

7. PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF JETTY – HEATHCOTE RIVER

General Manager responsible:	General Manager City Environment
Officer responsible:	Michael Aitken, Greenspace Unit Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the installation of a jetty on the bank of the Heathcote River opposite 236 and 238 Riverlaw Terrace.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Funding has been made available in the Greenspace Capital Works Programme for 2005/06 under River Access Structures to enable access to the Heathcote River for recreational purposes following feedback received during the Leisure, Parks and Waterways Study.
3. The area proposed was identified after staff received specific requests for a structure in this locality.
4. Throughout the consultation process and from previous interaction with local residents regarding the Heathcote River, there was significant community support for this project to proceed.
3. The area identified has been inspected by Greenspace Unit Senior Contract Manager (Land Drainage) and City Solutions staff as to the viability of the proposed location.
4. Due to the steepness of the bank on Fifield Terrace, the narrow width of the road, and lack of parking space available, it was decided to reposition the jetty directly opposite the location requested on to the Riverlaw Terrace side of the river.
5. This side of the river has a low riverbank with more space available for parking. The jetty is also positioned further from the road therefore making it safer to use.
6. Consultation was undertaken with local residents and the results were as follows:
 - 31 letters and submission forms were sent out
 - 5 returned as no such address
 - 13 supported the project
 - 1 objection.
7. Concerns raised were:
 - The width of road where the jetty will be located as parked cars would narrow the roadway therefore making it dangerous.
 - Jetty would encourage children to the water's edge and they could fall into the river when playing on it.
 - Could end up being used by whitebaiters at the ratepayers' expense.
8. Council response to the concerns has been:
 - Transport and City Streets Unit has visited the proposed location and measured the road width, which at this location is 7.6m (this is from the face of the kerb on the residential side to the edge of the seal at the riverbank). This will allow for a vehicle to park against the kerb and still provide an adequate traffic way for passing vehicles.
 - It is safer having a jetty close by as it makes it easier for children to get out of the river should they fall in.
 - Should it become a problem where whitebaiters restrict access to other users of the jetty, this will be addressed by Council staff at the time.
9. The resident who objected to the installation has been contacted and was happy with the response to the concerns raised and is now supportive of the jetty going ahead.

10. Due to the positive response from the local residents, and the use of the Heathcote River for recreational activities by the wider community, the installation would be a positive asset to the area.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

11. Funding is available in the Greenspace Unit Capital Works Programme 2005/06 for the installation of the jetty.
12. Council has a global Environment Canterbury Resource Consent which will cover the installation of the jetty.
13. All work will be undertaken by a Council approved contactor.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Community Board approve the proposed installation of a new jetty on the Heathcote Riverbank opposite 236 and 238 Riverlaw Terrace.

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

That the staff recommendation be supported.