

## 8. SOUTH NEW BRIGHTON DOMAIN BOAT RAMP

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The purpose of this report is to seek Board support to consult with key stakeholder groups on the proposal to install a key lock barrier arm gate across the entrance to the South New Brighton Domain boat ramp.

### BACKGROUND

A growing number of complaints are received each year by the Christchurch City Council call centre about cars driving on the Avon-Heathcote Estuary. Observations made by local residents and Park Ranger staff indicate that thrill seekers/joy riders are accessing the estuary for a range of illegitimate activities that include the dumping of unwanted/stolen cars, free riding during the low tide and general hoon-like activity ("donuts", "wheelies" etc). At least six car bodies have been abandoned in the estuary over the past two years. The most recent event occurred on 11 February 2004 with the removal of a burnt out car 300 metres from South New Brighton Domain.

Impacts from these activities include:

- Disturbance to estuary wildlife.
- Pollution/damage to the estuary.
- Endangerment to the lives and safety of vehicle drivers and their passengers.
- Dumping of unwanted/stuck car bodies.

Refer to photos attached.

The Greenspace Unit has monitored the situation and is now at the stage of considering how best to address the problem. One solution is to restrict car access at identified trouble spots.

### RELEVANT CURRENT POLICY

Environmental Design and Management Plans.

### DELEGATED POWERS

#### Powers delegated to Christchurch City Council

- Section 53 of the Reserves Act 1977 - Management of Recreation Reserves

The Council has the power to manage and prohibit vehicles from certain areas within city parks and reserves.

#### Powers delegated to Environment Canterbury

- Environment Canterbury Proposed Coastal Plan Rule 8.21

Prohibition of vehicles in Avon-Heathcote Estuary below mean high water springs. Environment Canterbury has the authority to enforce the prohibition of motor vehicles (other than those launching/removing their boats) on the beach/foreshore.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL

The attached landscape plan shows the location of a barrier arm gate and some proposed landscape planting at the South New Brighton Domain boat ramp. A removable bollard is also proposed at a smaller boat ramp just south of the jetty. The gate and bollard will operate on a bond payment system in exchange for an access key, similar to that used at the Waimakariri River access route from Heyders Road. An approximate sum of \$25 will be charged for a key, which will be reimbursed upon its return. Whilst the system discourages unauthorised persons from accessing the area, genuine users are still allowed. Boat/canoe clubs will be encouraged to share their key between club members.

## **CONSULTATION**

### **Correspondence**

The Parks and Waterways Area Advocate has discussed the issue with Environment Canterbury, who have given their full support, provided any road stopping issues are addressed. A letter has been received from the Avon-Heathcote Estuary Ihutai Trust indicating their support for the proposal. The Chairperson of the South New Brighton Residents' Association has met with the Parks and Waterways Area Advocate to discuss the proposal and the landscape design.

### **Consultation Process**

A copy of the draft landscape plan and questionnaire will be circulated to key stakeholder groups seeking feedback on its design. An article will also feature in the local press describing the plan and encouraging residents concerned to contact listed Council staff for further information.

## **ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **Road Stopping**

A legal road is positioned around the eastern edge of the Avon-Heathcote Estuary, behind South New Brighton Domain. Placement of the gates has been considered in relation to the location of the legal road so as to avoid any road stopping issues.

### **Level of Use**

How often is the ramp used? Should it be blocked off completely? As part of the consultation stakeholders will be asked about frequency of use.

## **CONCLUSION**

Recurring disturbance caused by cars accessing the Avon-Heathcote Estuary has prompted the Greenspace Unit to address the issue. A solution is to introduce a key lock gate across the South New Brighton Domain boat ramp. Correspondence with several key interest groups has indicated support for the proposal. Endorsement is now sought from the Board to accept the draft landscape plan for public comment.

### **Staff**

- Recommendations:**
1. That the information be received.
  2. That the Board support the proposal to block illicit users from gaining access to the Avon-Heathcote Estuary from the South New Brighton Domain boat ramp.
  3. That the Board accept the draft landscape proposal for consultation with key stakeholder groups.

### **Chairperson's**

**Recommendation:** That the abovementioned recommendations be adopted.