

**Waitai Coastal-Burwood Community Board
Submissions Committee
MINUTES ATTACHMENTS**

Date: Tuesday 5 April 2022
Time: 3.03pm
Venue: Audio/Visual Link

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SUBMISSION TO: Christchurch City Council

ON: Ihutai-Estuary and Coastal Draft Stormwater Management Plan

BY: Waitai Coastal-Burwood Community Board

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Waitai Coastal-Burwood Community Board appreciates the opportunity to make a submission to the Christchurch City Council on the Ihutai-Estuary and Coastal Draft Stormwater Management Plan.

The Board wishes to be heard in support of this submission.

In preparation for this submission, the Board hosted a Resident's Association Forum to get feedback from the residents in our Wards on this plan. The feedback we received is reflected in this document.

2. SUBMISSION

Do you have any feedback on this plan's proposed goals?

Goal 1 – 4

The Board recognises the importance of controlling contaminants entering our waterways and stormwater system, and supports the mitigations described in the plan.

We note that some of the mitigations involve changes that residents may be asked to make (e.g. painting their roof or changing brake pads). The Board recommends that the Council consider providing a subsidy for this, or preferably, advocating for a central government subsidy to assist with the financial impact of these mitigations.

While we understand that reduction/removal of contaminants is important, it is not the most pressing concern our residents have around Ihutai Estuary stormwater issues – earthquake legacy issues are far more important. Until these are resolved, it is difficult to focus on other matters.

Goal 5

Engaging with residents and providing them with information about what they can do to help mitigate stormwater contamination is a good first step. The Board sees this as a starting point for a conversation about the importance of cleaning up our waterways.

Because this issue impacts on our Coastal residents more than it might on other suburbs, there is a concern that residents in other parts of the city will be less concerned about issues that are not happening in their area. The education needs to stress that stormwater management requires a city-wide response, it's not just an issue for riverside or coastal communities to deal with.

Goal 6

The main feedback from our residents on the management plan is that it is important for the Council to focus on resolving our earthquake legacy issues FIRST before any other actions are taken in relation to stormwater and Ihutai Estuary management.

The remediation required to deal with damage from the earthquakes, and mitigations required for stormwater management need to be treated as separate issues. It is good to see that the management plan acknowledges the work that has recently begun on coastal hazards adaptation planning (CHAP). It is important that these processes proceed in tandem.

A comment from the Resident's Association Forum summarises this concern well:

As a matter of principle, we need to distinguish between flood risk and protection as a result of climate change (CHAP) and flood risk and protection resulting from the 2011 earthquakes. Returning the stormwater and drainage network to the same functionality as before the earthquakes needs to be the baseline, the datum, for any discussion that CCC has with its community in respect to CHAP. First fix the damage from the earthquakes, and then let's deal with the impact of climate change.

As our Wards are the receiving environment for stormwater across the city, resolving existing earthquake issues, and providing top-quality stormwater infrastructure and maintenance in our Wards is essential.

As noted in the Resident's Association Forum:

Most stormwater in metropolitan Christchurch eventually ends up in the estuary; when it rains in Sydenham or the CBD, it will end up in the estuary.

The Resident's Association Forum also raised the issue of equity, one person commenting that:

It would be inequitable for coastal communities if stormwater from extreme weather events is simply disgorged into the estuary from the other metropolitan catchments. This is a metropolitan-wide issue that needs to be shared and managed across the city – whether environmentally through, for example, the development of swales and floodplain along the OARC or additional storage capacity in other metropolitan catchments.

Do you have any other comments on this plan?

It would be good if this management plan was more specifically linked to the other management plans, given the concerns about our Board area being the receiving environment for stormwater from other parts of the city.

Funding – it is noted that the management plan will be funded through the Long Term Plan. It is important that this important work is given priority in the Long Term Plan, and that the funding is not pushed out as is often the case with this kind of work – it has no immediate tangible benefit so is an easy target for deferment.



Bebe Frayle
Chairperson, Submissions Committee
WAITAI COASTAL-BURWOOD COMMUNITY BOARD

5 April 2022

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