

Wekatahi and Marawhara Stream Ongoing Management

Background

The Wekatahi and Marawhara Streams joined channels in 2011 and continued to migrate south. This resulted in the combined streams eroding the sand dune to the south along Marina Parade North.

Council obtained a variation to the existing resource consent, to allow stream realignment works to be undertaken during the summer months, and in response to the effects of any severe storm events

Council completed realigning the Wekatahi and Marawhara Streams in May 2012.

Monitoring

Council is undertaking dune and stream surveys every three months to capture stream movement. This monitoring is continuing.

Ongoing Management

Under the existing resource consent, Council has the ability to undertake realignment works, if and when required. This consent allows the streams to be separated into independent channels that flow out to sea. This work has to be undertaken in accordance with the approved plans submitted with the original consent application.

Below are three options for the ongoing management of the streams:

Option 1 – Undertake Maintenance to Keep Streams Separated

Description: Undertake dredging works of the existing streams when required to keep the two streams within the confines of their own channels.

Estimated Frequency: Every 1-2 years

Approximate Cost Per Visit: \$10,000

Pros: The scale and duration of physical works is less

Cons: The works occur more frequently

Option 2 – Separate the Streams When They Join

Description: Undertake re-alignment works only when the streams have jointed channels, and have not separated themselves within two months.

Estimated Frequency: 2-5 years

Approximate Cost Per Visit: \$40,000

Pros: The streams would not be allowed migrate south and erode the dunes to the south.

Cons: Higher costs than Option 1 and longer duration of physical works

Option 3 – Re-align Streams When They Reach a Trigger Point

Description: Undertake re-alignment works after the streams have joined and have eroded the dunes to a predetermined trigger point. See map for proposed trigger point. This would be similar to the trigger system used to initiate works undertaken in May 2012.

Estimated Frequency: 5-7 years (dependant on trigger point location)

Approximate Cost Per Visit: \$80,000

Pros: Works undertaken less frequently, less disruption to beach users

Cons: More expensive option, sustained disruption to beach users whilst physical works are undertaken, acknowledgement that some loss of foredune is acceptable prior to trigger points being reached.

*Note – The above estimated frequency is to be used as a guide only. The frequency of works may change depending on weather and tidal conditions.

Following feedback from the Piha Coastal Day the ongoing management of these streams will be discussed with the Waitakere Ranges Local Board. The Waitakere Ranges Local Board will decide how the streams will be managed into the future.

Please provide your feedback by completing a comment form, or emailing your feedback to the address below.

The contact person for this project is Juliette Holdgate, Ph 09 301 0101 or email parkswest@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz.