

Lion Rock Corner *Dune Planting and Protection Project*

Summary of Submissions and Implementation Proposal for Piha Residents and Ratepayers Association

Prepared by:

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Waitakere City Council

June 3rd 2004

Project location:

The proposed project is located on the dune area from the lion rock corner adjacent to the road to the first speed hump located on the road. It includes a strip of carparking adjacent to the road and existing dunes and access tracks down to the beach area in this location.

Aim of the project:

The Piha Coastal Management Plan adopted in June 2000 identified a number of implementation actions for the Mid Beach area (of which the project area is included). The implementation action relevant to this project is outlined below:

4. Accessways to the beach from Marine Parade North will be consolidated and directed towards the part of the beach patrolled by surf lifeguards. This will be done as a two stage process, with the second stage only undertaken if necessary. The first stage will be planting, temporary protection of plants and reformation of walkways. The second stage would be the use of sand ladders. Liaison with the surf lifeguards on the exact location of accessways to maximise beach safety will be undertaken.

The project is aimed to initiate consultation and subsequent implementation of the first stage only of the above implementation action.

The aim of the project is to rationalise the large number of informal tracks through the dunes in this location and provide guidance to visitors and residents of tracks to utilise for access to the beach. In addition the project provides for a more naturalistic and less built definition to the carpark area. This in turn provides protection of the remaining dune area from trampling which will then be able to undergo planting as required of appropriate native dune species.

It is intended that implementing this project will enable an assessment of the techniques used and the success of the project to be undertaken which will then inform future projects for dune planting/protection in the remaining mid-beach area and in particular, a possible approach to naturalising the carpark areas and removal of the timber railings.

Consultation process:

It was identified that although the project is indicated in the Coastal Management Plan, that it is necessary and desirable to gain community input into the details of the proposed project. As such the following consultation process was undertaken. This proposed consultation process was approved by the Piha Residents and Ratepayers Committee meeting on the 13th February 2004.

- Initial presentation of proposed project presented to R&R (13th Feb) follows format of process of endorsement of Coastcare related projects
- Letters sent to all ratepayers outlining project and opportunities for input

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- Information in Piha News (deadline 15th Feb)
- Information on Community Notice board and shop
- Display at library
- On site open day with tent a Sunday (as determined by R&R) from 10 – 1
- Notes taken at open day
- Comment sheets provided at open day and in mail out to all residents

All the above agreed actions have been undertaken, with the open day being held on Sunday 28th March.

This report is to be presented to the June 4th Residents and Ratepayers Committee meeting for endorsement and/or comments before going to the Waitakere Community Board for approval.

- Report back to Residents and Ratepayers Committee with summary of consultation and recommended amendments to plan and proposed final project for endorsement and any final modifications/additions
- Report to Waitakere Community Board with finalised project plan for approval.

Consultation Summary

There was a good turnout of people to the open day at Piha (approximately 30 dropping in during the open day period), with the opportunity well advertised through the Piha News and with a mail out to all residents and display in library.

Total of 20 submissions were received from 25 people (includes 5 shared submissions).

A summary of the submission comments and the main points identified by the submitters is attached, along with copies of all the submissions.

There were some submitters who didn't want any action taken on the dunes at all, while others in general wanted to keep a very naturalistic and subtle approach to any definition of the accessways and associated dune planting.

The approach taken for the project has acknowledged that dune restoration and track rationalisation of the dunes has already been identified as needing to occur within the Coastal Management Plan and from previous consultation work undertaken. However, the approach proposed tries to minimise the impact of the work in accordance with many of the comments and suggestions which came out of the submission process and from the open day comments.

Proposed Project Implementation

(based on submission comments and management plan policies)

The approach being proposed focuses on trialing a more naturalistic planted edge to the carpark area adjacent to Seaview Road. It is intended that providing this edge and guiding people to existing accessway tracks through the dunes that the number of ad-hoc tracks through the dunes can be reduced and a degree of infill dune species be planted to help restore some of the open areas of dune, and in particular, the dune faces.

