



P.O.Box 58846 Botany, Auckland 2163



Artist's impression

OPEN LETTER

BY EMAIL

19 June 2017

To:

Lisa Tumahai
Interim Kaiwhakahaere (Chair)
Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu

David Bedford
Chair
Environment Canterbury
Regional Council

Simon Bridges
Minister of transport

Paula Bennett
Minister of Tourism

Maggie Barry
Minister of Conservation

Winston Gray
Mayor
Kaikoura District Council

Request for removal of coastal hazard under Policy 14 of the NZCPS

Tēnā koutou Lisa Tumahai, David Bedford, Winston Gray. Simon Bridges, Maggie Barry, Paula Bennett.

On Sunday 4th of June the Surfbreak Protection Society (SPS) was alerted to rapidly advancing earthworks moving through Mangamaunu Bay on the Kaikoura coast, putting an exceptional outstanding area of natural character, seascape, and international tourism asset at risk, as highlighted by the special edition stamps above of the schedule one listed surf breaks in the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010, with Mangamaunu being one of only 5 in the South Island.

1. Piles of rubble have been dumped (varying in height) between 6 and 9 meters high, 25 meters wide, extending 400 meters along Mangamaunu Bay, within a Nationally Significant Outstanding Natural landscape /seascape. These activities are taking place inside a designated coastal hazard zone. On a phone conference on the 8th of June we were informed by NCTIR that the material is going to extend a further 1.8 km along the bay to the base of Mangamaunu point. The volume of this material currently, is approximately 80,000 cu m., extrapolating that out 1.8 kilometres further the railway land has the approximate capacity of 300,000 cubic meters. The contractors also removed 1,200 cu m of coastal Flora and Fauna 400 meters in length by 3 meters wide and 1 meter deep that now lies on the ocean side of the bund. There is the potential to lose a further 5,000 cu m of coastal flora and fauna, should these works continue to the full extent of Mangamaunu Bay. This spoil and Flora and Fauna material is now at the mercy of swell and rain events.



2. SPS are disappointed that when alerting the Department of Conservation regional statutory manager, our organisation was instructed to talk directly with NCTIR. During the teleconference with NCTIR (8th June) we agreed to relay the minutes back to the representatives (which we did within half an hour) for their confirmation. We have received no contact back from NCTIR at all.
3. These works were carried out by NCTIR with consents issued by your councils under legislation provisions laid out in both the [Hurunui/ Kaikōura Earthquakes Recovery Act](#) and [Hurunui/Kaikōura Earthquakes Emergency Relief Act 2016](#)

4. NCTIR would have been aware of the significance of the surf break and the weather events that this stretch of coastline is subject to. The location is subject to inundation by the sea. The railway lines behind this new mound of earthquake spoil have been previously damaged by swell events. The railway lines are below the Environment Canterbury Regional Council Hazard Zone 1. Is this an expedient and crude method to kill two birds with one stone? That is, dispose of the spoil and create protection for the railway with inappropriate material?

The dumping of spoil originally occurred during the day but once there was an outcry and serious concern raised by the local community the day after one resident was alerted on the 2nd June, dumping has been largely done at night since.

5. The works are subject to limited notification under the Hurunui/Kaikōura Earthquakes Emergency Relief Act 2016, Under the Act NCTIR are required to contact adjacent landowners 10 days prior to works beginning to give comment and this did not occur. Local residents believe that if this had have occurred the dumping and the current situation could have been completely prevented (only one resident being notified the day before works commenced).

Mike Seabourne and Manea Sweeny of NCTIR acknowledged this breach at a public meeting held at Mangamaunu Bay on Thursday 8th of June.

