

23 February 2021

**Request for Official Information responded to under the Local Government and Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) – reference: 7982872 (OIR: 2021-177)**

I refer to your information request we received on 10 February 2021 for the following:

***From your webpage on the Kapiti Gateway Centre, one of the statements declares that:***

***"The Gateway will enhance the Tikotu Stream mouth. This will involve enhancing the ecology of the stream mouth (supporting the two at-risk native species that live in this stream – the long-finned eel and inunga), and enhancing the biodiversity of the area and public access to and from the beach."***

- 1. Please provide the evidence and supporting information that shows how a new building, increasing human presence, and the other factors that come with it, will enhance the ecology of the stream mouth, and the biodiversity of the area.***

The landscape and stream re-naturalisation are integral parts of the Gateway project. Please refer to pages 19-29 of the Design Statement here:

<https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/media/38278/kapiti-gateway-centre-design-statement.pdf>

Council engaged Cardno (NZ) Ltd to conduct a preliminary ecological desktop assessment of the proposed Tikotu Stream works, including the current ecological value of the stream, the likely impact of the proposed stream works and to outline recommendations associated with the works. The current proposed designs are conceptual only. A decision on whether to proceed is to be made by Councillors this Thursday, 25 February 2021. If the decision is made to proceed with the Gateway project, the next phase is detailed design, where it is likely that the assessment will be updated to incorporate the final design aspects.

**This report concludes:**

***"The proposed instream works associated with the Kāpiti Coast "Gateway" involve major landscaping on the stream banks, removal of wooded retaining walls, replacement of the current footbridge and planting of the riparian zones. Overall, the proposed works are likely to cause long-term beneficial improvements on the instream habitat, ecological functioning and surrounding riparian zone.***

***The spatial extent of the proposed work is significantly smaller than the extent of the stream reach that would be occupied by occurring fish communities. Therefore, the proposed work is unlikely to adversely affect the fish population in the long-term. Moreover, the lack of sufficient riparian cover and timber retaining structures has decreased the ecological value compared to an unmodified stream.***

*Predicted and observed ecological values indicate that the aquatic ecosystem of the Tikotu Stream is severely impacted, with moderately polluted water quality and degraded aquatic habitat. These impacts are reflected in the fish and macroinvertebrate community indexes, of which the majority consist of pollutant tolerant species. Nonetheless, the Tikotu Stream supports fish communities of two "At Risk-Declining" species.*

*Provided construction work is well managed, the proposed works will have less than a minor adverse effect on the aquatic ecosystem of Tikotu Stream during the construction phase. The long-term effect of the stream bank restoration, removal of retaining walls, naturalisation of the bank and riparian zone, will likely be positive (net gain)."*

- 2. Please explain how, apart from preventing access to the stream mouth for people, you can sustain and increase the natural ecology of the site, as opposed to introducing more foreign/invasive elements through human interaction and elements they might bring to the area.**

Please refer to the answer to Question 1 above.

Ngā mihi



**Natasha Tod**

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Te Kaiwhakahaere Roopu Raukaki, Te Tipunga me te Whakaoranga