

20 May 2019

Response - Official Information Request

I refer to your request for information received on 21 April 2019, concerning Foxton Beach wharf and gabions. Your request has been considered under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) and I provide the following information.

Information relating to Foxton Beach Wharf

The wharf is not Council owned and the specification of the gabions installed were agreed with the land owner DOC at the time. Council is currently working with DOC to consider options to remediate the structure. In terms of your specific requests please note the information below.

1. Budget and Work

The wharf is on land owned by the Department of Conservation (DOC). The Department of Conservation funded the work and were kept informed of the work as it progressed.

2. Gabions, Wharf and Proposed Permanent Structure.

The temporary works was completed on a DOC asset on DOC land and funded by DOC budgets, as such it is not a Council owned public access way. DOC were informed of and agreed to the works. An application to install a slipway was lodged with Horizons Regional Council (HRC) and Horowhenua District Council (HDC) in April 2015 by Profab Engineering but it was withdrawn in July 2015.

3. Project Management

The project was managed by Council's project team of the time. The materials used, and construction implemented was agreed by DOC and funded by DOC. The Engineer who oversaw the works no longer works at HDC.

4. Ownership of the Wharf

The asset is owned by DOC. DOC are working with Council to assess the likely impacts of any remedial works required. DOC as landowner will determine how they wish to progress including any recourse they may have for legal options should they so choose.

5. Erosion Plans

Horizons Regional Council has an overall role in coordinating responses in respect of potential sea-level rises and coastal erosion. The New Zealand government sets national plans in respect of emissions and global warming. These are not function of the Horowhenua District Council although the Council will clearly be sensitive to any recommendations/guidelines/ targets that are produced by those authorities where they impact on Council.

6. Ownership of the Asset

As indicated previously the land and asset are upon land owned by DOC. The organization was informed as landowner of the project, its outcomes, design and progress. DOC are working with HDC to consider the current issue and potential solutions.

7. Construction of Wharf and Gabions

The work was completed on a DOC asset on DOC land and funded by DOC budgets. DOC were informed of and agreed to the works.

8. Resolution/Remediation

DOC are working with Council to assess the likely impacts of any remedial works required on the wharf and gabion baskets.

9. Replacement Wharf

The initial focus for DOC and the Council is to determine the degree and cost of works to remediate the structure. The structure is not owned by HDC and is not on Council land. Any programmed replacement of the gabions and wharf would be subject to discussions between DOC as owners and HDC.

Should the asset be vested in Council at some future date by DOC any improvements would be subject to the long term planning process. Vesting of the asset in Council by DOC, and any future works would require a Council resolution.

10. Renewals Funding of Wharf and Gabions

As indicated previously the wharf and gabions are not Council owned and as such capital improvement works would not be able to be capitalized by Council.

The materials used, and construction works implemented was agreed by DOC and funded by DOC. The project was managed by Council's project team of the time.

At this point in time Council is working with DOC to determine the remedial works required. How the remedial works (if required) are funded would be subject to discussion between DOC and Council.

If you have any queries regarding this information please contact Rob Green – Interim Group Manager, Infrastructure Services on 06 366 0999 or email: RobG@horowhenua.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



David Clapperton
Chief Executive