



Western Bay of Plenty
District Council

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ROCK REVETMENT CONSTRUCTION • APRIL 2010

Waihi Beach

Community Update



WELCOME...

...to the second in a series of newsletters that will keep you up to speed on what's happening with the rock revetment construction project at Waihi Beach.

For more information please check out the 'projects' section on Council's website. A quick way to get to this information is to type the following into your web browser www.westernbay.govt.nz/Major-Projects

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT THE PROJECT TEAM:

Email: beachwork@westernbay.govt.nz
Phone: Christian Dullnig, 027 483 1563

We look forward to keeping in touch.

The Utilities Team

Western Bay of Plenty District Council

Beach project low public profile

APART from large trucks carting rocks to the foreshore during weekdays, Waihi Beach residents will notice little unusual activity during the building of the rock revetment along the northern foreshore.

The \$1.2 million project got under way after Easter Weekend and will continue for about six months.

A relatively small team of up to eight will work on site at any one time. Work will be carried out on weekdays only and about one week per month will be lost due to day-to-day activity being dictated by the tides.

Contractor Transfield Services will work on the beach using two excavators – a 29-tonne machine and a 12-tonne machine, plus a loader that will pick up rocks. Two trucks will operate daily – one carting rocks from the Waihi Beach quarry and the other removing waste rock from the beach. Rock haulage from the quarry will be a maximum of 20 loads a day.

Transfield Services project manager AJ Hardie says the first task will be

to set up their site, install signage and remove the old retaining wall materials of timber and steel.

They will then trial several options as to the sorting, placement and movement of rocks to see which method works best in relation to the beach contour and tidal activity.

Work will concentrate on four property lengths at a time.

The Council will have a site office open daily at Brewers Park on the corner of Shaw Road and Hillary Street, 11.00am - 1.00pm.

Council project manager Christian Dullnig will be based at the office and welcomes people to drop in with their inquiries.

About Transfield Services

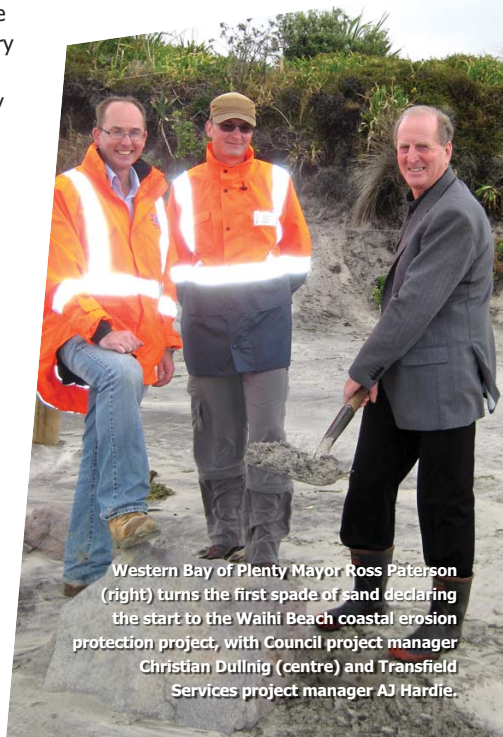
TRANSFIELD delivers services to key industries in sectors including resources and industrial, infrastructure, property and facilities management.

Transfield Services has established a good working relationship with the Western Bay of Plenty District Council as an alliance partner with InRoads, dealing mainly in roading infrastructure.

With considerable investment in labour and plant in the Western Bay,

the company is continually seeking areas of expansion and the Waihi Beach Coastal Protection Project presented an opportunity to diversify.

Globally Transfield Services is a provider of operations, maintenance and asset and project management services and has more than 28,000 employees across New Zealand, Australia, the United States, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, New Caledonia, South East Asia, India, Chile and Canada.



Western Bay of Plenty Mayor Ross Paterson (right) turns the first spade of sand declaring the start to the Waihi Beach coastal erosion protection project, with Council project manager Christian Dullnig (centre) and Transfield Services project manager AJ Hardie.

Minister of the Ratana Church and kaumatua of Ngaiterangi Iwi, John Toma, blesses the site of the rock revetment followed by representatives of Western Bay of Plenty District Council, Transfield Services, Tonkin and Taylor and Te Rangihouhiri Marae.



Blessing clears way for project

LIGHT rain, a chilling wind and a restless sea created an unseasonal climate for the official start of the erosion control project on the foreshore of Waihi Beach on Tuesday, 6 April.

A Maori blessing was attended by a small gathering of representatives of all those taking part in the building of the \$1.2 million rock revetment, including Western Bay of Plenty District Council, Transfield Services and Tonkin & Taylor.

