

Report 14.568
Date 23 October 2014
File X/26/02/02-v1

Committee Council
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Submission on Island Bay Seawall Project – options document

1. Purpose

To seek approval of the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) submission on the Island Bay Seawall Project options document.

2. Background

The large swells generated by the severe southerly storm that hit Wellington in June 2013 caused widespread damage along the south coast of Wellington city. This included the collapse of a section of the 350-metre seawall in Island Bay, opposite Shorland Park. After the storm, Wellington City Council (WCC) placed a temporary rock barrier in the broken section of the seawall to protect the footpath and road, which has remained in place as a short-term measure. Before committing to fully reinstating the wall, WCC wants to assess the feasibility of using softer engineering approaches for the longer-term management of the area.

Earlier this year, Tonkin & Taylor were commissioned by WCC to undertake a high level assessment of coastal processes operating within Island Bay. In their report, released in May 2014, Tonkin & Taylor evaluated likely future shoreline evolution and effects on the existing infrastructure, and assessed potential future management options to improve long-term resilience.

Wellington City Council is continuing to look at the feasibility of the options, create more detailed designs, and consulting with the community to understand their views. Ultimately, they are looking for a long-term solution to manage coastal hazards like storm surge for the area of Island Bay Esplanade between Brighton Street and the southern end of Shorland Park. There are also traffic, heritage and road access issues to consider, and potential opportunities for improving the space for the community.

As a starting point for initiating feedback, WCC has identified five options designed cope in different ways with storm surges and a predicted rise in sea

levels. These are outlined in the consultation document 'Island Bay Seawall - Have Your Say' in **Attachment 1**.

3. Comment

The submission period for the Island Bay Seawall Project closes on 10 November 2014. A GWRC submission has been prepared and is included in **Attachment 2**.

In summary, the submission:

- supports the further development of options that seek to employ soft engineering approaches to managing coastal hazards and indigenous ecosystems, consistent with the direction provided in the Regional Policy Statement
- requests that harbour safety and navigation, including the possible need for relocation of navigation poles, be given appropriate consideration in the evaluation of options
- invites ongoing discussion with WCC as the options are further developed to ensure that public transport considerations are taken into account
- requests that Traffic Management Assessments be undertaken once the list of shortlisted options is known.

4. Communication

Once approved, the submission will be forwarded to WCC. No public communications are planned.

5. The decision-making process and significance

Officers recognise that the matters referenced in this report may have a high degree of importance to affected or interested parties.

The matter requiring decision in this report has been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act). Part 6 sets out the obligations of local authorities in relation to the making of decisions.

5.1 Significance of the decision

Part 6 requires Greater Wellington Regional Council to consider the significance of the decision. The term 'significance' has a statutory definition set out in the Act.

Officers have considered the significance of the matter, taking the Council's significance policy and decision-making guidelines into account. Officers recommend that the matter be considered to have low significance.

Officers do not consider that a formal record outlining consideration of the decision-making process is required in this instance.

6. Recommendations

That the Council:

1. *Receives the report*
2. *Notes the contents; and*
3. *Approves the submission on the Island Bay Seawall Project in Attachment 2.*

Report prepared by:

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Attachment 1: Island Bay Seawall Have Your Say consultation document

Attachment 2: Greater Wellington submission on the Island Bay Seawall Project