

11 April 2016

Thames Coromandel District Council  
Mercury Bay Service Centre  
10 Monk Street, Whitianga 3510

Attention: Glenn Leach, Mayor

Subject: Great Walk Governance Meetings

Dear Glenn

Thank you calling me on Friday, 1 April to discuss the Hahei Ratepayers Association participation in the Great Walk Governance Meetings. I understand you would like to us to limit our participation to about 30 mins at either the start or end of the Governance Meetings.

We have considered your proposal and have the following comments.

1. **Local Leadership works** – we have stated on numerous occasions that we believe the Hahei Community should have a permanent representative on the Governance Board when matters relating to Hahei are determined. We do not understand why you continue to reject this recommendation. This is our position not because we want to take control of the project, but because there is clear evidence that local walks are only successful if there is strong local leadership. Just look at the Pauanui to Tairua Trail or the even more impressive, the Old Ghost Road (<http://www.oldghostroad.org.nz/>) Both have been led by enthusiastic locals, with **support** from government authorities. Imposing ideas developed outside small communities, as you have found, is very difficult and can be very expensive.

We remain convinced that the only way you will be successful in implementing any walks Hahei is for TCDC/DoC to act as the facilitator. You should empower the local community to build its own walks with your support. Local ownership of the concept is the key to success.

As you know, in the current legal environment, it is easy to stop projects, but getting them built is much more difficult. We want to see the proposed Walk a success and strongly believe that is only with our active leadership and support that will progress be made.

2. **Separate Carparks from Walks**– we believe the project should be divided into to two separate work streams – Car Parking/Traffic Management and the Walk. We recognise separate funding sources causes you to integrate the Pa Rd car park with the Walk but from an engineering stand point and most importantly, from Hahei's point of view, we want to see TCDC focussed on building car parks and managing traffic in our area. If we knew there was team focussed on getting the carparks built by next summer, there would more support for Walks. Once the car parks are built, it will be much easier to find local enthusiasts to help build walks.

By separating to two work streams, the Governance Meetings could also be divided into the two separate work streams. We wish to participate in all Car Park/Traffic Management discussions, but only attend Walk meetings for a short time. This is of course the basis, that there will be no construction of the Blow Hole Walk until Car parking and traffic management has been completed and proved to be successful.

3. **Current Issues to be covered at the next Governance meeting** – Currently, all our issues relate the traffic management. Here is list of matters we would like addressed the next meeting.
  - a. **Grange Rd Car Park** – We continue to be very disappointed that a management plan for the Grange Rd Car Park has not been agreed. Key points are
    - i. *On Going Chaos* - Although parking in January is reasonably well managed, it remains chaotic for the remainder of the year. For instance, over Easter, cars were backed up down Grange Rd while a Kiwi Adventure bus took about 40 mins to drop off passengers. Just look at TripAdvisor and you will see that the main comment is “. great place ... but parking terrible parking... “
    - ii. *Free Overnight Parking* - Normally there about 20 Campervans and cars parked overnight. They enjoy one of the best sunrises in the Coromandel and use toilet facilities for free. If we are serious about earning income from our wonderful tourist destinations, this must stop or at the very least, charge them for overnight parking.
    - iii. *Failure to generate revenues* – Conservatively, we estimate at least \$1,000 per day could be generated if a pay and display system were installed. Every day agreement is delayed, it costs ratepayers at least \$1000 and we would like to know why this matter is not getting the urgency it deserves. Who is responsible for this delay? How can we help?
  - b. **Hahei Entrance Car Park** – We continue to support this important car park, however, as we have discussed, our community strongly believe toilet facilities should be included. Please update us the provision of toilets.
  - c. **Lees Rd and Car Park** – We look forward to seeing drawings and a work plan for the new car park. Once we have this information we will be able to comment.
  - d. **Overall Traffic Management** – We look forward to receiving the MHW Traffic Study update. For your information, we are forming a Hahei Visitor management group that will use information from the MWH report and local input to develop a long term plan for our community.
4. **Governance Meeting Agenda** - Having considered your proposal, we believe that is in your interests for you to provide us with a complete review of Traffic Management/Car Parks work stream, and a short review of the Walk. Following the management team’s presentations, the Hahei and South Mercury Bay Communities will make short presentations.

Specifically, we suggest that the agenda for our participation in the meeting should be as follows.

Topic	Items covered	Presenter
Project Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Top 5 key challenges</li> <li>• Financial Summary, including funding secured, Final Cost, spend to date, broken down according key work streams/packages</li> <li>• Overall Project Schedule</li> </ul>	Project Manager
Grange Rd Car Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Status of Negotiation for TCDC to take over management</li> <li>• TCDC Management Plan</li> </ul>	To be decided
Hahei Entrance Car Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project report including drawing status, approval status, construction progress. Highlight any local issues that we can help resolve</li> </ul>	Hahei Entrance Car Park Project Manager
Lees Rd Upgrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project scope, specification and Updated Drawings.</li> <li>• Approval Status</li> </ul>	Lees Rd Project Manager
Lees Rd Car Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project scope, specification and Updated Drawings.</li> <li>• Approval Status</li> </ul>	Lees Rd Project Manager
MHW Traffic Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review report and assess implications</li> </ul>	Project Manager
Walk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brief overall project status</li> <li>• Purangi Crossing Status</li> </ul>	Walk Project Manager
Hahei issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key Project Issues for Hahei Community</li> </ul>	Chairman Hahei Ratepayers Association
Cooks Beach/Ferry Landing Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key Project Issues for Cooks Beach area</li> </ul>	Chairman South Mercury Bay Ratepayers Association

For each topic, please send us all documentation at least 5 days before the meeting. This allow us time to consult with our community, and should enable us to cover the above matters in about 30 mins.

In summary, as representatives of the Hahei Community, we want to work with you to make the project a success. We have no interest in being involved in the detailed project management – that is the responsibility of the project managers. However, to enable us to work with our local community and facilitate the successful completion of project, we need to understand status of, at a minimum, the items outlined above.

We look forward to your confirmation that the next Governance Meeting will be conducted as requested.

Yours faithfully

Bill Stead

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bill Stead', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chairman of Hahei Beach Ratepayers Association