

15. CAVE ROCK AREA ENHANCEMENT

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Corporate Plan Output: Parks Plans and Policy Statements	

The purpose of this report is to present the finalised landscape plan for the reserve area around Cave Rock to the Board. Mike Thomas from Studio 33 Landscape Architects will present the plan and answer any questions about the design.

BACKGROUND

Board members will be aware that the area around Cave Rock and the new On the Beach restaurant has been the focus of several workshops to develop a vision for the area. The workshops were convened by Parks Unit staff and Studio 33 landscape architects and well attended by staff from other council units, community board members and local residents.

Studio 33 Landscape Architects Ltd. presented an initial concept plan which was circulated within Sumner and then further refined at the final workshop held in November last year. Key issues raised by submitters on the draft concept were:

- Confusion as to public and private (leased) areas near the On the Beach restaurant, in particular the restriction of access on to the jetty.
- The health of the Norfolk pines if seating is constructed around the base of them
- The need for irrigation for new lawn and shrub areas.
- Location of proposed toilet block
- Loss of parking spaces

LANDSCAPE ENHANCEMENT PROPOSALS

The concept plan presented today addresses these concerns by:

- Defining the lease area of On the Beach through surface treatment and linking the jetty with the modified stone steps near it.
- Improving access to the jetty from the beach by providing steps or a ramp as direct access on and off the end of the jetty.
- New seating areas around the Norfolk pines (not shown on this plan) will be carefully designed so as not to damage the roots of the pines.
- New lawn and shrub beds will have irrigation installed at the time of their development.
- Relocating the proposed toilet block and integrating it with the shrub borders.
- Changes to the road and parking areas are now no longer proposed but the area to the east of the restaurant will be developed to restrict the number of vehicles that park there and to reduce the amount of open seal.

We have circulated this plan to submitters and workshop participants and are confident that it meets the community's needs and aspirations for the area. The design offers cost effective solutions to the major issues whilst providing a series of well-proportioned spaces that will enhance the recreational and amenity value of the area. Further detailing for the various aspects of the design will co-ordinated with available budget.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Full implementation of the plan is estimated to cost \$250 000 but limited funding is currently available. The Parks Unit has requested that the Council consider further funding for the area as part of its review of the five year capital works programme. A bid for \$250 000 from unspecified capital funding for 2001/2002 is currently being requested by the Parks Unit.

\$20 000 is available for the current financial year. The following works can be carried out by Coast Care before the end of the 1999/2000 financial year:

- Clarifying the public use of the jetty
- Improving access on to the beach
- Providing the interpretation panel with historic information.

Recommendation: That the Board support the concept plan.

**Chairman's
Recommendation:** For discussion.