

21. LOWER AVON RIVER, EROSION AND RESTORATION

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Corporate Plan Output: 9.3.51 Asset Improvements (Waterways & Wetlands)	

The purpose of this report is to suggest the formation of an interest group for river restoration in the lower Avon River.

BACKGROUND

The South New Brighton Residents' Association has raised concerns about the potential for erosion in the banks of the Avon River in the area between the Wairoa Reserve and the Pleasant Point Yacht Club. Some very pertinent issues about river bank erosion, salt marsh erosion, channel siltation and a potential threat to the Pleasant Point Yacht Club have been raised.

At the same time there are other initiatives under way in the area, including:

- Development of Withells Island Reserve
- The Bexley Wetland Project
- The Estuary to Brooklands Green Edge Project

ADDRESSING THE ISSUES

There are clearly a number of groups who would have an interest in proposals to protect river banks and modify or restore this part of the river. Any work if more than a minor nature would require resource consents, which would involve the Canterbury Regional Council and the Department of Conservation, and would require thorough investigation and identification of options.

This report proposes that an interest group be formed to look at the erosion and other related issues like river enhancement. With the support of the Community Board and Residents' Associations the Water Services Unit could coordinate an investigation of issues and options for the long term care and enhancement of the Avon River in, say, the reach downstream of Pages Road. Expert external advisors would provide technical information and interest groups such as Residents' Associations, DOC, Tangata Whenua, etc would cooperate in putting forward options, discussing outcomes and making recommendations.

In such a process we would be able to get a resolution on the erosion matters concerning the Residents' Association.

Recommendation: That the Board give consideration to the formation of an interest group for the Lower Avon and to the representation of interested parties in that group.

Chairperson's Recommendation: That the Board establish a Working Party, with representatives from the Board, residents, Department of Conservation, Environment Canterbury and Tanagata Whenua, with support from Water Services Unit.