6. Before and during the meeting a number of local residents/farmers have informed NCTIR that they would accept this spoil being removed from the site and placed on their own land, to preserve this outstanding example of coastline.
7. A similar event happened in [Mahia, Hawkes Bay](#)¹, when spoil was bulldozed into the ocean from a slip on the coastal highway into the area occupied by Blacks a once famous surf break that would have been eligible for inclusion in the Schedule of Nationally significant surf breaks in the NZCPS.
8. When the spoil entered the surf break it essentially behaved like cement and impacted heavily on the surfing wave quality at this surfing venue.

¹ <http://gisborneherald.co.nz/lifestyle/2000087-135/black-outlook-for-beach> (as attached)



Mangamaunu – NZCPS listed surf break of National significance

9. Kaikoura is a town reliant on tourism, where whale watching is the number one draw card. Number two on the list is the constant stream of surfing tourists both locally, nationally, and internationally that are drawn to the area specifically by the reputation of the perfect ride that Mangamaunu provides. The town boasts surf shops, businesses that provide surf coaching, and restaurants, cafes, and motels that would all suffer should the surfing wave quality of Mangamaunu become degraded.
10. New Zealand and international research centred on the Christchurch quakes has demonstrated a range of negative ill health impacts on the city's communities. While all New Zealanders acknowledge the need to rebuild our main trunk lines that will reconnect Hurunui / Kaikoura with the rest of New Zealand, the world, and reinvigorate the tourism that the area is reliant upon, the welfare of the local community, and an intrinsic part of the districts tourism industry must be recognised and accommodated for. Dumping spoil at this site from a stance of a permanent fixture, is totally unnecessary, and counter to complimenting the districts tourism assets.
11. A recent Sunday documentary program on the TVNZ *Surf Therapy*² that articulates the human experience as a link with natural character, the link between surfing and benefits surfing brings to an individual's wellbeing. Kaikoura has a large surfing population that choose to work and live in the district because of the surfing opportunities provided by this internationally significant surf break. The surf break is

² <https://youtu.be/X8mk6uwWV78>

of economic, social and cultural benefit to the district and its tourism industry.

12. NCTIR have stated that these spoil sites are to be permanent. Was Mangamaunu chosen simply because it was the most expedient for the consortium?

13. SPS has contacted a coastal engineering company eCoast Marine and Consulting Ltd, considered to be world leaders in this field (Dr Mead coastal scientist Dr Borrero tsunami expert) who viewed the photos attached to this letter. At the request of SPS Mike Seabourne of NCTIR phoned eCoast Ltd. Ecoast's Dr Mead responded:

"I believe it is the easiest/cheapest option and very short-sighted in a part of NZ reliant on tourism, especially marine-based tourism. Apart from the impacts on aesthetics/natural character along the coast, the potential for silt run-off straight into the sea doesn't seem to have been addressed/considered – no silt screens or retention/settling ponds are visible."



Under policy 14 of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement your councils and departments are obligated to the restoration/ prevention of adverse effects on Natural Character on the NZCPS schedule one listed Surf break; Mangamaunu.

There are obligations in regard to (but not limited to) Policy 14 clause C of the NZCPS, while Policy 16 of the NZCPS states:

Policy 16

Protect the surf breaks of national significance for surfing listed in Schedule 1, by:

- a). ensuring that activities in the coastal environment do not adversely affect the surf breaks; and**
- b). avoiding adverse effects of other activities on access to, and use and enjoyment of the surf breaks.**

policies 13 and 15 gives direction to the management of surf breaks in the NZCPS, however policy 16 directs avoidance of all adverse effects, as nationally significant surf breaks are examples of Outstanding Natural Character (ONC) and Outstanding Natural Features(ONF's). The surf breaks as listed in schedule one of the NZCPS are the only coastal areas identified – named, in this National Policy Statement.