At this stage it is proposed that fencing is not used to define the tracks as this is seen as being more visually invasive than desired for this area. Reduction of the number of tracks and restoration of some of the vegetation will instead rely on clearly identified track entrance points and discrete use of the hand-painted small beachcare signs to encourage support of the project by minimising ad-hoc trampling through the dunes.

A5

Details of the proposal include the following (these are detailed on accompanying plans and are illustrated by sketches from photographs of the area):

Carpark bund (Refer to Planted Bund Details)

It is proposed that the existing timber half-round railing that defines the carpark area is replaced with a low planted bund. These will run parallel to the back of the dunes and will define the carpark area from a pedestrian movement area on the seaward side which will provide access to the tracks through the dunes. The bunds are proposed to be no higher than .5m with low planting up to .5m high (maximum of 1m) so that views over the bunds are not interrupted. At 15m intervals the bunds will open up to provide pedestrian access from the carpark to the grass and sand track behind the bund which leads to the dunes. Low timber bollards will be required in these gaps to prevent vehicles driving through. These will be predominantly minimised in impact due to being located between the planted bunds.

Track Identification (Refer to overall diagram of proposal)

In order to identify to pedestrians where the preferred track accessways are located, it is proposed to use a timber 1.2m high post (similar to those at south Piha). There will only be one located at each track entry point.

Fencing (Refer to overall diagram of proposal)

There is **no** fencing proposed at this point in time as part of this project. The intention is to trial the use of planting and coastcare signs to encourage people to use the preferred tracks. It is proposed that photographic survey be used to monitor the success of this approach. If after a year it becomes clear that the approach is not successful and that track damage through the dunes has not reduced from the current situation, then a report will be brought back to the Residents and Ratepayers Committee for further consideration of how to address the issue.

Road Safety Issues (Refer to overall diagram of proposal)

A number of submissions proposed that the corner beside Little Lion Rock required a safer pedestrian access. There was concern however, about the impact of bollards to prevent cars parking on the road edge, which is what causes people to walk out on the road.

It is proposed to use a mix of low timber bollards interspersed with low planted bunds and rock to prevent cars parking on the Little Lion Rock corner and up to the first access track to the beach. This will provide a safe pedestrian access route while also protecting the views through to the dunes and beyond Little Lion Rock (ie. No cars spoiling the view of Little Lion Rock as you approach the corner). This proposal has been checked with the WCC Transport Assets team and the design as presented meets road safety requirements. The approach will merge in with the proposed bunding defining the carpark area and is proposed to be a naturalistic approach to defining the road edge rather than just using timber bollards.

Number of tracks and signage

It is proposed to reduce the number of tracks in this area to five preferred track routes. The remaining smaller tracks will be planted with appropriate dune species and defined with the use of the small hand-painted coast care dune protection signs (in a temporary capacity) to encourage support for the use of the preferred tracks. It is felt that the use of strategically placed coast care signage will be the key to the success of this project and the non-use of fencing. We are intending to rely on public response to assistance with the project in allowing revegetation of some of the lesser used and redundant tracks.

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Planting (Refer to planted bund details)

It is proposed at to plant the open sand areas of the existing dunes in this area with a mix of spinifex and some clumps of pingao. Only the open sand areas of the dune are to be planted (outside the preferred tracks) and all existing muehlenbeckia and grass areas are to remain.

The bunds are proposed to be planted with a mix of coastal species indigenous to Piha. All these species are .5m or lower in height and/or are planted so that their maximum height will be no more than 1m. The mix has been chosen to provide some textural variety and interest ie. Use of oiwi along the pedestrian movement area is lovely to touch while walking past to the track entrances. The species proposed are detailed in the plant schedule on the associated drawings.

It is proposed that all planting will be undertaken by the Piha Coastcare group.

