

Re: Kāpiti Coast Erosion

Kia ora,

Please note that your request has come through to the Takutai Kāpiti Project team (Coastal team) at Kapiti Coast District Council. We are running a community-led coastal adaptation project. We have a project specific website <https://takutaikapiti.nz/> which has an extensive bibliography of reports as well as more information the project etc. I would encourage you to visit the website for more information.

Thank you for your enquiry, please find our responses to your question below.

Question 1: How does erosion/ climate change impact the Kāpiti Coast natural environment?

The Kāpiti coastline is approximately 40km long. As well as being the location for significant urban development, our beautiful beaches are an important community asset with many unique characteristics and natural qualities. Like many coastal communities around Aotearoa, Kāpiti is facing significant environmental challenges from our changing climate and associated rising sea and groundwater levels.

In May 2019 Council declared a climate emergency on the Kāpiti Coast. This is political recognition of the need for action in reducing our emissions, as well as the risks our communities are facing now, and will increasingly face over the coming decades, from coastal erosion, rising ground water and increased storm events.

In June 2019 a coastal vulnerability assessment 'Preparing coastal communities for climate change' by Mitchell Daysh and Dr Iain Dawe was released. This report was commissioned alongside our regional partners. Its purpose was to prioritise where to focus efforts across the region. A link to this report is available [here](#).

Numerous studies have been undertaken, describing the coastal environment and dynamics along the Kāpiti Coast. These studies alongside smaller more focused projects or investigations are catalogued in **Our Coastal Bibliography** which can be found [here](#).

Greater Wellington Regional Council has developed a Sea Level Rise Mapping Tool. This tool helps tell the story of what sea level rise might look like above the high tide mark around the Wellington Region. Use this tool to identify what areas will get wet first and see what an extreme sea rise will do to our region. You can find the [tool here](#).

Question 2: How does this impact people within this location?

While we don't know how significant these changes will be and how quickly they will happen in Kāpiti, we do know that communities which plan for change, and work together, are more resilient in the face of that change.

It is important that we are dealing with the social and environmental challenges facing us, including climate change impacts.

Adapting to climate change along with ongoing development pressures on our coasts will be an ongoing challenge into the future.

People within our coastal communities will need to:

- become more aware of climate change effects;
- consider how they become more resilient to the potential impacts of climate change.

Climate change and impacts from sea level rise will vary along the coastline and decision-makers face unavoidable uncertainty.

It is not possible, practical or sensible to wait until uncertainties are reduced before starting to consider what options might be preferred by the community.

Question 3: What is being done about erosion/climate change along this Coast?

Mitigation Vs. Adaptation

Mitigation and adaptation are the two approaches for addressing climate change issues. We need both however, the focus of this project is about resilience and adapting to change.

Mitigation is an intervention to reduce emissions or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases. It is about reducing the scale of climate change and requires global level influence

Adaptation is an adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic change or its effects, which moderates harm or raises beneficial opportunities.

It is the approach taken in coastal and low lying areas to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience on a local scale. The aim is to build resilience so the impact is less.

We need both however, the focus of the Takutai Kāpiti project is about building resilience and adapting to change along our coast. How we adapt to change, and the impacts of sea level rise is our opportunity to help prepare future generations.

ADAPTATION:

The Takutai Kāpiti: Our community-led coastal adaptation project.

On 8 March 2020 the Takutai Kāpiti: Climate Change and Our Coast Summit 2020 launched the Takutai Kāpiti: Our community-led coastal adaptation project

The Takutai Kāpiti project is a community-led collaborative process working in partnership with local iwi and supported by Kāpiti Coast District Council. The project aims to encourage our Kāpiti Community to become more aware of the impacts of climate change and sea-level rise and empower them to take part in developing solutions and pathways for adapting to coming change. This will be through the establishment of a Community Assessment Panel (**CAP**) in 2021 consisting of iwi, community and other key stakeholder / agency representatives to consider our district's response to the impacts of climate change on the coast.. The CAP will have access to technical advice to inform their decision making which will include the social, economic and cultural impact that coastal hazards impose on the Kāpiti community. These reports will be published on the Takutai Kāpiti website.

The Takutai Kāpiti project will follow the Ministry for the Environment's *Coastal Hazards and Climate Change Guidance for Local Government*^[1] and take advice and lessons learnt from the *Clifton to Tongio Coastal Hazards Strategy 2120*^[2] and The *Makara Beach Project*^[3]. The recommendations from the Ministry for the Environment is to work with communities to enable them to map out a range of adaptation solutions, based on a range of scenarios, over a 100-year period.

The outcomes for the Takutai Kāpiti project will include a range of adaptation and management options for Kāpiti, and will likely identify the areas that may be affected by

various coastal hazards over the long term and the risks to public and private property, cultural sites and areas, recreational use and infrastructure services.