To quote from the Board of Inquiry to the NZCPS working papers vol 2 page 130³:

- *Why a specific policy on surf breaks?*

We accept the many reasons given in the s32 report and reinforced by submitters for including a specific policy on surf breaks. The arguments for the surfing community for the inclusion of this policy (with amendments) were:

- *natural surf breaks are a finite resource and naturally occurring breaks help constitute the natural character of the coastal environment under s6(a); the preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment implies that sufficiently representative breaks in their natural context should be protected; those breaks that are rare should be given a greater level of importance than those that are common;*
- *natural surf breaks are outstanding natural features in their own right, and can be an element of outstanding natural landscapes (including seascapes), under s6(b); the protection of outstanding natural features requires the identification of outstanding natural surf breaks;*
- *natural surf breaks are of social, cultural and economic value to coastal communities;*
- *Maori made use of natural surf breaks historically;*

³ <http://www.doc.govt.nz/Documents/getting-involved/consultations/closed-consultations/nzcps/NZCPS-2008-board-of-inquiry-vol-2.pdf>

- *activities in the coastal marine area and landward can have adverse effects on surf breaks; activities like placement of artificial nourishment (sand) on a beach, building a seawall, development of coastal property, nearshore sand mining, breakwater ports and marines, changes to land catchment around a break have potential to adversely affect a surf break;*
- *increasing pressures will lead to damage and destruction of surf breaks and there is a need for protection; surf breaks are scarce and vulnerable to development and the technology does not exist at present to restore a natural break disturbed or damaged by human intervention;*
- *at an individual level the policy gives surfers confidence in the protection of their playgrounds; there are no other means for protecting surf breaks unlike in parts of Australia. Comparisons were drawn with marine reserves, national parks and other legislation protecting particular values.*



Other NZCPS policies that need to be considered here are:

Policy 11 - Indigenous biological diversity (biodiversity)

Policy 23 – discharge of contaminants,

Policy 24 – identification of Coastal hazards;

Policy 25 - Subdivision, use, and development in areas of coastal hazard risk

Policy 26 - Natural defences against coastal hazards

Policy 27 Strategies for protecting significant existing development from coastal hazard risk

(2) *In evaluating options under (1):*

(a) *focus on approaches to risk management that reduce the need for hard protection structures and similar engineering interventions;*

- (b) *take into account the nature of the coastal hazard risk and how it might change over at least a 100-year timeframe, including the expected effects of climate change; and*
- (c) *evaluate the likely costs and benefits of any proposed coastal hazard risk reduction options.*
- (3) *Where hard protection structures are considered to be necessary, ensure that the form and location of any structures are designed to minimise adverse effects on the coastal environment.*
- (4) *Hard protection structures, where considered necessary to protect private assets, should not be located on public land if there is no significant public or environmental benefit in doing so.*

Policy 27 (2) articulates the thread that runs through all the above mentioned NZCPS policies, and leads to the overriding direction to consider policy 3 of the NZCPS in this matter:

Policy 3 - Adopt a precautionary approach towards proposed activities whose effects on the coastal environment are uncertain, unknown, or little understood, but potentially significantly adverse.

[We have read and understand the consents issued emphasis the following:](#)

*The Order (Clause 8(2)(c)) further sets out that the consent authority **need not** have regard to the matters in section 104(1)(b) or section 105 RMA when considering the application, that is:*

Section 104(1)(b) - any relevant provisions of—

- (i) *a national environmental standard:*
- (ii) *other regulations:*
- (iii) *a national policy statement:*
- (iv) *a New Zealand coastal policy statement:*
- (v) *a regional policy statement or proposed regional policy statement:*
- (vi) *a plan or proposed plan; ...*

105 Matters relevant to certain applications

- (1) *If an application is for a discharge permit or coastal permit to do something that would contravene section 15 or section 15B, the consent authority must, in addition to the matters in section 104(1), have regard to -*
 - (a) *the nature of the discharge and the sensitivity of the receiving environment to adverse effects; and*
 - (b) *the applicant's reasons for the proposed choice; and*
 - (c) *any possible alternative methods of discharge, including discharge into any other receiving environment.*

- (2) *If an application is for a resource consent for a reclamation, the consent authority must, in addition to the matters in **section 104(1)**, consider whether an esplanade reserve or esplanade strip is appropriate and, if so, impose a condition under **section 108(2)(g)** on the resource consent.*

Clause 11 of the order modifies section 108 RMA, such that the consent must be granted on the conditions set out in Schedule 1 that relate to the restoration work, or as amended under sub clauses 4 or 7.

