

## Mokau Ratepayers Association (MRA) - Meeting with Waitomo District Council (WDC)

Minutes of Meeting of the Mokau Ratepayers Association and Waitomo District Council, held in the Mokau Hall Saturday, 6 January 2024.

**Present from WDC:** John Robertson (Mayor), Gavin Todd (Councillor), Ben Smit (Chief Executive)

John Robertson updated the meeting on the activities of Council and the Elected Members and some of the work that had been undertaken in Mokau – primarily the completion of new public toilets and sewerage drainage upgrade and the upgrade of truck and car parking.

Discussion and comments from the MRA centred around:

Issue	Outcome	Council Actions
Solid Waste Collection on Te Mahoe Road. Why is there no kerbside collection up this road and residents need to bring waste to the end of the road?	This has been discussed with our contractor EnviroWaste. They are unwilling to collect due to the size (length) of their kerbside collection vehicle. They indicate there is inadequate turn around for their truck to turn around safely. Council to approach EnviroWaste again to see if they are willing to do kerbside collection. If they aren't then Council will engage with all residents on Te Mahoe Road to see if they will want to continue with current level of service or discontinue the service completely and have the charges reduced from their rates from 1 July 2024.	Envirowaste have confirmed that they won't do kerbside collection on Te Mahoe Road.  Next step is to engage with Te Mahoe Road ratepayers regarding the options of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. continuing with current service (with cost of rates) or</li> <li>2. Discontinuing collection completely at the end of Te Mahoe Road (and removing the refuse collection rate for these ratepayers).</li> </ol>
Mokau solid waste collection date. Kerbside collection is currently	Council will check whether there is an opportunity to move the collection to a Monday. This could cause problems for bach owners disposing of their	Council staff checking whether there is a possibility to do move to a Monday collection for Mokau.

<p>Tuesday. This means, for bach owners leaving at the end of a weekend, that the material is potentially out in the weather and open to animals for two days so material can get very untidy and blown around the township.</p>	<p>final solid waste when Monday is a public holiday.</p> <p>Note: Wheelie Bin kerbside collection for rubbish and recycling will be considered and publicly engaged on for implementation for 2030. This will be discussed in the Council's Long Term Plan which will go out for consultation in April 2024.</p>	
<p>21-23 Point Road walkway. Safety concerns were raised with ATVs and motorbikes using this walkway to come up from the beach to Point Road. The suggestion offered was to put stairs at the beach end to improve the steep access and to stop motor vehicles coming up off from the beach.</p>	<p>Bollards were installed at the Point Road end of the walkway and growth was cleared from the walkway after last year's meeting.</p> <p>Council to investigate the cost and appropriateness of improved access from the river access and preventing entry by motor vehicles.</p>	<p>Council is investigating whether better river access is viable.</p>
<p>No temporary</p>	<p>External funding for the temporary toilets has</p>	

<p>toilets at the end of Point Road for beach visitors. This has caused human waste pollution issues in the surrounding area.</p>	<p>ceased once the new toilets in the village were built. There is resistance to having any toilets in this area. Decision had been made to not have temporary toilets</p>	
<p>WDC coastal seawall erected in 2013 needs maintenance. Will Council reconsider this position</p>	<p>There has been no further renewal of this asset included in WDC's Long Term Plan indicating that no future upgrades are planned.</p>	<p>Council to relook at the costs and process of reinforcing the current Council seawall at the end of Point Road and report back to residents.</p>
<p>Point Road coastal erosion of houses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residents asked if WDC and Waikato Regional Council could set up meeting with house owners on Point Road to discuss resource consenting requirements if they wish to erect seawalls or erosion control structures. Wayne Fairhurst is the first point of contact for residents. A previous report on the topic and other information will be circulated to effected landowners.</li> <li>• Meetings were held with Mokau individuals and groups on seawall construction during 2013.</li> <li>• Link to Waitomo District Council Coastal Hazards report (October 2020) for your information.</li> </ul>	<p>Council next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a comprehensive report on the potential costs and issues with upgrade of the Council seawall</li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Joint report from WRC and WDC explaining the challenges and issues with:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The coastal erosion compliance and regulatory obligations of WDC and WRC in relation to the management of coastal properties and erosion.</li> <li>• Highlighting opportunities for residents to safeguard their properties from erosion</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. This report will be discussed with WDC Elected Members.</li> <li>4. Send report as pre-reading to Mokau Residents</li> <li>5. Invite WRC and WDC Elected Members and expert staff to a Public meeting in Mokau to discuss a joint approach to the future of coastal erosion on Point Road.</li> </ol> <p>On review of the district valuation for beachfront properties the land component of the valuation ranges from \$20,000 to \$105,000. Most are valued at \$20,000 or \$40,000 which indicates that the risk of erosion has been considered. Please place an objection to the valuation when it occurs in 2025 if you feel the valuation is inappropriate.</p> <p>What appears on the LIM report for houses on Point Road in terms of coastal erosion is a section under</p>