MITIGATION:

In regards to reducing its own emissions, Kāpiti Coast District Council has been a leader in the local government sector in New Zealand in mitigation action. By the 2018/19 financial, KCDC had reduced in-house carbon emissions from 12,498 tCO₂e (2009/10 baseline year) to 2,868 tonnes CO₂e - that is a 77% reduction. When we joined the scheme we set a very ambitious target to achieve an 80% reduction in emissions by 2021/22.

Additionally, council supports regional and national projects and campaigns such as;

- Zero Waste Education Programme;
- Enviroschools;
- Paper4Trees;
- Love Food Hate Waste;
- Green Parenting Workshops;
- Seaweek;
- Plastic Free July.

To find out more information on what KCDC is doing with mitigation [here](#).

Question 4: What do different people think about erosion/climate change along this Coast?

At the Takutai Kāpiti: Climate Change and our Coast summit 2020 we received the following feedback from the community:

SUMMIT FEEDBACK: TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

a. What do you value about our coastline?

- Accreting
- Biodiversity and recreation
- Wide-open, natural, shorebirds
- It defines Kāpiti and who we are as a community
- Clean, clear water
- Sense of place, connection with ocean. Peace
- Swimming every day in the moana – clean, safe, refreshing!
- Biking and walking along beach and coastline most days!
- View of beautiful, powerful Kāpiti island
- Clean water and, riparian vegetation, low noise/light pollution
- Takutai Moana Papatuanuku hoki!
- Kaitiaki Māori are great in our area
- He Kohinga mātaītai. Hei whāngai i te whanau, marae, hapū, hāpori

b. How should we protect our coastline?

- Stop building along coast
- Shift away from hard barriers and engineered solutions – accept what is happening and seek to work with it
- Don't try to protect – retreat. Change housing stock to be more easily movable. Ensure the poor are not left behind
- Whakarerea atu te hunga pākihi e tango ana i te nui o ngā kaimoana i te takutai
- Make wise educated choices on development. Bigger is not always better
- Tautoko full time kaitiaki on the beach – kaitiakitanga I nga wā katoa!
- Reduce emissions
- Dunes
- Plant coastal vegetation

- Protective estuaries
- BEACHES (Don't sacrifice them for hard defences)
- Consult and include Māori in all decision making and processes. Utilize Māori connection with place for guidance
- Get all vehicles off the beach apart from boat launching

c. How do you want to be involved, updated and informed?

- I'd like to see maps with projections of coastal erosion, sea level rise
- A range of communication method:
 - not everyone has a computer/internet connection/ Facebook e.t.c
 - not everyone receives the local newspapers.
- Pictorial representations
- Newsletters in lots of different places and displays:
 - Doctors, cafes, schools, kindergartens, mechanics...
 - Not too wordy
- Creative comms, e.g. similar to tsunami lines in WGTN for getting attention/making relevant.
- Full consultation with tangata whenua!
- Listen to tangata whenua – a direct line of contact is essential so that response to issues (eg. Cloudy bay clams stripping out the mātaimai) can be dealt with immediately.
- Call us in for some real consultations where our (someone had added: who?) voices are heard. The speeches were interesting but one way only.
- Call on us if non-violent direct action is needed
- We need serious and detailed research on potential ground water table rise in Kāpiti and it's impacts on public and private assets.
- I'm interested in supporting korero re climate change and taiao with Ngāti Haumia, as Ngāti Haumia, Hēni Colins
- Protect the kaimoana by keeping the water clean.
- Proactive/(reactive) maintenance of Raumatī seawall.

We hope that this information is helpful to you, if you have any further questions please don't hesitate to ask.

We would also like to add that the Takutai Kāpiti project is looking to establish a Community Assessment Panel (CAP) in the new year.

Involving rangatahi, our youth in the Takutai Kāpiti project is very important and so if there are any students or teachers that are Kāpiti residents and would like to be involved we would encourage them to apply to be part of the CAP. Applications will be advertised in the new year.

Kind regards,

Takutai Kapiti project Team

Covid-19 Logo



Sent: Thursday, 10 December 2020 7:45 AM

To: Mailbox - Information Request <Mailbox-InformationRequest@kapiticoast.govt.nz>

Subject: Kāpiti Coast Erosion

Mōrena,

I am a Geography teacher [REDACTED] hoping to get some information to help with an assessment my Year 13s take at the beginning of the year. This assessment looks at erosion around the Kāpiti Coast.

Particular things we look at are:

- How does erosion/ climate change impact the Kāpiti Coast natural environment?
- How does this impact people within this location?
- What do different people think about erosion/climate change along this Coast?
- What is being done about erosion/climate change along this Coast?

If you by any chance have any history or current information that could help us answer these questions, that would be amazing :)

Many thanks, have a lovely day,