

18. ACCESS TO THE PROMENADE

Officer responsible Community Advocate	Author Warwick Scadden, Parks & Waterways Area Advocate, DDI 372-2615
Corporate Plan Output: Consents 9.4.10	

The purpose of this report is to advise board members of the options available to provide access for disabled persons, persons with perambulators, the very young and elderly to the promenade of the Sumner Scarborough sea wall.

INTRODUCTION

At a meeting of the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board on 2 March 2000 it was resolved to "seek a report on the possibility of making a cut in the sea wall at Sumner to provide disability access to the beach from the Esplanade promenade without the need for a ramp path and to seek in this report an outline of any other options which may be available for disability access across the Esplanade wall."

BACKGROUND

Since November 1999, the issue of improved access for disabled people and persons with perambulators to gain access to or from the Sumner-Scarborough promenade has been the subject of concern for a number of people.

Initially Dora Cake wrote to the Council and subsequently had speaking rights at a meeting of the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board on 2 February 2000.

In January 2000 a letter from the Sumner Residents' Association supported the request for a mid-access point to the esplanade promenade to cater for the needs of people in wheelchairs, pram strollers, the very young and elderly people.

A Board project funding meeting was held on 2 March 2000 and the board considered that a ramp was too costly and sought the alternative costs of a cut in the wall.

More recently a letter has been received from Mrs Peacock, requesting consideration to access the wall for those who cannot negotiate the steps.

INVESTIGATION

An on site inspection has been made and discussions held with staff within City Solutions.

At the junction of the esplanade with Marriner Street, a combination of steps and a ramp is providing good access across to the promenade for both able bodied and disabled people.

From this point it is 900 metres to Heberden Ave where other ramp access is available, while at the Cave Rock end of the promenade there is good ramp access.

It is feasible to cut a gap in the wall together with an elbow shaped wing wall on the seaward side, so as to provide some protection at times of high seas with the associated debris. The most suitable location is opposite Menzies Street. An estimate of cost has been prepared as follows:

Cut in the wall	800.00
Wing wall	800.00
Ramp from wall to Esplanade	<u>2,000.00</u>
TOTAL	\$3,600.00

A resource consent would be required and Mr John Walter a design engineer with City Solutions has emphasised the importance of emergency services being prepared with resources to block the gap in the event of high tides.

The Community Advocate comments: Please refer to the letter under correspondence from D Peacock. The Board allocated \$6,000 in project funding in March 2000 for an access ramp at the Surf Club.

Recommendation: That following consultation with the Sumner Residents' Association and obtaining a resource consent, a cut in the wall in the Sumner promenade wall be made, in conjunction with a protective wing wall and ramp to the street, at Menzies Street facilitating improved access.

**Chairman's
Recommendation:** For discussion