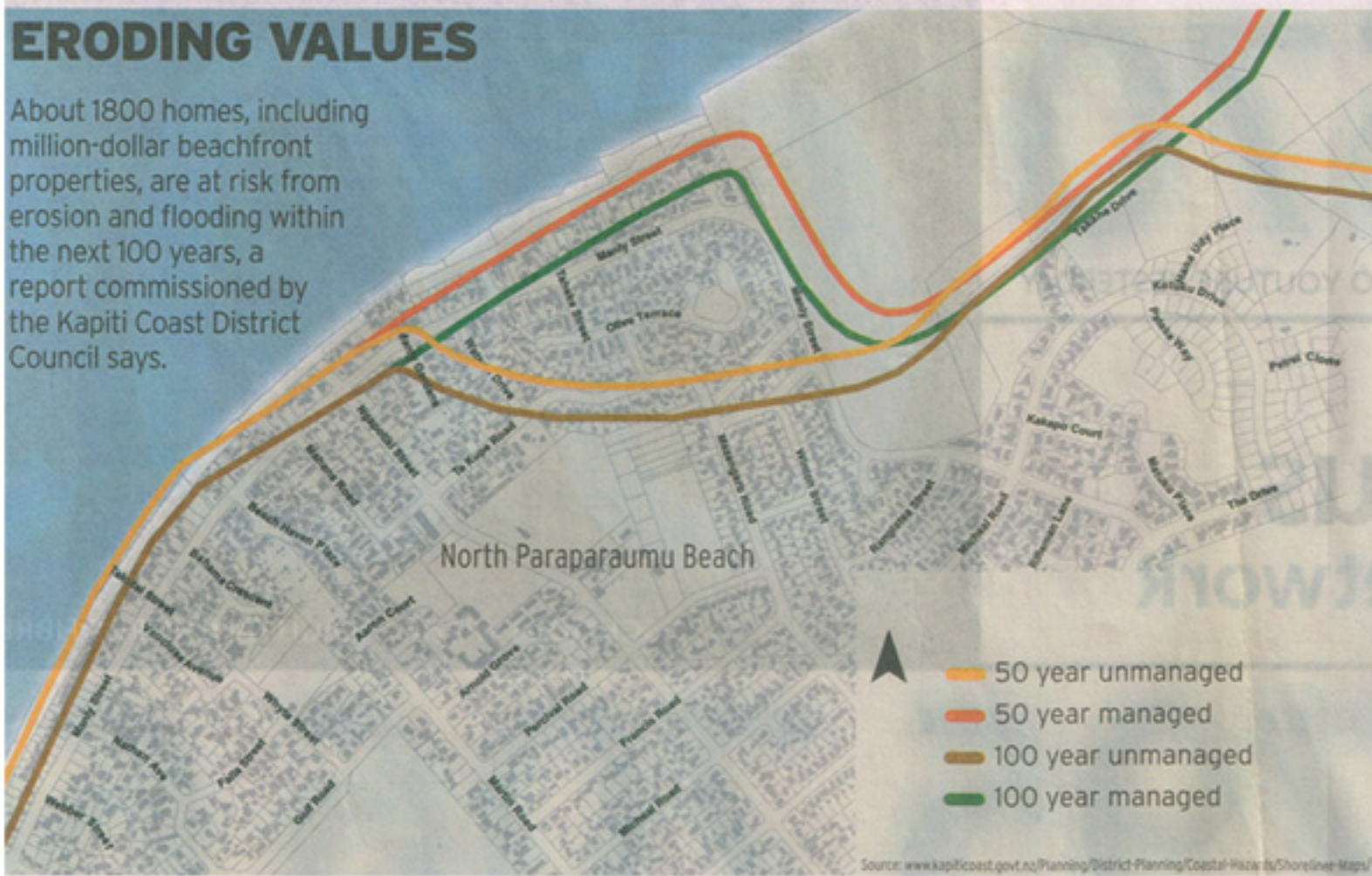


ERODING VALUES

About 1800 homes, including million-dollar beachfront properties, are at risk from erosion and flooding within the next 100 years, a report commissioned by the Kapiti Coast District Council says.



Heat on councils to track coastal risks

THE Government's Coastal Policy Statement 2010 requires councils to identify areas of coastline possibly at risk from hazards – such as sea-level rise, erosion and flooding – over at least a 100-year period.

In some parts of the country, studies have been conducted on city and district councils' behalf by regional authorities, as was the case in Wellington last year.

Greater Wellington regional council published two reports in July that showed sea levels around the city had risen 1.7 millimetres a year since 2000 – the fastest rise in the country.

If it continued, Paekakariki, Raumati South and parts of South Wairarapa would suffer from severe erosion by 2115.

Individual councils in the region had a broad idea of areas threatened by erosion, but did not have an exact number of properties at risk until Kapiti published its report yesterday.

Wellington City Council spokesman Richard MacLean said

more detailed work would flow from the Greater Wellington study. But the city's rocky shore and lack of properties facing directly on to a beach meant it had far fewer properties at risk than Kapiti.

Napier Mayor Barbara Aronson said the council first carried out coastal erosion assessment of seaside suburb of Westshore in 1980s, with half a dozen more ports done since then.

The council had deposited about 300,000 cubic metres of gravel and sand to replenish beach since 1987, cutting the number of houses at risk from 24 to about 60, she said.

In Hastings, 21 houses in Haumoana settlement are threatened by the sea.

Horizons Regional Council and Tararua District Council commissioned an investigation in 2010 that found the small coastal settlements of Akitio and Herberton were highly vulnerable to erosion and flooding.