

MINUTES – COMMUNITY INPUT FOR THE COOKS BEACH FLOOD WATER PLAN DRAFT

Date: 26th August 2023

Time: Open 10:30 am
Closed at 12:30 pm

Meeting called to order by: Paul Hopkins – MBSRRPA Chair

ATTENDEES

Tony Wallace, Paul Hopkins, Frank Geoghegan, Wendy Wallace, Bill McEntee, Bil Bartlett, Fiona Norris, Steve Lloyd, Paul Hyland, Greg & Di Gascoigne, Heather & Mike Yearbury, Sam Harsant, Colin Harsant, John & Sue Nickolson, Mike & Jan Bates, Tom Riddle, Tui & Al O'Keffe, Wayne & Dianne Moffitt, Mark & Suz Robinson, Sarah Armstrong, Helen Gegan & Brett Scott, Jinny Walker, Alison Wallace. Erica Hussona (apologies).
Minutes recorded by Paulette Tainsh.

HANDOUT PROVIDED

The agenda attached outlining aim, format of meeting and Thames CDC storm water action plan draft.

PURPOSE OF MEETING

Tony Wallace - The purpose of the meeting is to provide input and ideas from our extensive and experienced community base to take to the council to consider in helping provide solutions for the Cooks Beach area in rectifying and resolving flooding issues as far as practicable and for a selected team consisting of Paul Hopkins, Frank Geoghegan and Justin Fisher to represent and drive change for the Cooks Beach area through the community board, Thames Coromandel District Council (TCDC), Brett Houston and anticipate that the TCDC will be working closely with the Waikato Regional Council (WRC) in this respect.

POINTS FROM THE MEETING FOR THE DRAFT PLAN IN TCDC FORMAT

1) Short term actions

- Survey of Cooks Beach to ascertain heights, and drainage levels.
- How to determine if all affected parties' properties have been taken into consideration.
- Clearing of waterways. Cooks stream clearance, clear silt build up at culvert campsite side, Longreach recontouring/clearing of watercourse.
- Suctioning out cesspits

- Lowering lake - allow the lake to fall to the bottom of the outlet pipe quickly after a rain event.
- Upgraded Stormwater pipes and waterways maintenance plan, review current maintenance plan - Councils current code of practice (Cop for Stormwater).

2) Medium term actions

- Swales
- Bank street reserve reverse flow so drainage runs towards boat ramp in conjunction with fixing cesspit and large area of pooling around that end.
- Lowering walkways and concreting to act as spillways (flip of this would need to consider what happens in a storm surge).
- Consider expansion of the Morcom stream/Resolution Rise retention pond.

3) Technical actions

- Pipes through driveway accesses on to road (so gutter flow not blocked).
- Culverts to remove water from roads.
- Is the lake functioning correctly?
- High volume flood pumps/ generator
- Regular assessment of the water table.
- What does the council have on record from previous subdivisions – look at prior information so as not to run costs for new consultation work.

4) Long term actions

- WRC and TCDC regular communications to ensure service plans are acted upon.
- Lake controlled by the use of Flood Gates which would open 48hrs prior to forecast high rainfall, lower the lakes by say 400mm (exact amount to be determined) and close after the rain event. Would give the lakes greater volume to act as detention ponds without infringing the max lake level.
- Overflow of water to the Purangi Estuary
- Pipes (i.e., Iiti lane) kept clear, not blocked by sand or silt.

MINUTES

Welcome and thank you Tony for instigation of meeting, thank you to Frank for being part of the team going to meet with the council on the 1st of September on the Cooks Beach Stormwater action plan.

Agenda read including TCDC draft action plan.

Is there a set height the Cooks Beach Lake should be set at?

Request TCDC invest in a report of the stormwater pipe levels and culverts. Suggest they use an existing report detailing this information and have it peer reviewed to minimize time and expense.

Tom R discussed the success of storm water mitigation in front of his house. A bund and the pipe that goes through to the Cooks stream had been installed. He thinks the pipe was approx. 400mm wide.

The mangroves are encroaching on the cook's stream at the Riverview Road end which will restrict the flow.

Jan – Discussed large pool of water by the reserve and asked if there had been a technical investigation of the soak hole there.

Greg G. Is there hard pan under the corner. On the corner of Hicks and Captain Cook during the flooding the water table was up to the surface and there was nowhere for the water to go. There needs to be a survey of the levels. The council have also said they have talked to all affected parties; however, *Greg has not been contacted by the council.*

Tony W. Passionate about Cooks Beach and concerned about the future and flooding. At the Rate Payers meeting on the 7th of July, the 5th July Flooding draft report from Brett Houston (TCDC) were not tabled. Since then then this report has been passed around and available on TCDC website. On the 26th of July the draft report was ratified, (see attached report) and released looking for community consultation and thought. It is in our interest to keep the process moving at an acceptable speed through TCDC's system and influence the council to take action.

There were three separate groups that were trying to communicate with the council, the council has since stated they would prefer to work through the rate payers group. A group consisting of Paul Hopkins, Frank Geoghegan and Justin Fisher has been selected to represent the rate payers and community and to promote the information and ideas put forward here.

Motion's put forward by Greg Gascoigne, That TCDC complete a level survey of the flood area behind 118/124 Captain Cook Road and beyond, in relation to the Hicks Place/Captain Cook Road corner kerb drainage traps or other appropriate point that would facilitate the draining of surface flooding of that flood area.

(It had been observed that when these traps were cleared, the flood levels immediately reduced)

The other:

That TCDC investigate and action an appropriate size stormwater pipe sufficient to handle Captain Cook Road flooding in the vicinity of Hicks Place/Captain Cook Road corner from its current diameter.

