



Kia ora koutou

*Welcome to the first in a series of newsletters updating you about the Hector legacy landfill seawall project.*

## Introduction

Earlier this year the Buller District Council was granted \$1M to build a seawall to prevent waste from the old landfill washing out.

This funding means there is no cost to Buller ratepayers for this vital project. The money is coming from the \$3 billion investment in infrastructure, announced in May, as part of central government's Covid-19 Response and Recovery Fund.

The Provincial Development Unit, in the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), is responsible for administering this funding. A funding agreement for the seawall project was executed between the Government and Council in September this year.

## Background

Severe erosion from 2018 onwards opened up the Hector Legacy Landfill site exposing and mobilising waste material to the coastal environment.

Last year the Ministry of the Environment provided \$40,000 to assess the waste in the landfill. This study confirmed that mining the waste would be unaffordable and problematic, as was removing it and disposing of it in a more secure location.

The Covid-19 response funding is enabling the Council to protect the site through the installation of a seawall which will prevent further erosion and exposure of waste material.

The seawall is being designed to take into account the predicted tide range, storm surge and sea level rise over the next 100 years. The Old Hector Landfill seawall will be integrated with a 950 metre seawall constructed by Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency to protect a section of state highway between Granity and Ngakawau.

Council has been liaising with Waka Kotahi in relation to the integration with the adjacent seawall project.

## Landfill investigation

In mid 2020, an investigation was undertaken to better characterise the extent, nature, and significance of historic waste disposal at the site. This was followed by a feasibility assessment to determine the viability of 'mining' the waste versus bulk excavation and disposal of the waste elsewhere at a secure site.

This work showed that bulk excavation and off-site disposal was cost-prohibitive. Whilst 'mining' and selectively removing the waste was assessed as being more affordable, it would still be more expensive than other immediately achievable options such as a protective seawall and also would not provide a complete solution in that small plastic waste – a key cause of concern in the landfill – would not be adequately addressed.



## Work progress

Engineering company Beca Limited has produced a design and recommended a 310 metre long seawall with a 50-year design life, that will protect the landfill.

An estimated 15,000-20,000 tonne of high-quality rock will be needed for the wall. Council was aware that sourcing rock for this type of project could be challenging, so called for early registrations of interest from parties which could supply the necessary quality and quantity of rock needed in the required timeframe.

Companies expressing interest also had to demonstrate that they had the ability to construct a seawall, and provide supporting services, and were committing to social and environmental outcomes. That registration of interest process has been completed.

In addition:

- Value-engineering analysis has been undertaken to identify options for maximising seawall protection, such as crest height.

- Resource consent has been secured from the West Coast Regional Council for construction.
- A Registration of Interest process to identify prospective construction suppliers has been completed and a final tender and selection process is expected to be completed by January 2021.
- Project management and design resources have been secured.

## What's next?

Finalising engineering designs for the protective seawall is the key next step in the project.

After this, identifying and appointing a competent construction contractor to supply all the materials, equipment, and services required to build the seawall will be the next focus.

Whilst yet to be confirmed, construction of the seawall is expected to start around February 2021 and run until approximately April or May 2021.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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