



Minutes

Coromandel Great Walks

Hahei Stakeholders Meeting - Traffic Management Report

Time & Date: 1:05pm: 8 October 2015

Venue: Hahei - Community Hall

Present:

Ross Ashby (TCDC)
Kirstin Richmond (TCDC)
Matt Busch (TCDC)
Allan Tiplady (TCDC)
Len Whitaker (TCDC)
Sophie Hayward (TCDC)
Deli Connell (Mercury Bay Community Board)
Bill McLean (Mercury Bay Community Board)

John Gaukrodger (TCDC)
John North (Hahei Stakeholder Deputy Chairperson)
Allan Gregory (MWH)
Matt Soper (MWH)
Brett Harries (Traffic Design Group)

Karen Blair
Brian Keucke
Tina North
John Dallimore
Mike Wilkinson
Brian Ross
Charlie Adams
Ron Egan
Russ Cochrane
Shane Harnett
Mark Cedeaman
Greg Dickie
Richard Agnew

Dianna Belle
Rosie Beck
John Beck
Ray Lloyd
Phil Costello
Peter Harrison
Anne Donovan
Alistair Sims
Graham Harsant
Stephan Bosman
Ian Carter
Cathy Bologney

Apologies:

Sam Marshall (TCDC)
Garry Towler (TCDC)
Glenn Leach (TDCD - Mayor)
Peter Hawley
Bill Stead

Gemma White (Doc)
John Rich (Doc)
Penne Clayton
Jeremy Lomas
Ian Chalmers

Welcome and introduction by Hahei Stakeholders Deputy Chair John North.

key agenda items

The purpose of today's meeting

1. To go through the Traffic Assessment Report.

- Introductions of core people present.
- MWH presentation.

MWH Presentation - 20mins: Allan G and Matt S from MWH

* Presentation attached.

Key points in addition to the presentation PowerPoint (PowerPoint is critical in terms of key recommendations.

- 1 - Key Finding of the report were based on a number of reports outlined and data provided through the consultation process. Noted that a key recommendation of the report was that more data should be collected over the summer period.
- 2 - Enough detail for a good start point/base.
- 3 - No one option on its own will fix the issues, but a range of measures are proposed.
4. - Hahei beach car park at the moment is an essential car park, but in the future has the potential to be removed if other options are followed through with.
5. There is already Demand for more parking in the area to accommodate the number of visitors.
6. Numbers of visitors are increasing every year and we don't know when this increase will drop off.

Brett - Traffic Design Group: Review points of the MWH report:

- 1 - Overall MHW has done a good job.
- 2 - Critical of the report not being robust as there is limited data available.
- 3 - Concerns that given the lack of data, the starting point for the report may not be correct.
- 4 - Agrees with the MWH's recommendation for further peak summer data collection.- Pa Road carpark survey is critical to understanding duration of parking and therefore supply of parking that is needed.
- 5 - Questioned that the use of an average 2 hour parking duration in Hahei maybe actually 4 hours.
- 6 - Regular monitoring of traffic & parking in the future is critical.
- 7 - Need to minimise traffic intrusion into Hahei village and therefore Pa Road car park critical/essential. Pa Road Car Park has to be accessible to Hahei Beach Road and not Pa Road.
- 8 - Pa Road car park should be free and then charge of shuttle.
 - Potential for hierarchy of parking charges.
 - Lee's Road free or lower charge.
 - Costing of parking is key.
- 9 - Overflow parking - We do not want to encourage parking in the village atmosphere.
- 10 - Importance of signage.
- 11 - Lee's Road not ideal for visitors that want to come into Hahei.
- 12 - Not everyone is going to do the whole walk and the likely hood is the majority will do portions, with Hahei being the main point.
- 13 - Hot Water Beach:

- Low tide affects parking demand, which is different to Hahei.
- Needs more data/survey work
- Limited parking.
- One road in and out.

Key notes:

1. More data needed.
2. Report should be looking at 25 - 30 years out, not 10 years.

Resident Question:

Greg Dickie - Grange Road property owner:

- Grange Road parking issues have been shifted to the Hahei village.
- 1. Why are we only allowing for 200 car parks at Pa Road, when we could expand to 1000 car parks?
- 2. Why are we focusing on Lee's Road as a favourite?
- Pa Road as the main exist is not favourable.

Len:

- The paper road is where the new car park will be.
- Park & Ride service will continue - Existing car park has the capacity to accommodate up to 200 car parks and it is proposed that the new Pa Road car park will be built a capacity of 200 cars.

