PAA MCDA CRITERIA – PUBLIC ACCESS AND RECREATION

Management Unit	Pathway	Pathway Description			Public access and recreation values	
		Short term	Medium term	Long term	Score	Notes
Management Unit 11A: Paekākāriki (Erosion Unit)	1	Status Quo[1] and Community Education and Emergency Management[4]	Sea wall[13] (Protect – Hard Engineering)	Re-establish the line with a setback protection structure[10] (Retreat & Protect)		As the PAA Values Engagement Summary Report makes clear, public access to and recreation on the beach (walking, swimming, fishing, etc) is very important for many residents of Paekākāriki. Echoing research into the salutogenic (health-giving) benefits of coastal environments (and beaches in particular), some Paekākāriki residents quoted in the PAA Values Engagement Summary Report also associate these recreational pursuits with positive mental health and overall wellbeing. • In the immediate future, access to and recreational use of the beach is unlikely to change • However, with the replacement of the existing seawall and further seawall intervention in the short (20 year) and medium term we can expect changes to access and recreation at the coast. • On one hand, public access to the coastal environment may be maintained and improved by seawalls if the adjacent road is protected from erosion and access points and car-parking are integrated into design. Additionally, if the replacement seawall includes pathways along the top (as is planned under current 2017 design) opportunities for recreation may be maintained or enhanced, especially for those with mobility constraints that would ordinarily prevent recreation on the beach (such as wheelchair users) and this could provide a drawcard for visitors from outside the community • On the other hand, however, there is the possibility of reduced access if the adjacent road is inundated periodically (in a storm surge or similar). There is also evidence that seawalls can contribute to a loss of sandy beach and associated recreational pursuits, which could reduce community/district use of the coastal environment overall. • In the long term, re-establishing the line with a setback structure offers a similarly mixed set of costs and benefits for access and recreation. • If the setback structure allows for public access along its top (e.g. a shared use path) and onto the beach (e.g. stairs and ramps) access and recreation could be maintained or enhanced. If colonisation of native species is possible along the structure (e.g. Ecoreef) this could provide recreational opportunities for wildlife/botanical enthusiasts within and beyond the community. • Conversely, since the Ecoreef has a larger footprint than a traditional seawall, the beach area available for recreational pursuits may decrease, especially as the structure is built out towards the ocean over time.
	2	Status Quo[1] and Community Education and Emergency Management[4]	Sea wall[13] (Protect – Hard Engineering)	Enhance Sea wall[2] (Protect – Hard Engineering)		In the immediate future, access to and recreational use of the beach is unlikely to change. • However, with the replacement of the existing seawall and further seawall intervention in the short (20 year), medium, and long term we can expect changes to access and recreation at the coast. • Provided access points (and infrastructural links like roads and pathways) to the beach are maintained, and there are opportunities to walk, cycle or otherwise enjoy leisure activities on/in the vicinity of the seawall, community/district use of, access to, and recreation within the coastal environment is likely to be maintained or increased. • However, the pursuit of seawalls risks loss of the beach, especially at high tide, and could impede associated opportunities for recreation, with further consequences for residents of the community and wider district whom derive health and wellbeing from these activities. Being able to access the coastal environment from atop a promenade would likely restrict the enjoyment that some people gain from spending time at the coast in its current state.

	3	Status Quo[1] and Community Education and Emergency Management[4]	Re-establish the line with a setback protection structure[10] (Retreat & Protect)	Enhance protection structure[2] (Protect – Hard Engineering)		This pathway is likely to see a reduction of beach area and associated recreational pursuits earlier than pathway 1 and 2 due to the introduction of the setback protection structure in the medium term. Although retreating the first line of homes may create a slightly larger beach area, it is likely that public access would be impeded by construction/demolition works at the start of the setback process. Additionally, the larger eventual footprint of the protection structure could reduce the beach area available for recreation especially as the structure is enhanced and build out towards the ocean over time into the longer term. At all stages of the pathway, there are potential gains for public access to and enjoyment of the coastal environment that flow from increased protection of infrastructure such as roads at risk of erosion, and the creation of pathways along the top of the seawall and setback protection structure.
	4	Status Quo[1] and Community Education and Emergency Management[4]	Re-establish the line with a setback protection structure[10] and Dune reconstruction[11] (Retreat & Protect)	Beach renourishment[10] (Protect – Soft Engineering)		This pathway offers the most potential for enhancing use of, access to, and recreation within the coastal environment. • Although the setback protection structure may impede some beach recreation in the short and medium term (reduction in beach area, construction works, larger footprint) and change access from beach use to promenade, in the medium and long term the addition of dune reconstruction and beach renourishment offer the potential to maintain a sandy beach into the future, with associated recreational and wellbeing benefits for residents (especially when combined with all-weather access to the coastal environment through seawall or setback structure promenade). • It should be noted, however, that for dune reconstruction and beach renourishment to take place, sand is generally brought in from other areas. Consideration should also be given to the potential implications for beach users in the region where sand is sourced, since maintaining a beach and recreational opportunities in Paekākāriki could lead to the reduction of such opportunities for community members in the area where sand is sourced.