The KDC planer noted in the consent:

*“While Kaikōura District Council have had the opportunity to recommended changes to the schedule one conditions these have largely been **rejected**.”*

A local rate payer attended a meeting with local Council, and reported: *“and as per the legislation, they have been totally overridden by NCTIR in their activities. It has been very stressful for them (the council).”*



“Need not”;

Need not need not, have to apply to common sense, best practice, and community harmony.

Why would NCTIR choose this 2 km stretch of identified unique outstanding coastline when there is so much railway and other land available to take this spoil, including land nearby offered by the local community.

If left on site this spoil would be an affront to all the guiding principles of sections 5, 6, and 7 of the RMA (but not limited to), and a majority of the policies in the NZCPS. Under policy 14 of the NZCPS (restoration of natural character), this spoil cannot remain permanently onsite, otherwise this renders the National Policy Statement meaningless.

We implore the Council Chairs' and Ministers to help us to encourage NCTIR to remove all this spoil with a sense of urgency and restore the area to its former state, after the transfer of spoil to other sites has been completed

Ngā mihi

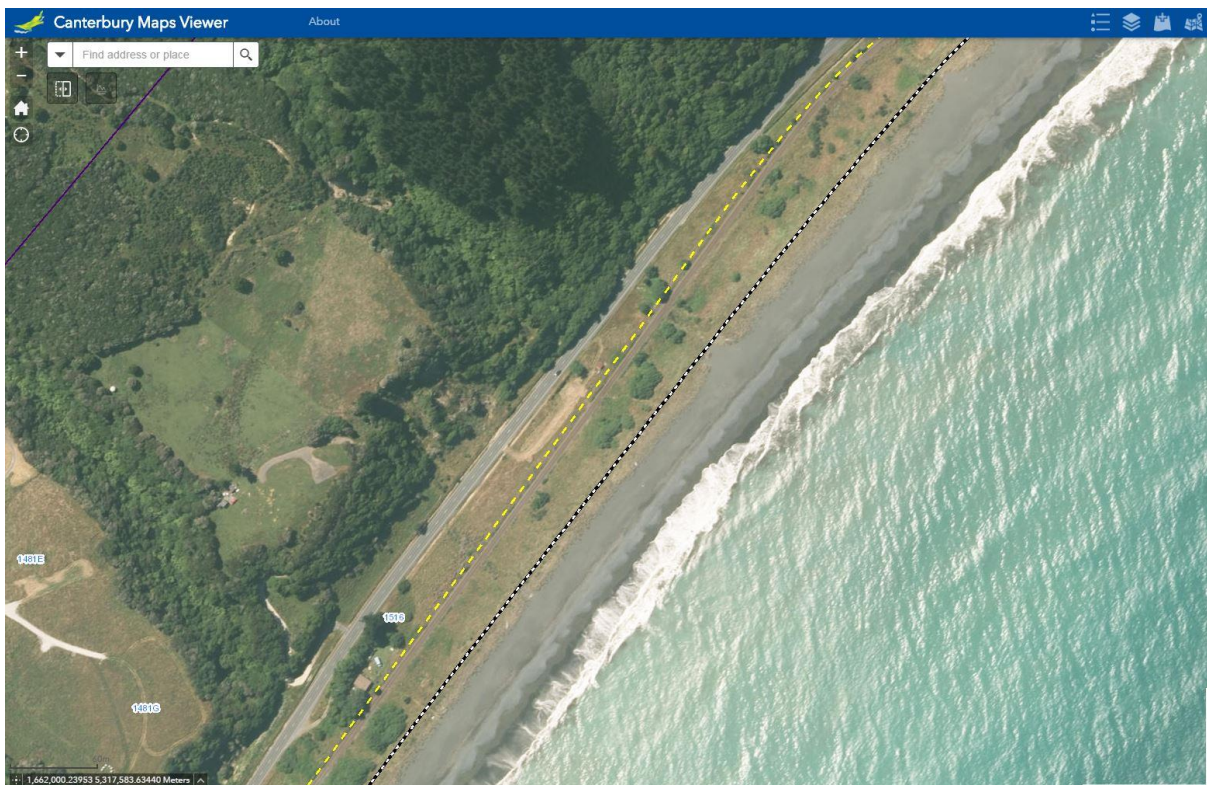
Paul Shanks
President
Surf break Protection Society Inc.