Mark Cedeaman: Is Lees Road a go?

Ross: The concept was part of the business plan for the Great Walks project. It is about spreading the load and creating another option. It's not signed, sealed and delivered, about 85% there, before any go ahead. A lot of work will need to go into signage, gps data and media (marketing) around the car parks and continuous monitoring.

Notes:

- The MWH report also emphasises that Lee's Road is essential to provide additional car parking in conjunction with Pa Road car park in order to alleviate current traffic issues.
- We are hearing it loud and clear from the community, the importance of the Pa Road car park.

Alistair Sims: What is a high level report?

Answer:

- It's a big picture document / Brief overview.
- Need more substantial data.

Alistair Sims:

- More detail is needed before the group can make any decisions. As Council is spending rate payers' money.
- Create the Pa Road car park first and then make the decisions after that.

Len W:

- The Pa Road car park will be going ahead regardless of the Great Walks project and should be completed by next Christmas.
- The Pa Road - the existing 200 car park plus a new 200 car park area, so total 400 car parks.

Charlie Adams: How difficult is it to undertake a report without data and the Purangi crossing not having been assessed?

MWH: We have gone through many different reports done over a number of years.

Ross:

- We have a number of commercial interests to get over the Purangi, at this stage the Purangi crossing is under initial investigation.

Note:

- Critical to get over the Purangi and to Hotwater Beach.

John North: The Great Walks impact has been glossed over and the concept deviates from the original proposal. The short term plan of a return walk to the Blowhole will add to traffic issues in Hahei? What's happening with the Blow Hole to Hot Water Beach ?

John G: I have been employed to investigate options from the Blow Hole to the Purangi so far and haven't been involved in looking at options past the Blow Hole and the Purangi crossing at this stage. Although, there are existing informal routes past the Purangi crossing and there are a number of interested commercial operators.

Ross:

- The walks from the Blowhole to Hot Water Beach are on hold until Hahei issues have been sorted.

- It's clear from the report we need to do more data gathering.

Graham Harsant: Have you put the 100 Acres in the too hard basket? You need to look at other opportunities.

Allan G - The 100 Acres was not brought up in any of the consultation process, therefore it wasn't a significant part of the report.

Cathy Bologney:

1. When you did the traffic managements plan would you have considered Lee's Road as a traffic alternative, if it had not been provided?

Matt S: Yes we would have considered Lee's Road as a variable option. It helps in conjunction with the Pa Road Car park to reduce traffic congestion and equidistance to Cathedral Cove.

2. Has Council put in the Resource Consent for Lee's Road and Pa Road Carparks?

Ross: Lee's Road Carpark - Not yet, it's a non-complying activity and a planner as well as an independent commissioner will examine the Resource Consent.

Ross: We are keen for Pa Road car park - It will need Resource Consent and should be constructed in time for next summer.

Note - Cathy - Can I say for myself and the community that we want and are positive about the Pa Road car park.

Len W: Pa Road will happen even if the Great Walks doesn't.

Unknown: Would it not make sense to leave Lee's Road until the Great Walks goes ahead?

MWH: A 150 car park at Lee's Road would still make sense, even if the Great Walks didn't happen.

Ross: The report clearly says Lee's Road would be needed for the existing issues as well as servicing the Great Walks.

Mike Wilkinson:

- Difficult to see how Lees Road it services the Great Walks.

1. Query the independence of the report when political ideas/views are included.

MWH: We worked on the information given through the consultation process with a number of groups - Iwi, TCDC, DOC and Hahei Stakeholders Group.

2. Existing Road (Lee's Road) is not fit for purpose.

3. Lee's Road car park 150-500 will need signage as well as other facilities.

Ross: Lee's Road will be made fit for purpose and signage etc, will be sorted.

4. Is signage going to give parking options and will the park & ride go from Lee's Road as well?

Ross: The option of the park & ride being at Lee's Road can be addressed.

Note (general public discussion points as follows):

- Signage on Lee's Road a major concern for the group.
- Park & ride and a shuttle service needs to be provided for at Lee's Road.
- Pa Road car park needs to be free and the access can't be off the current main access.
- Pa Road needs to be huge.
- The park & ride service period and places needs to be extended.

Dianna Belle: Why can't DOC expand the Grange Road car park?

MWH: Geotechnical issues.

Public: Doesn't make sense to do this anyways.

Charlie Adams:

- Lee's Road - Cars get lost up Lee's Road all the time, so the signage needs to be addressed.
- Lee's Road, road is narrow and truck & trailer ban not satisfactory.
- Have a good look at Stella Evered Trust deed.

