

**Chairperson and Community Board Members**  
WAIKANAЕ COMMUNITY BOARD

29 JULY 2014

Meeting Status: **Public**

Purpose of Report: For Decision

## **WAIKANAЕ SOUTHERN ENTRANCE - PROPOSED BEAUTIFICATION**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1 This report outlines costs and processes required for landscape beautification work adjacent to the road and rail corridor south of the Waikanae Bridge.

### **SIGNIFICANCE OF DECISION**

- 2 This report does not trigger the Council's Significance Policy.

### **BACKGROUND**

- 3 Waikanae Community Board have requested
  - investigation into possible landscape beautification work for the southern entrance to Waikanae.
  - that this work happens in advance of the revocation work for which the physical landscape work is scheduled for 2017/18.

In the June meeting Waikanae Community Board resolved

- *That, subject to the project being approved, the Waikanae Community Board agrees the proposed enhancement will be funded through the Waikanae Promotion Fund.*
  - *That the Waikanae Community Board agrees that, as per the Financial Considerations within the report, \$9,200 be funded out of the 2013/14 budget from the Promotion Fund.*
- 4 New Zealand Transport Authority (NZTA) and Kiwirail, both landowners for various sections for the proposed beautification work, have given approval in principle for the beautification work.
  - 5 A sum of \$9,200 funding from the promotion fund has been carried forward for 2014/15 for beautification works. A cost estimate for the full project, as shown in appendix 1, including weed control, ground preparation and planting is

approximately \$29,000. This means there is a funding shortfall of approximately \$20,000.

- 6 In addition there will be on-going maintenance costs until the planting has successfully established. These costs will be in addition to existing operational costs. Estimated specific maintenance of costs are \$5,500 annually for five years, if the full project is completed.

## CONSIDERATIONS

### Issues

- 7 The area being investigated is the SH1 corridor from the Welcome to Waikanae Sign, North through to the Waikanae Road Bridge. It is approximately 390m in length and is outside of the current Town Centre work area. There are no proposed works in the SH1 revocation plans.
- 8 The area is within a transport corridor occupied by rail and road. The rail link is the North Island Main Trunk (NIMT) and the road is currently New Zealand Transport Authority (NZTA) State Highway 1 (SH1). Any work may require traffic management and supervision by rail.
- 9 NZTA interest is the carriageway including the kerbs and any structures including crash barriers, chevrons and other signs, while the road remains SH1. It is Council's responsibility to maintain anything outside the kerb in a 50km area. NZTA advise traffic management on the west side of the road may require shoulder closure and the east side may require lane closure. As there is no kerb on the eastern side and a number of structures including chevrons and edge reflector posts are adjacent to the road, there is some dispute about responsibilities for maintenance.
- 10 Recent changes to the speed threshold areas have resulted in the location of the 50km speed threshold signs obscuring the Welcome to Waikanae Sign. The Welcome to Waikanae sign has aged and is not in good condition. In addition to beautification work consideration could be given to improving Welcome to Waikanae signage.
- 11 Kiwirail requires that the Council enter into a beautification lease for any work in the rail corridor. Any person involved in planting in the rail corridor is required to have undergone supervision and protection training – A Kiwirail contractor must also be onsite. Supervision work close to the tracks may require train spotters to be on site. If Council engage Kiwirail preferred contractors then separate supervision and protection training is not required. The Kiwirail contractors are Treescape.
- 12 The Rail bridge embankment structures and steep cut slopes characterise the middle 150m section of the study area which necessitates traffic management for any proposed work.
- 13 The eastern side requires lane closure which makes planting and maintenance costly. Steepness, ground conditions and accessibility issues make planting problematic, therefore this area has not been included in the proposed works.
- 14 The western side has a footpath and will require shoulder closure only when working on the slope - weed release and planting are proposed in this section.

The top of the bank is within the rail corridor and works here may require Kiwirail supervision.

- 15 There are pernicious weeds throughout the corridor that would need to be cleared before any planting could take place including banana passionfruit vine, blackberry and honeysuckle. These weeds require comprehensive control otherwise they will overgrow the planting. Chemical spraying and hand release are recommended. Following application of herbicide the ground has to be left clear for a specified period – these weeds are best eradicated early spring.
- 16 Estimated cost for pernicious weed release prior to planting:

**Area (A):**

Weed release	\$ 750
Traffic Management	<u>\$ 500</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,250</b>

**Area (B+C):**

Weed release	\$1,400
Traffic Management	<u>\$ 500</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,900</b>

**NOTE:** These costs assume the contractor is Treescape who are familiar with weed control for both NZTA and Kiwirail. Therefore no separate costs for Kiwirail supervision have been included.

- 17 Prior to the change in speed threshold to 50km, weed control was undertaken by Kiwirail and NZTA. As part of the investigation work, discussions are on-going with Kiwirail and NZTA for possible funding.
- 18 It is recommended that weed control be completed in Spring 2014, during the months of September and October. Followed by ground preparation work, ready for planting to be carried out during the 2015 planting season from May to July.
- 19 The proposed areas for planting are shown in Appendix 1.

- **(A) North East Rail Access – approximately 775m<sup>2</sup>**

This is a very visible area at the north east of the corridor adjacent to the rail, with ground that is suitable and accessible for blanket planting. There are no known services. This is a significant area for planting providing access to the rail is retained. Kiwirail beautification lease requirements will include agreement on species suitability and placement of planting.