Management Unit 12A: Paekākāriki (Erosion Unit)	1	Status Quo[1] and Community Education and Emergency Management[4]	Enhance existing protection structure[2], Community Education and Emergency Management[4] (Enhance)	Re-establish the line with a setback protection structure[10] (Retreat & Protect)		This pathway offers a mixed set of benefits and costs in terms of access and recreation. • In the short and medium term pursuing the status quo and enhancing existing structures could lead to a reduction of sandy beach for recreation (due to the effect of seawalls), which may impede community and district use of the coastal environment. • On the other hand, if seawalls (and in the longer term, the setback structure) allows for pathways along the top or nearby, opportunities for recreation could be improved, especially for those with limited mobility (since it would be a flat surface), and in the winter, when other areas can be impassable. This could have flow on effects for the wider community and region and enhance use of the coastal environment. • The persistence of privately maintained seawalls into the medium term presents possible challenges for public access to the coastal environment. There is no guarantee that privately maintained structures would allow passage onto the beach or along the top, and this could prevent wider use of the coastal environment. • In the area where the NZTA structure is currently located, we understand that beach use is almost non-existent. For this part of the sub-area, therefore, opportunities for recreation and access would probably not decrease but may increase depending on how the NZTA structure is maintained/altered over time. • In the long term, there may be a further reduction of beach area for recreation due to the setback structure's larger footprint (and temporarily if relocation of homes is needed), however recreational pursuits may also be facilitated along the top of the structure, and access onto the beach could be maintained via steps and ramps.
	2	Enhance existing protection structure[2], Community Education and Emergency Management[4] (Enhance)	Sea wall[13] (Protect – Hard Engineering)	Re-establish the line with a setback protection structure[10] (Retreat & Protect)		This pathway offers a similar profile of benefits/challenges for access and recreation as pathway 1, however the introduction of a coordinated approach in the medium term (seawall) and pursuit of publicly maintained structures in the long term (setback structure) may avert potential barriers to access presented by privately maintained seawalls in the short to medium term in the pathway above.
	3	Enhance existing protection structure[2], Community Education and Emergency Management[4] (Enhance)	Re-establish the line with a setback protection structure[10] (Retreat & Protect)	Enhance sea wall[2] (Protect – Hard Engineering)		Similar to the above two pathways, wider use of the coastal environment and recreation may be enhanced if seawalls and setback protection structures enable access along them and also onto the beach. • In the medium term, the introduction of the setback structure could offer more diverse recreational pathways than the traditional seawall introduced at the same timestamp in pathway 2 (for example, if the structure is colonised by native plants and other species this could offer opportunities for botany/wildlife enthusiasts). • In the short term, the issue of access on and through privately maintained seawalls persists (as above), and the emphasis on hard protection structures throughout the pathway has potential implications for the loss of the beach and associated recreational activities that are highly valued by community members.
	4	Enhance existing protection structure$_2$, Community Education and Emergency Management$_4$ (Enhance)	Re-establish the line with a setback protection structure[10] (Retreat & Protect)	Beach renourishment[10] (Protect – Soft Engineering)		As with the previous pathways, the mixture of public/private structures and emphasis on hard engineering in the short and medium term may present barriers to recreation and access (but could also enhance use and recreation though pathways along structures). • In the medium to long term, this pathway offers potential gains for recreation and use of the coastal environment by restoring the dunes and nourishing the beach. Paekākāriki residents may enjoy continued ability to recreate on a sandy beach longer than other communities where beaches have eroded. The presence of a beach may also draw in others from the district in the medium and long term and contribute to wider use of the coastal environment. • However, access to the coastal environment may be impeded at times of high use (such as summer) if Paekākāriki experiences an influx of visitors from elsewhere. This may lead to limited parking nearby