The bund formation and preparation for planting would be undertaken by Waitakere City Council.

Timeframe:

Depending on the outcome of the Residents and Ratepayers meeting on June 4th, it is proposed to present a report on the agreed project to the Waitakere Community Board on 6th July.

A timeline for the work is still to be determined, but ideally would be completed prior to the main summer visitor period at Piha.

Conclusion

The consultation undertaken for the Lion Rock Corner project highlighted that the community wanted to see a more aesthetically pleasing approach to the carpark area and a subtle approach to the definition of tracks through the dunes and associated restoration planting.

The proposals put forward in this report try to provide an approach which reflects the community aspirations for the area while also providing the implementation of the Coastal Management Plan policies previously determined by the Community and Community Board.

It is requested that the proposal be considered for endorsement by the Piha Residents and Ratepayers Committee with the proposal then being forwarded to the Waitakere Community Board for approval.

LION ROCK CORNER DUNE PLANTING AND TRACK ACCESS
SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS 01-06-04

- Submissions close 08-04-04
- Total of 20 submissions received from 25 people (includes 5 shared submissions)

Sub no	Main point	options	Other comments
1	No human interference	none	Leave nature alone Noxious Weed control only CMP- walkways only where blowouts affect road Waste of ratepayer money
2	Supports project	n/a	Will require continuing maintenance
3	Leave area alone	none	Let natural processes take course Proposal is ugly No formal accessways Better to eliminate the carpark as area dangerous for swimmers Waste of ratepayer money Will block views
4	Encourage more natural look	n/a	More planting Less signs and walkways Less carparking on foreshore Eliminate boardwalks
5	No work on this corner	none	Dune veg is already healthy No blowouts on this corner Human impact minimal walkways only where blowouts affect road Other areas need planting more Not a safe area to swim don't encourage
6	Option a	a	Option a -- in conjunction with maintenance restrict parking to nth and sth remove gazanias & kikuya less fences and ropes define access by planting curved edge bollards not straight pedestrian access to beach on left
7	Walking tracks to protect plants	n/a	
8	Option a and few tracks	a	Need toilets - people use bush etc Include track beside lookout rock - may not need fencing
9	Protect the dunes	n/a	Some fencing would be good Protect plant life Retain beach access Information boards would help educate
10	Abolish all human action	none	Don't interfere with natural processes
11	Abandon the dune stabilisation scheme	none	Scheme is altering the dunes and destroying surf - this project will exacerbate the problem of dune build up
12	Walkway adjacent to 'little lion'	n/a	One Walkway only - needs to go in front of little lion from sth end of carpark to link to beach access, stream and lion rock Rope off dunes as per south piha
13	keep intervention 'natural'	c	Prevent parking for 20 m nth of corner Retain existing 'natural' tracks in dunes Mark tracks by planting and not artificial means Retain some open areas on top of dunes as picnic areas - people will/do sit there for views Option c is consistent with rest of beach but add low