Attachments:

- Appendix 1 photos of Earthworks
- Appendix 2 SPS minutes of teleconference morning of 8th of June
- Appendix 3 Notes of public meeting at Mangamaunu afternoon 8th June
- Appendix 4 article: Black outlook for Beach? Mahia

Appendix One

Photos of Earthworks at Mangamaunu Bay



Mangamaunu Coastal Hazard Zone indicated by yellow dashed line







Digger working on culvert at the base of the Mangamaunu surf break



Appendix 2

Minutes of Teleconference between Mike Seabourne and Manea Sweeney of NCTIR and;
Paul Shanks and Michael Gunson of the Surfbreak Protection Society Inc.
Morning of Thursday 8th of June 2017

Mike and Manea,

Thank you for the phone call today regarding our concerns over the Nationally significant surf break Mangamaunu.

From the phone call you have confirmed that:

1. The bund is to be top soiled and landscaped, access tracks to be developed over /through the bund, by works end.
2. Any soil over 3 meters should be considered as stockpile until other land becomes available, and NCTIR may take up new offers from private landowners once consent processes are in properly in place
3. Although discussed SPS needs clarification over silt fences and/ or other means by which sediment will be prevented from reaching the sea, especially in the short term.
4. NCTIR will consider talking with NCTIR with eCoast marine and consulting Ltd over possible impacts and methods of identifying environmental risk to the Mangamaunu surf break.
5. NCTIR discussed improving amenity values around the new surf breaks that have arised (no pun intended) since the earthquakes.
6. Are working with Hapu, especially to deal with the Urapa.
7. SPS have also brought to the attention the issue of sound reverberation off the new bund back toward existing housing(where previously predominant offshore winds would carry this out to sea. residents are concerned also about loss of sea views.
8. Work up by the culverts today is only to make sure they are clear of sediment.
9. NCTIR are going to try using the road to move spoil to the land to the southern side of Mangamaunu point and place spoil in proximity to Station Rd.

10. NCTIR have been contacted by DoC and are doing all they can to avoid remedy or mitigate adverse effects.

11. NCTIR have reconfirmed their willingness to consult and not just listen to, but act on local input.

12. The bund will be reduced and contoured to three meters and also will be no spoil dumped within 1 kilometer of the Surf break.

13. SPS clarified the difference between Coastal marine Area and Coastal Environment and raised concern about the Coastal Hazard Zone - 70 meters above MHWS and gave the example of Blacks Beach at Mahia where a landslip was bulldozed into the ocean and formed a solid clay base, impacting on the sea floor, adversely affecting that surf break.

It would be preferable to have your input to what is the agreed points to us before the meeting tonight

Kind Regards

Michael Gunson and Paul Shanks

Appendix 3

8th June NCTIR Dumping in Mangamaunu Bay meeting notes

Doug P opened the meeting.

John T requested all people speaking to introduce themselves and say their name and who they worked for or represented or their relationship to Mangamaunu.

Annie B thanked NCTIR staff for attending acknowledging it was the starting point for opening communications and handed the floor to NCTIR.

