

# A Moment with our Mayor



## Planning for Coastal Hazards

Given we have a proposed expressway that could run right through our district and also the possibility of significant change to local government in the region, some people have asked me if we really needed to stir up another hornet's nest with our recently released report on coastal hazards.

A fair point and the answer is yes.

Under the National Coastal Policy statement released in 2010, all Councils are required to undertake 100 year assessment of coastal hazards. And this information is now legally required to be included on Land and Information reports (LIMs)

Communities all over the world are facing issues relating to climate change and unfortunately our district is not immune to these.

It's not news to anyone that we've been prone to erosion for decades. Now sea level rises and increased storm intensity has given real urgency to the issue.

The effects of climate were noted as a significant issue in the 2006 Long Term Community Plan, and many coastal residents were involved in developing the 2006 Coastal Management Strategy. Managed retreat was also noted in the 2009 and 2012 community plans as well as in a discussion document released at the start of the District Plan Review in 2010, so the issue of coastal hazards has been "out there".

Around 1800 coastal properties in Kapiti are likely to be at significant risk of coastal erosion within the next 100 years and up to 1000 of these within the next 50 years.

Council has written to affected property owners advising them of the report which we have just received and the fact that this report will be noted on future LIM requests. Several information sharing meetings are also being arranged for these affected property owners. What policies Council puts into place as a result of the report we have just received is now being looked at. All residents will be able to submit into this process when the District Plan is notified in late November.

We have also been briefing a number of other significant stakeholders including local real estate agents, lawyers and valuers.

At this point it is not known what effect this will have on property values, although an economic study in Whakatane District shows this information did not have a long term impact.

Council's current policy is to maintain and protect roads and public health infrastructure (water supply, stormwater and sewerage) in the short term. However, we will progressively move public infrastructure away from areas of high risk.

I completely empathise with residents who are anxious about this new direction and encourage you to visit our website:

[www.kapiticoast.govt.nz](http://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz) to find out more about this issue.

Have a good week

Jenny