Kiwirail supervision will be required. Some traffic management may be required.

- **(B) North Western Embankment – approximately 240m<sup>2</sup>**

This area is currently infested with weeds. There are parts of this area suitable for blanket planting. Identified restrictions are a water main that will limit tall planting. There are steep banks adjacent to the bridge that would

unfortunately not easily support planting. These banks are frittering and the material is falling on the shared path. Remedial work requires further investigation.

Traffic management will be required. Some Kiwirail Supervision may be required.

- **(C) South Western Embankment – approximately 1,170m<sup>2</sup>**

This area has a mix of regeneration, planting and weeds. There are some mature Pohutukawa, Manuka, Coprosma, Pseudopanax, Whitey Wood, Ferns, Toi Toi, and Macropiper. Proposed work here includes weed clearance and thickening up of the planting.

Traffic management will be required for working adjacent to the shared path. Some Kiwirail Supervision may be required at the top of the bank.

## 20 Plant supply and planting cost estimate per area;

### Area A – North East Rail Access

Planting	\$11,625
Traffic Management	<u>\$ 500</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,125</b>

### Area B – North West Embankment

Planting	\$ 3,600
Traffic Management	<u>\$ 500</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,100</b>

### Area C – South West Embankment

Inter-planting	\$ 5,850
Traffic Management	<u>\$ 500</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,350</b>

## 21 Estimated combined costs for capital works for 2014 - 2015

Proposed Works	Area A	Area B	Area C	Totals
Weed Release	\$ 1,250	\$ 950	\$ 950	\$ 3,150
Ground Preparation	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,000	-	\$ 3,000
Planting	\$12,125	\$ 4,100	\$ 6,350	\$22,575
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$15,375</b>	<b>\$ 6,050</b>	<b>\$ 7,300</b>	<b>\$28,725</b>

22 Estimated costs for on-going operational work.

<b>Proposed work</b>	<b>Area A</b>	<b>Area B+C</b>	<b>Total</b>
Weed control, replacement planting	\$ 750	\$1,500	\$ 2,250
Traffic management	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 500
<b>Total per visit</b>	\$ 750	\$2,000	<b>\$ 2,750</b>
<b>Total annually 2 visits (Yr 1-5)</b>	\$1,500	\$4,000	<b>\$ 5,500</b>

23 Annual maintenance may require two visits per year while the plants establish at a cost of \$5,500 per year (full project). When canopy cover has been achieved this may reduce to annual weed control and become included in operational costs.

### Financial Considerations

24 This project has been generated by Waikanae Community Board who have allocated \$9,200 towards this project carried over from the 2013/14 Boards promotion fund.

25 Capital cost estimate for the proposed entire project is \$29,000. There is insufficient funding allocated above to meet the initial site works and capital costs. The shortfall is approximately \$20,000.

26 The scope of proposed works may be reduced to meet funding. Weed control at a cost of \$3,150 cannot be reduced and is a fixed cost, but areas of ground preparation and planting can be reduced.

27 The current allocated funding of \$9,200 will cover the following proposed work

#### **Weed Release Area A, B and C**

Weed Release Area A,B,C	\$ 2,150
Traffic Management	<u>\$ 1,000</u>

**Sub Total** **\$ 3,150**

#### **Area C – South West Embankment**

Inter-planting	\$ 5,850
Traffic Management	<u>\$ 500</u>

**Sub Total** **\$ 6,350**

**Total** **\$ 9,500**

Please note the \$300.00 difference may be absorbed in contract cost savings. If necessary plant numbers can be adjusted by approximately 20 plants to cover the variation in cost

28 No budget allocation has been made to maintain the areas following planting in the 2014/15 budget or the following five years.

29 Kiwirail have indicated some funding may be available for some of the above works. No amounts have been disclosed, however discussions are on-going.

## Legal Considerations

- 30 Any need for formal arrangements with NZTA and Kiwirail, particularly the Beautification Lease will require further investigation.

## Delegation

- 31 The Waikanae Community Board have the delegated authority under Part D clause 10.4

*Authority to listen, articulate, advise, advocate and make recommendations to Council on any matter of interest or concern to the local community.*

## Consultation

- 32 This investigation and report has been requested by the Waikanae Community Board following a request from members of the Keep Waikanae Beautiful Committee. No further consultation has been undertaken during this investigation stage.

## Policy Implications

- 33 There are no policy implications.

## Tāngata Whenua Considerations

- 34 There are no issues for consideration relating to iwi or Treaty of Waitangi issues.

## Publicity Considerations

- 35 If this project proceeds, a news release from the Waikanae Community Board should be considered as this is a good news story.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- 36 The Waikanae Community Board recommends that the above project be considered for inclusion in the 2014/15 financial year and that Council enter into a Beautification Lease with Kiwirail for work within Kiwirail.
- 37 That the initial works in 2014/15 will include weed release and inter-planting of Area C at an estimated cost of \$9,500.
- 38 That the Community Board considers further capital funding of \$20,000 for completion of planting in Areas A and B.
- 39 The Waikanae Community Board allocates a budget (to be confirmed depending on areas of planting undertaken) per annum from the promotion budget for specific maintenance works over the establishment of beautification planting.

**Report prepared by:**

**Approved for submission by:**

Sara Bell

Alison Law

**Title**

Landscape Advisor

**Title**

Acting Group Manager Community  
Services

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Appendix 1: Waikanae South - Proposed Beautification Work.