Minister of the Ratana Church, John Toma of Ngaiterangi Iwi, conducted prayers and the blessing on the beach off Ayr Street where the revetment construction begins.

Western Bay Mayor Ross Paterson said the blessing was a fitting ceremony to launch the project.

Ross turned the first spade of sand and said he was pleased that the project was finally under way after a long time in the planning.

"I sincerely hope that the community will realise that protecting their foreshore against erosion is critical to the long-term environmental management of Waihi Beach.

"Council has a duty to ensure that protective measures are retained along this vulnerable stretch of foreshore."

He encouraged the Waihi Beach community to make the most of the presence of Council's project manager Christian Dullnig who will be on site during the project to deal with any questions and concerns.



Beachfront owners share views on project

WESTERN Bay of Plenty District Council field engineer Doug Green and Tonkin & Taylor representative Sue Mills caught up with beach owners Roger and Lindsey Cann at The Loop during the survey of properties along the site of the new revetment.

Roger and Lindsey frequently escape to the family bach at Waihi Beach for a breather from the hurly burly of Auckland.

Their quaint older-style bach has been a holiday haven for the Cann family for 40 years and much of its attraction is the unchanging nature of the seaside community and the freedom to explore the beach just a few yards from their front deck.

So Roger and Lindsey do have some reservations about the changes to their beach access that will result from the building of the rock revetment along the front of their property.

The new rock structure will prevent the existing stairway access to the beach from their front lawn – unless they clamber up and over the metre-high rocks.

Instead, once the wall is built, they will have to walk a short distance from their property to the nearest public beach accessway.

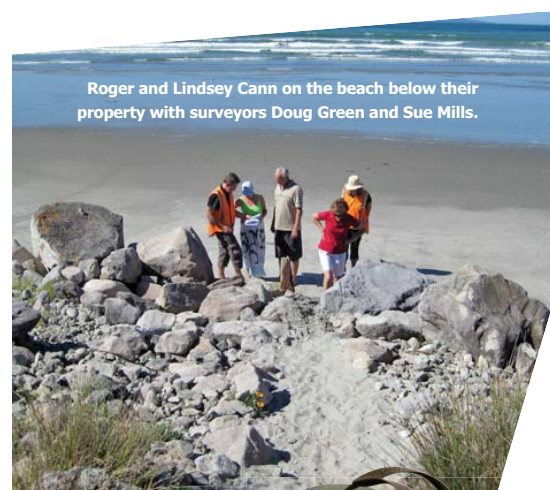
In an ideal world,

says Roger, it would be great if the Council could come up with some compromise allowing beachfront owners to have appropriate access structures built over the wall to the beach from their properties.

However the Cann's do agree that erosion protection must continue along the foreshore and Rob says that the original wall and rock structures erected by the Ohinemuri County Council in the 1960s have certainly succeeded in preserving the foreshore dunes from further erosion.

"It has done a good job without being a huge expense to construct and we agree it has become old and needs to be replaced.

"We have no issue with the new wall, but we would like to be able to get down to the beach from our bach – that's one of the reasons we come here!" says Roger.



Roger and Lindsey Cann on the beach below their property with surveyors Doug Green and Sue Mills.

Hawke's Bay swells timely reminder of wave power

HUGE swells that damaged homes on the Hawke's Bay coastline in March is timely evidence of the frailty of foreshore buildings against the power of the sea.

Waves of about 6.5 metres at high tide crashed onto houses at Haumoana Beach on March 8, forcing the evacuation of 25 homes and putting local communities at increased risk in the event of additional floods.

Residents of those seaside communities hit by the swell surges are now pressuring the Hawke's Bay Regional Council and the Hastings District Council to take urgent action to build rock groynes to protect their properties.

Too little too late for some property owners – but this event strengthens the argument of those at Waihi Beach who support the Western

Bay of Plenty District Council's efforts to establish coastal erosion protection measures along the Waihi Beach foreshore.

A Hawke's Bay community group Walk on Water is lobbying the regional and district councils for greater protection from beach erosion and large swells. The group wants a series of groynes built to prevent further erosion of the beaches at Haumoana, Te Awana and Clifton.

A groyne already built on the coastal end of the Tukituki River - which runs through Haumoana - has already stopped erosion in that area and residents are calling for seven more.

Storm surges crash into the Haumoana foreshore threatening properties.

Photo courtesy of Hawke's Bay Today.



FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information please check out the 'projects' section on Council's website:

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Or you can contact the project team:

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Keep an eye out for the next edition of 'Community Update' in April.