Mike Seabourne (NCTIR) began by apologising to the group in relation to NCTIR having not communicated and they had dropped the ball. Mike indicated that the spoils that have been dumped there already would not extend down the beach any further, but would change in height going up and down and this site was a staging post from which to move spoil onwards. The spoils would be permanent and left at a height of around 3 metres and be landscaped eventually. Although asked to speak first he would prefer not to and asked to hear concerns of the people and the group first.

Mark A indicated serious concerns with the lack of a proven silt management system in place. Manea Sweeney indicated that it was a proven silt management system and Mark A disagreed and spoke at length as to why the current system they had in place was a poor option.

Annie B acknowledged the apology from NCTIR for the lack of communication and the starting of communications by coming to this meeting but was concerned about the fact they had not followed the legal requirements of the Hurunui/ Kaikoura Earthquakes Emergency to communicate to adjacent landowners 10 days prior to commencing work and had not done so. The consultation strategy of knocking on doors on Thursday 1st June meant they wouldn't get to speak to many people at all as they would be away or at work and they hadn't followed either the legal requirements or their own procedure to communicate to those most impacted and affected. The point being that if they had followed the shortened legal requirements put in place by the legislation, we wouldn't be here today and could have prevented the damage done.

Manea Sweeney (NCTIR) indicated they did not need to consult and section 9 over rode any requirement to communicate with the local community.

Annie B thought that was up for legal debate and indicated one of the key issues was the stunning beauty of the bay and although everyone supported the road to open, that should not be at the cost of not protecting or looking after the bay. She also held a serious concern with the quality of planning and decision making in that NCTIR indicated in their media release they were originally going to make the earthquake spoil run another kilometre down the beach 8- 9 metres high. Even though NCTIR changed away their original plan last week, she could not believe that was put forward as a viable plan in the first instance and this underlined serious concerns about the kind of thinking that was occurring and shows NCTIR were not taking into consideration the environment, ecosystem, marine environment and surf.

Ken has lived here for 43 years, up the Blue Duck and remembers the flood in 1975. The whole bay was covered in silt from the hills. Some people in the houses on the flat had to stay in/on their roof to stay safe. NCTIR have no idea how much water can fall on that piece of coast and how devastating it can be. Ken asked why they wouldn't dump the spoil at Half Moon Bay or somewhere else and bulldoze it into the sea. He also had safety concerns at

the kind of congestion there was at a number of spots including the corner turning into the Blue Duck, and indicated the large number of trucks was an issue.

Mike Seabourne (NCTIR) acknowledged the congestion issues with the trucks and would take that back to the Earthworks Manager and get back to him.

Tony P also remembers the flood of 1975 and he was working for NZRail then. The railway lines were hanging between sections of land. He also was concerned about what would happen in a large storm.

Mike Seabourne (NCTIR) said that if there was a large rain or storm there is nothing they could do.

Dave M asked about alternate sites to dump the spoils.

Other people in the group discussed that through the Facebook page "Save Mangamaunu Beach" two people had already put their hands up to take earthquake spoil on their private land. Kathy Thompson was one of the local people who had written on the Facebook wall saying she would take spoil.

Anna C asked if NCTIR had advertised they wanted areas to dump spoil and Mike Seabourne said no they had not. She suggested that they consider advertising so they would have more options for dumping soil. Mike Seabourne (NCTIR) said they would look into it.

Matt M asked why they did not have the staging post at the Quarry where they were dumping already and no one was having an issue with it to date. Mike Seabourne said it was not an option. When asked why it was not an option Mike said it was not efficient. Matt asked what he meant by saying it was not efficient and had they looked into it. Mike Seabourne said they had looked into it and it was 50% less efficient than dumping in Mangamaunu and couldn't be done. Annie said well actually it potentially could be done and is an option but you're saying that you won't look at that option due to efficiency which is really just cost and time. Mike said it was all about time and not about cost. Annie said cost is time isn't it. Mike said no, he had previously worked for NZTA and he knows all about this and could debate it all night and it was only about time.