A8

14	Timber fence & picnic areas	<u>c</u>	<p>shrub planting to soften look of posts</p> <p>Low fence with flat top for people to sit on</p> <p>Track to go hard left - used for South Piha beach</p> <p>Grassed picnic areas with shrubs are imp for visitors otherwise will sit in the fenced off area of dunes</p> <p>Tracks are preferable to sand ladders – safer and easier to use</p> <p>Road safety is an issue on the busy corner</p> <p>If encouraging beach access will need some traffic control esp with children</p>
15	Net fencing on carpark /dune edge	<u>n/a</u>	<p>Grass parking</p> <p>Plant dunes with grass to be cared for by coastcare and residents</p> <p>Pohutukawa trees</p> <p>No entry signs for beach access</p>
16(2)	Support dune planting & beach access project	<u>n/a</u>	<p>Support all project features – benefits include</p> <p>Aesthetics, user-friendly access, sand stability, durable, low-maintenance structures, native plant species</p> <p>Weed control</p> <p>No spray zone</p> <p>Existing native seedlings to stay</p> <p>Identifiable but unobtrusive fences</p> <p>Need minimum of clear signs for access and beach info & education</p> <p>Parking barrier and traffic restrictions</p> <p>Bund height to prevent cars on dunes</p> <p>Rubbish bins</p>
17(2)	planted bunds (maintain) Discreet intervention	<u>a</u>	<p>Fewer paths to protect dunes</p> <p>Everything discreet</p> <p>Keep cars away from corner</p> <p>Try paths without rope and wire first (bund?)</p> <p>Plant path edges to define them - low plants</p> <p>Path mouths to face north - away from prevailing westerly</p>
18(2)	Want less control & structures – please limit intervention	<u>none</u>	<p>Don't like/use sand ladders – awkward</p> <p>Keep parking away from corner</p> <p>Distribute people up beach</p> <p>Not safe for swimming</p>
19a	Support care of dunes	<u>a</u>	<p>Keep left hand access</p> <p>3 natural tracks - this is plenty</p> <p>Define walkways - rope and timber</p> <p>Mix of bollards and planting</p> <p>Need some non-intrusive signs</p>
19b	Support care of dunes	<u>a</u>	<p>Careful planting to enhance natural dynamics</p> <p>Mix of bollards and planting</p> <p>No fencing down accessways</p> <p>No more than 3 tracks</p> <p>Discreet signage</p> <p>Support the spit left hand access</p>
20(2) (Late)	Support low impact dune restoration	<u>a</u>	<p>Need healthy plants on dunes</p> <p>Want less impact from structures</p> <p>Need some protection from foot traffic near carparks</p> <p>Prefer less walkways ie 3</p> <p>Concerned about the impact of signs/structures</p> <p>Can have temporary fences?</p> <p>Ecosourced plants</p> <p>Limit parking on the corner – bollards</p> <p>Direct foot traffic to further up the beach - surf club &</p>

49

			toilets
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A10

LION ROCK - SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS

Issue	detail	No
option	Option a	8
	Option b	
	Option c	2
	Option d	
	Option e	
	No option mentioned	8
	Against all options	7
		25 total submissions
No intervention	No human interference - Leave nature alone	8
	Project is destroying sth piha beach/surf	1
	Weed control only	1
	carpark Dangerous area for swimmers	4
	Reduce carparking - sth end	9
	Reduce carparking	1
	Remove carpark	1
	Carpark altered to prevent wheelies	1
	Carpark railing must be flat to sit on	1
	Grass carpark	1
	Road Traffic management on corner	3
Natural look	More natural look	4
	Define access with planting	6
	Curved bollards	1
tracks	No more than 4 tracks to beach (inc LR track)	4
	No more than 3 tracks to beach	4
	Use existing 'lookout rock' track	4
	Use and fence 'lookout track'	2
	Retain beach access	3
	Retain existing 'natural' tracks not sand ladders	5
	Direct foot traffic up beach	2
fencing	Fence accessways	1
	Fencing same as south beach style	2
	Soften posts with planting	1
	Fence to keep off dunes	2
	Temporary fencing only	2
	Less fencing and ropes	3
signs	Information boards	3
	Keep off signs	2
	Discreet signs	4
	Less signs	1
planting	Pohutukawa trees	3
	Plant grass on dunes	1
	Ecosourced	3
	No spray	2
other	Rubbish bins	3
	Toilets	1
	Face path entries north	2

All

	Picnic areas	2
	Ongoing maintenance	4

A12



LION ROCK CORNER DUNE PLANTING AND TRACK ACCESS

COMMENTS SHEET

PLEASE NOTE COMMENTS REQUIRED BY THURSDAY 8TH APRIL 2004

NAME: Chris Worman
ADDRESS: [Redacted]

COMMENTS:

My first comment is to object to the opening sentence - help us determine the design for the proposed access tracks and dune planting. I believe nature already determines the design - everchanging as it is. The last coastal planting was washed out to sea in a storm. Perhaps more could be achieved pulling out noxious weeds. The coastal management plan recommends walkways only where blowouts are affecting the road. Not the case at Lion Rock Corner.

