the Otaki River mouth may be cut as a Permitted Activity when:

- the channel outlet in the coastal marine area migrates either 300 metres south or 300 metres north of the centre line of the river measured 700 metres upstream; or
- the river mouth closes or the Rangiruru flood gates are unable to effectively operate due to high water levels.

#### Mangaone Stream

Under the Regional Coastal Plan (Rule 30), the Mangaone Stream mouth may be cut as a Permitted Activity when:

- the channel outlet within the coastal marine area migrates either 100 metres south or 300 metres north of the Te Horo Beach Road; or
- the water level increases 300 millimetres or more above normal river levels at the Sims Road bridge.

I note that the Mangone Stream Inlet has no 'Managed' scenario in Shand 2012.

#### Hadfield Drain

Under the Regional Coastal Plan (Rule 30), the Hadfield Drain mouth may be cut as a Permitted Activity when:

- the channel outlet within the coastal marine area migrates either south or north to an extent where it undermines sand dunes and creates a vertical scarp in the sand dunes which exceeds 1.5 metres in height; or
- the stream mouth closes and the stream is unable to flow over the sand bar in normal flow.

I note that the Hadfield Drain Inlet has no 'Managed' scenario in Shand 2012.

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<sup>2</sup> Dave, Dr. I. Waitohu Stream Mouth Cutting Guidelines and Management Review. October 2010. ENV/23/13/05 WGN\_DOCS #852059.

### Waimeha Stream

Management of the Waimeha Stream mouth consists of maintenance of the rubble groyne and mouth cuts. Under the Regional Coastal Plan (Rule 30), the Waimeha Stream mouth may be cut as a Permitted Activity when:

- the channel outlet within the coastal marine area migrates either 250 metres south or 150 metres north of a centre line determined by the training wall adjacent to Field Way or the channel outlet creates a vertical scarp in the sand dunes which exceeds 2 metres in height; or
- the water level increases 300 millimetres or more above normal river levels as measured at the Field Way road bridge.

### Waikanae River

Management of the Waikanae River mouth consists of maintenance of the rock line and rock groyne (southern bank) that maintain the river within its preferred alignment and mouth cuts.

Realignment of the Waikanae River mouth is a Controlled Activity under Rule 34 of the Regional Coastal Plan, when trigger levels are met. Greater Wellington obtained a Resource Consent in 1998 (which expires in 2013) to cut the river mouth as part of our Waikanae River Global Consents. Specific conditions apply under this consent. Further, approval from the Minister of Conservation is required, as the landowner, each time the river mouth is cut.

Trigger levels for cutting the Waikanae River mouth in accordance with Rule 34 of the Regional Coastal Plan are when:

- the channel outlet within the coastal marine area migrates either 500 metres south or 200 metres north of a projected line parallel to the centre line of the groyne on the south bank of the river; or
- the water level increases 300 millimetres or more above the normal river levels at the Otaihanga footbridge.

### Future Levels of Service

Greater Wellington is intending to maintain the current level of service regarding management of the mouths of Kāpiti Coast watercourses, as noted above, for the foreseeable future. However, you should note the levels of service are dependent on:

- Floodplain Management Plan Reviews.

The level of service and the management approach for the river mouths are set in Floodplain Management Plans. The outcome from development or review of a Floodplain Management Plan could be that there is a different level of service from that currently used. However, such decisions are made following extensive consultation with the affected community, so any change from the current level of service would be expected to have broad support from the community.

- The Natural Resources Plan -- which will replace the current Regional Coastal Plan

The Council is currently developing its second generation regional plans. The current intention is that Permitted Activity status is maintained in the new Natural Resources Plan, and for the Waikanae River, cutting the mouth is changed from a controlled Activity to a Permitted Activity. The outcome of this can not be guaranteed as there is a specific process to follow and opportunity for other parties to influence the outcome of the Natural Resources Plan.

- Consenting requirements

We are currently in the process of renewing our Global Consents, which will include the RMA approval for cutting the Mouth, for a term of 35 years. Kapiti Coast District Council support will be sought as part of this process. In addition to this, approval is required from the Minister of Conservation for working in the scientific reserve.

- Floods and Natural Disasters.

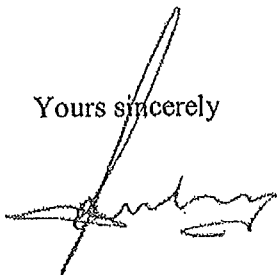
Council has made provision for river and stream mouth management works in its 10 year plan and we would expect this to continue in subsequent plans. A range of issues can arise that affect this funding however. Floods, storms, earthquakes or changes to consent conditions can change the economics, resulting in a different level of service needing to be provided if the current level of service is no longer affordable.

### Summary

I trust that the above information provides you with the comfort that GW intends to continue its current river and stream mouth management regime on the Kapiti Coast into the foreseeable future. We have to point out, however, that there are a number of other factors, some out of our control, that mean we cannot guarantee that the same management regime will continue indefinitely.

Any enquiries regarding the information contained in this letter should be referred to Sharyn Westlake (Tel. 04 476 3071, e-mail [Sharyn.Westlake@gw.govt.nz](mailto:Sharyn.Westlake@gw.govt.nz)).

Yours sincerely



**David Benham**  
Chief Executive

[david.benham@gw.govt.nz](mailto:david.benham@gw.govt.nz)