	<p><a href="https://www.waitomo.govt.nz/council/publications/other-plans/">https://www.waitomo.govt.nz/council/publications/other-plans/</a> See Section 8.2 and 8.3 for Mokau.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residents concerned that, if Point Road erodes away that this will be a major loss for landowners and there will also be no access to the beach and this would be a major issue for the future of Mokau.</li> <li>• Residents asked what Council could do to allow them to protect their properties from coastal erosion without the need for investment by Council itself.</li> <li>• Wayne Fairhurst was going to collect resident's questions regarding coastal erosion and send them to Council.</li> <li>• From this a report would go back to residents before the proposed meeting with WRC and WDC Elected Members and expert staff.</li> </ul>	<p>Natural Hazard Area that indicates that '<i>This property is located in Coastal Hazard Area Prohibited Activity</i>'. The relevant District Plan Chapters are sent with the LIM report.</p> <p>The aerial maps in the LIM show that in lots of cases half these sections are in the sea which should be a strong indication of an issue.</p>
<p>SH3 traffic island in Mokau township.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was very strong feeling from the meeting that the traffic island in the middle of Mokau should be removed because it is a high safety and vehicle manoeuvrability issue.</li> </ul>	<p>Request sent to Waka Kotahi indicating the resident's strong preference for the traffic island to be removed. It is their decision as to whether it is removed.</p>

SH3 vehicle accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The residents of 6 North Road, SH3 are unable to access SH3 directly since the Waka Kotahi roadworks (and lifting of the road) late last year. This is a Waka Kotahi issue so Chief Executive has emailed them on behalf of the resident.</li> </ul>	Service Request sent to Waka Kotahi by Chief Executive.
Water quality of waterways around Mokau.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does Waikato Regional Council monitor and report on this?</li> </ul>	<p>There is currently a testing site located at Awakau Road in Mokau that tests the water in the Mokau River. The testing location can be found by following the attached link <a href="https://www.lawa.org.nz/explore-data/waikato-region/river-quality/mokau-river/mokau-river-at-awakau-rd/">https://www.lawa.org.nz/explore-data/waikato-region/river-quality/mokau-river/mokau-river-at-awakau-rd/</a></p> <p>The website provides the following trends for the last five years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>E.coli - very likely degrading.</li> <li>Clarity - Intermediate (which is considered to mean neutral).</li> <li>Turbidity - Intermediate (which is considered to mean neutral).</li> <li>Nitrogen - likely degrading.</li> <li>Total oxidised nitrogen - Intermediate (which is considered to mean neutral).</li> <li>Dissolved inorganic nitrogen - Not assessed.</li> <li>Ammoniacal nitrogen - Very likely degrading.</li> <li>Nitrate nitrogen - Intermediate (which is considered to mean neutral).</li> <li>Dissolved reactive phosphorous - likely improving.</li> <li>Total phosphorus - likely degrading.</li> </ul>

It was agreed that the Tainui Trader will be used to distribute news. People wishing to subscribe to this should email [tainuitradingpost@gmail.com](mailto:tainuitradingpost@gmail.com).

WDC facebook posts will be picked up by Mokau Community Connections facebook page.

There is also the website (Mokau.nz).