

RC14513 / COASTAL PROTECTION STRUCTURE AND ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES SUMMARY STATEMENT OF DR LEIGH BULL (AVIFAUNA)

This summary highlights the key matters addressed in my statement of evidence dated 25 July 2025.

Key Matters

1. The Glen Isla Protection Society (**GIPS**) has applied for resource consents to construct coastal erosion protection, on the dunes immediately south of Three Mile Creek mouth, Waihi Beach.
2. The creek mouth and beach provide foraging and roosting habitat for a number of coastal shorebirds. In addition, Northern NZ dotterel have been recorded breeding (unsuccessfully) at this location on two occasions (2021/22 and 2022/23 breeding seasons).
3. As such, the design, construction method and reinstatement works associated with the proposed coastal erosion protection at Glen Isla Place seeks to avoid both direct and indirect impacts on avifauna, including northern NZ dotterel and other shorebird species.

Significant Adverse Effects on birds

4. The proposal will not result in adverse effects on avifauna, including dotterel, due to the following:
 - 1.4.1 Habitat loss will be limited to the defined construction area, which does not include any of the habitat of potential nesting value to the dotterels
 - 1.4.2 Effects within the defined construction area will be limited to the period of construction.
 - 1.4.3 The completed construction will result in the replanting of the area behind the existing northern spinifex foredune with native dune vegetation, which will provide higher quality habitat for northern New Zealand dotterel chicks than the existing exotic vegetation.
 - 1.4.4 Undertaking construction activities during the non-breeding season if possible.

- 1.4.5 If construction activities occur during the breeding season, a pre-work survey must be undertaken so that appropriate mitigation measures can be implemented to avoid disturbance, mortality and / or injury to nesting birds.

Site visit outside the breeding season

5. While the site visit was undertaken outside the breeding season, the assessment acknowledges that northern New Zealand dotterel have bred adjacent to Three Mile Creek mouth. As such I took a conservative approach whereby I have assumed that it is possible for dotterels, or other shorebirds, to breed there, and hence the avoidance of direct impacts of the project in this area.

Lack of recognition of the importance of the foredune area as a dotterel breeding ground

6. The northern spinifex foredune is considered to be of High ecological value and has been avoided, and it is this area that may be used by dotterel chicks should birds breed there.
7. In summary, my assessment and conclusions in respect to the impact on birds (both direct and indirect) as a result of the proposed coastal erosion protection at Glen Isla Place remain the same as outlined in my evidence.

Summary

8. Overall, both direct and indirect impacts on avifauna have been addressed through the avoidance of permanent habitat loss, and the inclusion of consent conditions to ensure implementation of appropriate mitigation measures should construction occur during the breeding season (noting the intent is to undertake works outside the breeding season) through the preparation and implementation of an Avifauna Management Plan.
9. While the Council and GIPS engineers have a differing opinion on the location of the southern end of the structure, I consider the effects of the wall alignment anywhere between 5m and 1.5m from the property boundary to be the same on avifauna.