I don't want to see the North Side of the Lion manicured, landscaped and altered by man's interference. The South beach has been tampered with so much it is now a forest of poles, sand dunes growing ever higher - views gone. A pretty good stream ruined. Please don't interfere any more. Leave the North alone.

This is the wild West Coast not a tame safe, city, swimming beach.

Fences on beaches don't go in my view. They are visual pollution.

If you live on the waterfront you have to expect the sand will blow + everything changes at beach.

I would like to include the option - of "leave nature alone" and say no to a track, + d. It will also save the ratepayers + Council lots of money.

EXTRA SHEETS ATTACHED

113

29 MAR 2004


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 Te Taiaroa Waitakere

2

LION ROCK CORNER DUNE PLANTING AND TRACK ACCESS

COMMENTS SHEET

 PLEASE NOTE COMMENTS REQUIRED BY THURSDAY 8TH APRIL 2004

 NAME: Neil Everett

 ADDRESS: 21 Pillans Rd TAURANGA

 COMMENTS: (the property: 64 Garden Rd.)

I applaud your efforts to upgrade the sand dunes.

I will not be able to be in Akld on 28/3/04 but whatever advise you take I think it is most important that there is a follow-up plan as well.

Over the years (I have had a property in Pua for over 30 years) various Councils have done exactly what you are planning to do but after a year or two any fence erected get covered in sand or vandalised likewise with boardwalks etc.

If you spend all this time & money now without a continuing maintenance programme, you will be wasting your time.

I hope your meeting is successful.

Sincerely,

(Signature)
 23/3/04

 EXTRA SHEETS ATTACHED

A14

LION ROCK CORNER DUNE PLANTING AND TRACK ACCESS

COMMENTS SHEET

PLEASE NOTE COMMENTS REQUIRED BY THURSDAY 8TH APRIL 2004

NAME: Gezilda Gillis

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

COMMENTS:

Firstly, I would like a debate (as under the regulations of the Resource Management Act) on whether these access tracks & dune planting is either necessary or desirable.

Once again, no matter how many objects, the Council is railroading their pet project through.

When initial consultation was requested for the West Coast & Pika Coastal plan, I & several others petitioned that all of the sand dunes westward of the car bulbar be left as a natural & pristine as possible - a man-made structure removed. This has never been presented as an option.

What is the problem with varanaholised accessways - they are low impact & do not detract from the beauty of the visual landscape.

The slug of sand at Whatipu is moving northwards & within the next 150 years there will be a beach from Karekare to Arawata - according to the Auckland University Geology Faculty. There is no danger to the sand dunes at Pika - they will inevitably move westward & gain in height - as is evident from photos taken @ 1900.

If the morphology of sand-dunes are understood, longshore drift is moving sand northwards. Once that sand has dried on the beach wind picks it up & through saltation

EXTRA SHEETS ATTACHED

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moves it inland. The prevailing wind at Pika is southwesterly. Unfortunately, but naturally the sand gets deposited in the stream & is transported back down to the water edge. In addition, the presence of

Lion Rock means the wind is deflected and any sand ~~pick~~ up, which is pick up tends to blow along the beach towards the water end - not inland towards the dunes

With such a small fetch, the dunes by Lion Rock corner remain small & relatively undernourished compared to other areas.

This is an entirely natural process

I find this proposal ugly - no longer is Pika being protected as a wild pristine beach Tourism & the council's preoccupation with catering for their needs is turning that identity into a parasite in the landscape

If as you insist people are damaging the dunes why not eliminate the carpark there. In addition, the last 3 people who have drowned at Pika, drowned between the Lion & the Wekatehi stream - the lifeguards support the removal of the carpark at Lion corner because people have easy access to a very dangerous part of the beach. Thirdly it is very close to the water and a real danger to pedestrians.

