

## 9. PROPOSAL FOR INSTALLATION OF PLAQUES ON SHAG ROCK

<b>General Manager responsible:</b>	General Manager, City Environment Group, DDI 941 8608
<b>Officer responsible:</b>	Unit Manager, Transport and Greenspace
<b>Author:</b>	Maria Adamski, Parks Heritage Contract Manager

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to provide advice, as requested by the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board, on a proposal to place two plaques on an unaffected remaining portion of Shag Rock.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Shag Rock or *Rapanui*, meaning 'the great sternpost' is one of the oldest landmarks of Te Wai Ponuamu (South Island). It is both a visual and cultural icon for Maori and Pakeha residents of Christchurch attracting people to climb on and around it and to fish in the river channel beside it.
3. The Council does not own Shag Rock. It is part of the Foreshore and Seabed owned and administered by the Crown.
4. Shag Rock is exposed to weathering which naturally erodes the rock. It was reported in 2003 that the vertical faulting in this rock stack meant that it was inevitably succumbing to the forces of nature and its slow collapse was creating safety issues. Signs were placed in the area warning of the instability of the rock.
5. Shag Rock is a dynamic area that is tidal and has varying sand levels.
6. Shag Rock collapsed in the 22 February 2011 earthquake. To date no assessment or geotechnical investigation has been carried out to determine the stability of the rock. There is no unaffected part of Shag Rock.
7. A plaque on Shag Rock would attract people and encourage climbing on the rock. This would contribute to further deterioration.
8. Due to the location of Shag Rock it is not accessible to all members of the community.
9. An earthquake memorial is proposed for the Central City. A city wide rather than an ad hoc approach to localised memorials is desired for those to be established on public land.
10. No consultation has been carried out with Tangata Whenua, Environment Canterbury (ECan), Department of Conservation (DOC), Avon Heathcote Estuary Ihutai Trust or the wider community.
11. Plaques in this type of coastal environment require constant maintenance.
12. The Council Draft Guidelines and Technical Specification for the Commissioning, Design, Installation, Maintenance and decommissioning of Plaques should be applied.
13. Installation of any plaques or interpretive signage should be in conjunction with the Ihutai Management Plan 2004 and any other relevant plans for the area.
14. Any further development or consideration of a proposal for memorial plaques to be installed on Shag Rock would require the following matters to be considered:
  - (a) a geotechnical report is completed on the stability of Shag Rock
  - (b) consultation is carried out with Tangata Whenua, ECan, DOC and Avon Heathcote Estuary Ihutai Trust and the wider community

- (c) the Council Draft Guidelines and Technical Specification for the Commissioning, Design, Installation, Maintenance and decommissioning of Plaques are considered
- (d) the Ihutai Management Plan 2004 and any other relevant plans for the area.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 14. There is no operational or capital budget available for new plaques.
- 15. The Community Board's Discretionary Response Fund does not cover:
  - (a) Legal challenges or Environment Court challenges against the Council, Council Controlled Organisations or Community Boards decisions
  - (b) Projects or initiatives that change the scope of a Council project
  - (c) Projects or initiatives that will lead to ongoing operational costs to the Council.
- 16. Community Boards can recommend to the Council for consideration grants under (b) and (c).
- 17. If the plaques were installed they would cost approximately \$1,000 per year to maintain.

#### **Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2009-19 LTCCP budgets?**

- 18. There is no operational or capital budget available for new plaques.

#### **LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 19. Legal implications have not been confirmed.

#### **Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?**

- 20. As above.

#### **ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS**

- 21. Not applicable.

#### **Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2009-19 LTCCP?**

- 22. Not applicable.

#### **ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES**

- 23. Not applicable.

#### **Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?**

- 24. Not applicable.

#### **CONSULTATION FULFILMENT**

- 25. No consultation has been carried out with Tangata Whenua, ECan, DOC, Avon Heathcote Estuary Ihutai Trust or the wider community as part of compilation of this report. Consultation would be required for any further development of the proposal.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board receive the report and decline further development of the proposal for the placement of two plaques on Shag Rock, *Rapanui*, for the reasons outlined in this report.

**CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION**

That the staff recommendation be adopted.