Ken asked why they didn't head north and dump at Half Moon Bay as it was wide enough there to take a lot of spoil. Mike Seabourne replied that it was the same issue as here, that the residents would have an issue.

Ian S suggested using the spoil to make something good out of it such as a carpark near where the freedom campers all go near Graveyards around the corner from Mangamaunu. He said currently there were issues with people continuing to use the place but not look after it and this was a possibility to sort out some of the issues there.

Darren was against Ian's idea as the area discussed is right in front of the Urupa.

Rachel V (Kaikoura District Council) indicated this area was on their plan/radar to do something about the issues Ian raised.

Annie B asked why was Mangamaunu not the last option for dumping rather than the first option for dumping. Another person said good question. Susi H (minute taker for Kaikoura District Council) said other places were considered. Annie said the question is for NCTIR. The question was left unanswered.

Nuku worked with the Surfbreak Protection Society and lived with Heidi at Gore Bay and although he did not live here, he had surfed Managmaunu many times and had care for the place. They both had to leave to get back to Gore Bay and needed to leave soon to get through the coast road before it was shut for the night. He talked about how the local surfers who had surfed their for years had an important source of knowledge about the sea, currents which they had developed from years of experience. Nuku talked about how silt had irreparably damaged other surf breaks in New Zealand and the impact of this and how important it was to prevent this occurring. He talked about the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement protecting the surfbreaks of national significance and the importance of Managmaunu locally, nationally and internationally.

Manea Sweeney (NCTIR) said she and Mike had a good teleconference today with the Surfbreak Protection Society today about a number of things including an organisation from up north NCTIR could talk to that could be useful but they couldn't remember the name. Annie said ECoast and Manea said yes. Manea Sweeney said the Surfbreak Protection Society are comfortable with what we're doing. Annie said that she did not think this was the case and NCTIR cannot talk on behalf of the Surfbreak Protection Society.

Ted H said he was a Marine Guardian and sat on the Restoration Liaison Group and they had looked at the impact on the marine environment and there was a huge amount of spoil to move.

Brett C thanked the NCTIR speakers for coming and fronting a difficult meeting, Annie & John for organising the meeting and Ineke for hosting the meeting. He talked about issues like these occurring for a thousand years but won't go into that today. He said that a long term view was required and this is not about now but the thinking needs to be for the future generations. Brett suggested the meeting be held at Hapuku School or a different venue next meeting.

Mike indicated that this group meet again in two weeks time to tell the group what NCTIR were doing and there was a Kaikoura wide meeting next Wednesday people from the meeting could also attend should they want.

Annie B ended the meeting saying although it was good to start the conversation she put down the challenge to NCTIR that with future meetings to not expect to come to tell us what they are doing but come expecting to be open to change what they are doing.

Attachments area

Black outlook for beach?

by Anna Rankin, Wairoa Star Published: November 8, 2015 9:06AM

Anna Rankin from the Wairoa Star investigates the demise of the once world-class surf break at Black's Beach.



SURFERS CONCERNED: Mahia local and champion surfer Ricardo Christie grew up surfing world class waves at Blacks Beach, but local surfers are concerned about the demise of the wave from its glory days. Wairoa Star picture

SURFERS are concerned the era of legendary surfing at Mahia's Black's Beach has peaked. They are worried about the drop-off of visiting surfers and the impact on tourism revenue.

Nuhaka School principal and surfer Nick Chapman said visiting surfers were a regular part of the Wairoa district economy and they generated revenue, but the number of surfing visitors and their friends is decreasing.

Mr Chapman said the work on the eroding road into Mahia was "absolutely necessary for access, but in the past there had been an unfortunate impact on the topography of the beach".

The Mahia Boardriders Club is planning to investigate the effect the silt from roadside erosion is having on the quality of a once world-class surf break at Black's Beach.