John North: Road safety & road design from Dalmeny Corner was it considered as part of the report? e.g. Hot Water Beach estimate 240,000p.a. plus during a 4 hour window. Should we consider a Park and Ride concept for the area as a whole.

Graham Harsant: Are we going to have infrastructure out at Lee's Road car park? Toilets, shops etc, will be required and will therefore have an impact on the local businesses.

Ian Carter:

- 1) The vision for the Hahei Holiday Resort - Remove this from the report as he has spoken to the new owners and they have no plans to subdivide. As well as the structure plan put onto the property makes subdivision quite difficult.
- 2) A while ago I had an open table top conversation with Council and the below three points were brought up:
 1. Hahei
 2. Hot Water
 3. Lee's Road
- 3) The point of the Lee's Road car park is to spread the load, environmental effects, visual impacts and create another access to the walkways.
- 4) The Lee's Road access to the car park is being looked into and will be up to safety standards.
- 5) Purangi crossing is a red hearing and a few options can be investigated and Shane has existing concession.
- 6) Pa Road car park should be free.
- 7) Beach parking restrictions is a good idea.

Alistair Sims: What are you doing at Lee's Road?

Ian: I am having conversations with Council & at this point the public doesn't need to be involved. Confidential until finalised.

8) Who here doesn't think walking is a good idea? - (General consensus from all that attended that there was overall support for walkways).

Ron: Changes to the Report:

1. Assumptions are wrong, regarding the 2 hour parking turnarounds.

2. Page 1 - South of Hahei not south of Hot Water Beach.

MWH: The 2 hour is robust and the report is a good start point/bases.

John Dallimore:

1. You say there is support for the Lee's Road car park, there isn't. Stakeholders are not in support of Lee's Road.

- Worried about the top of Lee's Road.

- The whole road needs to be upgraded.

- Campervans not stopping at the car park and going to the top of the road.

- Passing bays

2. Theme - Support the Great walks around the district but not the traffic that comes with it.

3. Purangi crossing not simple and more time needs to be put into investigating it.

Cathy Bologney: Question to Matt Busch

- What are Council going to do about the issues with the Kopu-Hikuai Road and the passing bays?

Matt: We only deal with Council roads and state highways are not Council roads. These issues need to be passed onto NZTA.

Brian Ross: Assumptions regarding turn around 2hrs. If changed to 4 hours, the report is wrong.

MWH - Allan Gregory: Question to the Meeting; How do we get people out of the village to stop congestion?

- Gated community?

- Resident only parking?

- Council is looking at huge investment to help with congestion regardless of the Great Walks.

Public: All could be options that could be looked into.

Anne Donovan: Suggestion - Isn't there a way to control when people can walk the walks like they do at Milford Sounds.

Greg Dickie:

Observation - General turn around every 4 hours.

Dianna Belle:

- Buses coming many of the main roads can't turn around. Buses therefore in all car parks need to be accommodated for.

Idea - Dedicated Bus Parks

Ron Egan: Suggestion - Residents only permit scheme.

Note:

- Where do we go from here? Good report but has some holes in it.

MWH - Allan Gregory: Decisions need to be made and we need recommendations to take back to Council.

John North:

- Want report updated.

- Stakeholders meeting next Wednesday at 4pm - The Agenda is to go through the Traffic Management plan and do a formal response to the Council.

- Public meeting 28th of November 2015, involving Iwi, Council and DOC.

Note:

- Agreed that further data is needed and this summer period coming is a good opportunity to gather more data.

John North: What are Len's thoughts on the MWH's report?

Len:

- Agree with MWH that more data is needed.
- Len was here personally in Hahei over the last summer period.
- First thing we want to do is the Pa Road car park straight to stage two of 200 car parks.
- This report is a good start point and gives us an idea on where to go now.
- TCDC has to look at roading as a whole for the whole district.
- We need more car parks than just Pa Road.

Public - what's happening with the Great Walks John?

John Gaukrodger:

- The two things occurring at the moment are below.

1. Planting through the gorse.
2. Work in Stella Evered's.

Mike Wilkinson: Has anyone costed out the option of a resident only parking and looked at the bigger picture?

Where to from here:

John North: Thank you.

- Thank you everyone for attending and as we all can see everyone is very passionate about this area.
- A formal response/recommendations will be sent to Council after Wednesday stakeholders meeting.

Meeting concluded at 3.17pm