(Again, observations by the proposer, Greg Gascoigne, was that preceding the flooding of the flood area, Captain Cook Road floods considerably at this point of the road- the dip in the road is visible to the eye. On the clearing of the traps, the flooding reduced, indicating that the flooding of Captain Cook Road with a high-water table during high rainfall events has a big influence on the flooding area)

Until this is rectified there will be further building damage which will become uninsurable for residents.

Fiona N. There was also a lake down the back of the properties on Captain Cook Road, these properties are off Captain Cook Road but not visible from the road. They were also affected by the flooding. Have all the affected parties been identified?-(add to draft plan No3(a) Captain Cook Rd – Flooding of rear properties to the south)

The mayor's relief fund has not been total spent, and it might be a thought to ask if this can be utilized to help with some of the works.

Builder. Bank street reserve flooding could be resolved with a reverse flowing drain system that goes out by the boat ramp. Would also need to make sure that it did not make the flooding around the toilet area worse or flow to Marine Parade

Are water table levels being monitored.

Frank G. Had been working with a group effected from Endeavour place to Banks Street reserve. Discussed 6 major rain events. The need to drain water away. How Iti Lane works and what can be learned from that.

Getting a heights and drainage survey and using with flood modelling software can help with solutions.

We will be competing for funding from other affected areas on the Coromandel.

Sarah A. Water levels were so high in the lake, and they had nowhere to go. Plus, storm surges can push water up that water course. Hawk Hill Road was also badly affected. The road was spongy underfoot due to water not dissipating.

Wayne M. The silting of Culvert on the campsite side preventing water from flowing away, this had been cleared years ago by WRC but not maintained by TCDC.

Sam. H Around 1953 the first subdivision was undertaken by Hardy, Rivas and Rees. The area was Front Beach, Riverview Road, Banks Street and part of Captain Cook Road to Banks Street. Cooks Beach was covered back then by a lot of ferns and brush, the entry was via a wooden bridge just up from where the Mussel Bed is today. Storm water was left to do its own thing.

In the 1960s the subdivision was extended to the intersection of Oyster Drive, including the cul de sacs of Endeavour, Hardy and Hicks. There was no leveling of land, the buildings were built on the natural humps and hollows. Cesspits and some drainage pipes were put in and drained back to the swamplands behind. Stormwater fell to the cesspits off the road and was free to drain to this swampland. In the 75 – 76 Oyster drive development was undertaken some drainage was undertaken. Swamp land absorbed shock from storm events.

Scott drive development the storm water retention ponds were put in as they raised the land and displaced the swamp. This did not provide for other incoming water.

Pipes from Hicks place, Endeavour rendered neutral due to the level of the lake.

Longreach development was supposed to have floodwater relief to the Purangi via a weir at the Hawk Hill retention pond, that hasn't eventuated and heavy planting through this area restricts water flow. There is some opportunity for this area to be improved.

There has been no change from the Marist stream and Morcom stream, this has been quantified as a naturally formed catchment. Resolution rise/Morcom stream retention pond expansion could be a possible help.

Hydraulic modelling from these previous subdivisions should be recorded at council and be sought rather than paying for new expert advice.

Tony W. Re iterated best to go for low hanging fruit to start with. There is also a storm water easement across some properties.

Paul H. If there is a maintenance issue you can contact the council for a request for services. WRC / environment Waikato look after waterways too. Canal is supposed to have grass verge. The attitude of TCDC is that it should be left to regenerate.

Steve L. The drainage system on Charles Green Drive is a spoon drain that runs straight onto sand. Therefore it does not flow through to the lake in heavy rain events. The pipe that enters the lake at the Charles Green end has a flap on which is so heavy that it was required to be propped open during the storm, not that much water was coming through it. The spoon drains would require a hard surface i.e., concrete for this to be effective. The council are putting in a Cooks Beach lakes implementation plan. Steve will be present at the community board public meeting and the private meeting. Brent Houston will be at this meeting.

Bill B. Looking abroad to what Brisbane has done with the dam there. They control the water levels. In the dry season they keep the water level up and in storm events or winter they let water out to lower the water level. This can be done with a flood gate system before the storm event happens.

In terms of a channel drainage system, a fall of 1 or 2% is sufficient to move water away, the Banks street storm water could be taken through the hump at a low level removing surface water.

Fixing the swales will increase the water to the lake, which will affect the artificial height of the lake and this could become an issue.

Allan O. Still very concerned about the washout at the monument and loss of ground. Thinks a rock wall would protect the sewerage drain and roading. The design of the concrete wall extension has not stopped washout behind it.

Sarah A. Would it be possible for Tony to review the C.o.p and highlight which areas the residents could send a request for service on to the council.- Tony agreed to investigate

Could we make sure that WRC is being informed by TCDC to make sure they are upholding their side of things.

Bill M. Ratepayers are still very unhappy with progress – we need actionable items that deliver results.

Tony W. We have not discussed sewerage. The sewerage leakage will be fixed by the solution to the stormwater.

Frank G. Raising gully traps on some properties may be part of the solution

ACTIONS

1. Selected representatives (Frank, Paul & Justin) attend the meeting with the council on the 1st September to put forward ideas and possible solutions from this meeting.
2. Steve Lloyd – will be at a community board public meeting on the 6 September then a private meeting around a plan for the Cooks Beach Lake Management.

In both instances it would be great to get a copy of these meetings minutes to share with the rate payers association and the attendees of this meeting.