Surfer numbers down

The Wairoa District Council is unable to invest in getting in marine experts to better understand the Black's Beach problems, but would advocate to the Hawke's Bay Regional Council that these considerations be investigated.

The council's chief engineer Jamie Cox said while the council looked at re-aligning the road over Black's farmland, the most

“We believe the problem is the silt run-off of the slips from the land above the road. Huge slopes have been created over the years and backed up into the sea.”

He said local surfers would like to see a study done, followed by debate and local action, to see the old Black’s Beach break like it used to be.

“The evidence is in the number of cars you don’t see in the car park any more. It would be fantastic to imagine the Wairoa District Council, the Hawke’s Bay Regional Council and marine and surfer groups getting a study done that would shed light on why the reef has changed from the famous peeling right-hander it was renowned for.”

Mr Chapman said it looked like the silt had run into the water and settled around the rocks and reef in the main channel of the surf break, which had been caused by weather and erosion.

“This run-off has affected the surf break in front of the main car park, and despite a few good days of surf over the past eight years, the quality of the surfing wave has been spoilt.”

Mr Chapman wants to know why the silt in the channel is not moving.

“Is it silt from erosion that then finds its way into the ocean? It has been a long process of spoiling the surf break. What action can be taken to bring the surf break back to its glory days?”

The channel is used as a rip to carry surfers out to the reef break, which has been a world-class wave for visiting surfers and numerous surfing events over the years.

“As a surf club we’re concerned. Surfers have dropped off due to the spoiling of

effective decision was to restore the existing road.

But he said this process is time-consuming and poses plenty of challenges. Mr Cox said both councils agreed that tourism was vital for the region.

“If this was a conversation about economic development and tourism there would be different factors to consider, and different people to involve so that we take a cohesive approach to finding a solution.

“We need to consider economic development imperatives but also ensure sound infrastructure is affordable and in place.

“The council would be interested to know which are the relevant agencies and organisations, and how can we work together to invest in understanding these issues.

“The council’s role in this particular issue is advocacy and trying to pull the right levers so that we have the right people around the table to discuss this.”

Mr Cox said the council supported the minimisation of any negative environmental impacts on Black’s Beach, and this process was considered in the resource consent for the work being undertaken.

WDC communications strategist Kitea Tipuna said the council and Hawke’s Bay Regional Council (HBRC) had a role to play, but asked if they were the only ones?

“Tourism Hawke’s Bay got a huge \$300,000 funding boost from the HBRC in July — could they be asked to also contribute?”

General manager for Hawke’s Bay Tourism Annie Dundas said the funding was earmarked for promotion of the Hawke’s Bay, not land and infrastructure.

Ms Dundas said it was clear that they want to look after the beaches in the region.

the break. We must be losing tourism. If the council is concerned about the region as a destination, it's got to be about economy.

"We'd like to turn around the demise of Black's and see it brought back to its former glory."

"Of course we would like to make sure our beaches are cared for and that people have a good experience but that's not how it works. It's earmarked for promotion, not fixing stuff, sadly."

Mr Tipuna said the surfing focus and tourism dollar of the issue gave it a stronger economic development focus, rather than an infrastructural or environmental one.

Mr Chapman would like to work with the council to find a solution.

"We have no moans and groans with council rebuilding the road — access is essential. Eight years ago the slips on this piece of road saw silting get into the sea. Present roadworks design is to avert any of this happening. I do wonder if the council sees it as a loss of an economic gold mine. We need to bring people back."

Mr Chapman is curious as to why the ocean has not naturally sluiced the silt out in big swells and heavy sea storms.

"The ocean seems to run over it. It needs a dive team to check it out."

Mr Chapman hoped all parties could work together to problem solve as a united group.

<http://gisborneherald.co.nz/lifestyle/2000087-135/black-outlook-for-beach>





<http://gisborneherald.co.nz/lifestyle/2000087-135/black-outlook-for-beach>