

9. SOUTHSHORE SPIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN OUTCOME

Officer responsible Parks Manager	Author Kay Holder, Coast Care Co-ordinator
Corporate Plan Output: Plans and Policy Statements 9.4.39 and Capital Works Foreshores Development 9.4.57	

The purpose of this report is to inform members of the Committee of the outcome of public consultation on the draft Southshore Spit Development Plan.

Overall, the response to the draft Southshore Spit plan was favourable. Respondents made positive comments regarding the content of the plan. Most of the suggestions that were made can easily be incorporated into the plan. A summary of the submissions received is outlined below with comments and recommendations on each topic.

SUMMARY

Total number of submissions received = 10

The Plan	#	Reference
Support/like plan	7	1,2,3,6,7,9,10
Suggestions/comments re wording of plan	2	1,6
Continue public consultation	1	9
Support Spit as Scenic Reserve	2	2,9
Reference to Regional Coastal Environmental Plan rules	1	4
Identified bird roosting area (Fig 2) does not exist	1	2
Figure 1 coastal hazard line incorrect	1	4,10

COMMENTS

Six submitters expressed support for the plan. Two submitters made comments re wording in the plan. One person requested that public consultation to continue. Two people expressed their support for the Spit as a Scenic Reserve. One person made reference to the Regional Coastal Environmental Rules. Two changes were requested to the figures. One suggested CCC buying up land within Coastal Hazard zone and having a strategy for sea level rise.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Wording

'Beach Toe' to remain – is derived from coastal report.

Management Plan - not to be used as is a statutory term.

Para 2 Summary – agree to simplify language.

'Small estuarine inlet' – change to small tidal inlet

'tauhinu' change to cassinia (*Ozothamnus leptophyllus*)

6.2 para 3 – insert 'be'

6.2 para 3 – change 'estuarine inlet' to 'tidal inlet'

References - Nd means not dated.

Wording will be changed to indicate closure of the legal road, not accreted land.

With regard to erosion periods, will change wording in 2.1 to be consistent with 5, para 3 i.e. 1940-1949, the combination of two periods referred to by Kirk.

References

The reference list is not exhaustive, but fulfilled the need to gather relevant background information about the Spit.

Consultation

Agree consultation to continue for major works eg car parks and toilets

Regional Coastal Plan

Will include reference to Chapter 9 of Regional Coastal Plan

Will correct Fig 1 (Coastal Hazard line 1) key

Purchase of land within hazard line beyond scope of this plan.

Bird Roosting

No change needed in fig 2 – sec 2.3 paragraph 2 already notes that high tide roosting areas changes with tides and the beach and dune system.

Sea Level Rise

Agree, spit tip identified as likely to be affected in sea level rise report. Reinforces plan not to build structures on edge of spit tip.

Facilities	#	Reference
Doubt need for bird hides	1	1
Support viewing platform and interpretation	1	7
Offer of help for interpretation	1	6
Suggested eco tourism brochure	1	7
Include details of facilities	2	1,8
Request seating	1	7
Suggested footbridge to Sumner	1	3
Need signs to restrict movement on landward side of birds	1	1

COMMENTS

Two submitters requested that the proposed facilities be detailed in the plan. Two people expressed support for viewing hides and interpretation while one person doubted the usefulness of the hides. There was a request for seating, another for a footbridge to Sumner, and also a request for signs to restrict people's movement around birds. A brochure outlining eco-sites in Christchurch was suggested.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Bird Hides

Not being promoted

Viewing Platform

Because of dynamic nature of this coastal area, constructed platforms are not supported here, but agree with need for more interpretative information and beach viewing areas, with some seating.

Eco Tourism Brochure of Wetlands

Agree, but beyond scope of this plan, will pass on suggestion.

Facility Details

Plan showing facility details will be included.

Seating

Simple bench seats will provided near entrance, overlooking ocean, and estuary

Footbridge

Not considered because of cost and potential impact.

Wildlife signs

Agree – to minimise bird disturbance

Emergency Management	#	Reference
Don't support vehicles on salt marsh	1	1
Support maintenance of fire breaks	1	2

COMMENTS

One person suggested that the fire break around the houses should be maintained. Another submitter expressed concern about vehicles on the salt marsh.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Vehicles on salt marsh

Agree location of turning area will not affect salt meadow

Wildlife	#	Reference
Comments re fauna and flora	2	1,2

COMMENTS

Comments were made by two submitters regarding birds and plants on the spit and their protection.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Plants

Restoration of native plant communities is meant in a broad sense, and reflects knowledge of less modified dune communities.

Atriplex prostrata is present in salt meadow, add to paragraph

Plant list to be developed as part of detailed planting plan

Salt marsh does need weed control – grasses and thistles are present.

Animals

Disturbance of roosting birds will be minimised through the use of information signs, location of tracks and publications.

Stormwater Pipe	#	Reference
Concerns/suggestions over stomwater pipe	1	1

COMMENTS

One submitter had concerns about proposals for the removal of a stormwater pipe and made some suggestions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Stormwater pipe

Discuss with Water Services Unit

Recreation Reserve	#	Reference
Add land to recreation reserve	1	4

COMMENTS

One person made suggestions for possible land additions to the recreation reserve. However, this is subject to proposed land exchanges currently under negotiation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Land Additions

Negotiations continue for eastern area. Agree that western area could be added to reserve in the future, but extensive consultation with adjacent residents would be needed.

Plantings/Stabilisation	#	Reference
Priority on weed eradication, planting and protection	1	5,10
Plant trees for shade, stabilisation	1	8
Use native, locally-sourced plants in revegetation	1	2
Avoid engineering solutions, allow natural erosion	2	5,6

COMMENTS

There were two comments that some of the natural erosion was uncontrollable and suggestions made to place emphasis on planting rather than engineering solutions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Shade Trees

Plan proposes planting of shade trees near tracks

Revegetation

Agree on use of locally sourced indigenous plants

The use of existing exotic trees and shrubs as nurse plants will be considered in the planting plan.

Erosion

Agree with avoiding engineering works

Salt Meadow	#	Reference
Include salt meadow in plan between drain and Tern St	1	6

COMMENTS

Reference was made to a salt meadow between the drain and Tern Street, asking for it to be included in the plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Saltmeadow

This area is outside plan area.

Note: Not contained in the plan but related to it:-

The Rocking Horse Road frontage to the Spit Reserve is proposed to be increased by a possible land exchange. This will provide a better layout for the proposed car park and toilets. If an agreement with the landowners can be reached a separate public advertisement and report process will follow in the next few months.

Recommendation: That the plan be amended in line with the recommendations contained in this report and a final plan be produced and distributed.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.