						and congestion on roads in the vicinity of the beach, which could be especially impactful for those with limited mobility who rely on car transport to the coast and have few other options for recreation in a safe and flat environment (such as the promenade).
	5	Sea wall[13] (Protect – Hard Engineering)	Enhance Sea wall[2] (Protect – Hard Engineering)	Enhance Sea wall[2] (Protect – Hard Engineering)		The emphasis on seawalls throughout all timestamps in this pathway could change the face of recreation in the coastal landscape. If the pursuit of seawalls leads to a reduction in beach area over time, opportunities for recreation on the sand are likely to be severely limited, and it is likely that recreation and access to the coastal environment would shift from use of the beach to use of a seawall promenade. This may not affect some residents who would ordinarily recreate away from the beach but for those who use it daily, it is likely to represent a significant loss. However, since the pathway does not include the use of privately maintained seawalls, the issues of public access over and through private structures is unlikely to be relevant, and there could be greater access to the coastal environment providing the seawall is designed to accommodate this.
	6	Status Quo[1] and Community Education and Emergency Management[4]	Enhance existing protection structure[2], Community Education and Emergency Management[4] (Enhance)	Sea wall[13] (Protect – Hard Engineering)		Over the short, medium and long term, recreational opportunities and access/use of the coastal environment may be supported provided structures allow for members of the public to access the top (e.g. shared use path or promenade). However, in the short and medium term, the issue of restricted access over and through privately maintained structures remains, and at all timestamps, there is a risk of reduction to the beach area from seawalls, and an associated reduction in beach-based recreation.
	7	Status Quo[1] and Community Education and Emergency Management[4]	Sea wall[13] (Protect – Hard Engineering)	Enhance Sea wall[2] (Protect – Hard Engineering)		This pathway offers similar benefits and challenges to pathway 6, however, with the introduction of the seawall in the medium term, the potential barriers to public access in areas of privately maintained structures are removed.

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Management Unit 11B: Paekākāriki (Inundation Unit)	1	Status Quo[1] and Community Education and Emergency Management[4]	Enhance Existing Inundation Protection[3] and Community Education and Emergency Management[4] (Enhance)	Additional Hard Protection (e.g. Stopbanks[13], Culverts[14], Pumpstations[15]) (Protect)		It is unclear how the proposed actions in this pathway would interact with use of the coastal environment or access to it. If education includes restrictions on accessing particular hazardous locations this could reduce opportunities for recreation or access but since few areas within the community are likely to fall into this category, it may be a negligible risk. On the other hand, recreational opportunities could be enhanced if any stopbanks built include pathways along the top. Like seawall promenades, these pathways could provide access to a flat and accessible surface for walking, bike riding, pushing buggies, and so on.
	2	Status Quo[1] and Community Education and Emergency Management[4]	Enhance Existing Inundation Protection[3] and Community Education and Emergency Management[4] (Enhance)	Elevate floor levels of buildings[8] or Flood proofing buildings and infrastructure[6] (Accommodate)		There is unlikely to be any change to public access and/or use of the coastal environment, or recreation from this pathway.
	3	Status Quo[1] and Community Education and Emergency Management[4]	Additional Hard Protection (e.g. Stopbanks[14], Pumpstations[15]) (Protect)	Enhance Existing Inundation Protection[3] (Enhance)		It is unclear how the proposed actions in this pathway would interact with use of the coastal environment or access to it. If education includes restrictions on accessing particular hazardous locations this could reduce opportunities for recreation or access but since few areas within the community are likely to fall into this category, it may be a negligible risk. On the other hand, recreational opportunities could be enhanced if any stopbanks built include pathways along the top. Like seawall promenades, these pathways could provide access to a flat and accessible surface for walking, bike riding, pushing buggies, and so on.
	4	Enhance Existing Inundation Protection[3] and Community Education and Emergency Management[4] (Enhance)	Additional Hard Protection (e.g. Stopbanks[14], Pumpstations[15]) (Protect)	Enhance Existing Inundation Protection[3] (Enhance)		It is unclear how the proposed actions in this pathway would interact with use of the coastal environment or access to it. If education includes restrictions on accessing particular hazardous locations this could reduce opportunities for recreation or access but since few areas within the community are likely to fall into this category, it may be a negligible risk. On the other hand, recreational opportunities could be enhanced if any stopbanks built include pathways along the top. Like seawall promenades, these pathways could provide access to a flat and accessible surface for walking, bike riding, pushing buggies, and so on.
	5	Enhance Existing Inundation Protection[3] and Community Education and Emergency Management[4] (Enhance)	Elevate floor levels of buildings[8] or Flood proofing buildings and infrastructure[6] (Accommodate)	Additional Hard Protection (e.g. Stopbanks[14], Pumpstations[15]) (Protect)		It is unclear how the proposed actions in this pathway would interact with use of the coastal environment or access to it. If education includes restrictions on accessing particular hazardous locations this could reduce opportunities for recreation or access but since few areas within the community are likely to fall into this category, it may be a negligible risk. On the other hand, recreational opportunities could be enhanced if any stopbanks built include pathways along the top. Like seawall promenades, these pathways could provide access to a flat and accessible surface for walking, bike riding, pushing buggies, and so on.