So I think this is a waste of ratepayer money & I don't like paying to accelerate the upward growth of sand dunes (as vegetation reduces wind velocity & erosion is dropped & the sand dunes grow) which will block my view.

LEAVE THE AREA ALONE & LET

THE NATURAL PROCESSES DOMINATE - NO FORMAL ^{A16} INTERVENTION

4



Waitakere City Council
Te Taiaro o Waitakere

LION ROCK CORNER DUNE PLANTING AND TRACK ACCESS

COMMENTS SHEET

PLEASE NOTE COMMENTS REQUIRED BY THURSDAY 8TH APRIL 2004

NAME: LOUISE MARK-BROWN
ADDRESS: ~~300 GARDEN RD~~

COMMENTS:

More planting -
 less signs & walkways.
 loss some of the car parking on foreshore
 to encourage a more natural look.
 eliminate boardwalks - they only cover
 over in sand.

EXTRA SHEETS ATTACHED

A17

LION ROCK CORNER DUNE PLANTING AND TRACK ACCESS

COMMENTS SHEET

PLEASE NOTE COMMENTS REQUIRED BY THURSDAY 8TH APRIL 2004

NAME: Elizabeth Haddock
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

COMMENTS:

Having looked down on Lion Rock Corner for 8 years now it is my personal view that

(1) The width of vegetation from the road out to the dune edge has grown substantially and ~~that~~ the vegetation is at present very healthy.

(2) the interference of human traffic and impact on this dune is minimal - the Niwa report only suggests tracks to be marked & fenced where sand is blowing over onto carparks & houses (as in front of surf club car park). This corner has not experienced sand blow outs in the 8 years I have lived here.

pg 42 Coastal Manage Report.

(3) Sand does blow into properties occasionally in very extreme conditions lifting up high from beach level to many houses along the beach. Tracks will not prevent this.

(4) The most crucial areas needing planting and coast care involvement right now are opposite the blue "A" frame along North Tika beach & along the new area by that stream to stabilise the deterioration of past years.

(5) No work should be done on Lion Rock Corner at this present time. A photo I have taken from up Lion Rock 30 years ago shows a similar situation with only a 1/3 of width of dune & the sand survived very well even now as it does now with many various tracks.

(6) Putting marked accessways at that particular corner will encourage swimmers & visitors rather than the predominant surfer group who

EXTRA SHEETS ATTACHED

currently use their carpenter's and this is not a safe area to have swimmers to the right of Lion where the stream now flows & a strong rip moves in an uncontrolled area for most of the year.

6

LION ROCK CORNER DUNE PLANTING AND TRACK ACCESS

COMMENTS SHEET

PLEASE NOTE COMMENTS REQUIRED BY THURSDAY 8TH APRIL 2004

NAME: Sandra Conroy
ADDRESS: 201/121 ~~Quaker St~~

COMMENTS:

1. Restrict parking on south side of Little Lion Rock. Provide pedestrian access but low plants. Possibly pedestrian access to beach on left.
2. Restrict parking to right of Little Lion, about 1300 m along to 1st traffic hump.
3. Curved edge not straight for bollards etc.
4. Like planted bands but need to BE MAINTAINED
5. Remove gazonia & spread of Kikuyu
6. Object to more fences & ropes, define accessways by planting
7. Don't like boardwalks

replant

EXTRA SHEETS ATTACHED

A19

7



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Te Taiāon Waitakere

LION ROCK CORNER DUNE PLANTING AND TRACK ACCESS

COMMENTS SHEET

PLEASE NOTE COMMENTS REQUIRED BY THURSDAY 8TH APRIL 2004

NAME : Jenny Zensale

ADDRESS : ~~1400~~ ~~Waitakere~~

COMMENTS:

Walking tracks to protect the
plants

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1920