

23 May 2001

5/7/KRC  
RMH:FAC

Koitiata Residents Committee  
C/- Peter Fraser  
31 Rapaki Street  
TURAKINA BEACH

Dear Mr Fraser

**DECISION - RESOURCE CONSENT NO. 101797**

We are pleased to advise that your resource consent application has been granted. The decision is enclosed and because it is a legal document we urge you to keep it in a safe place.

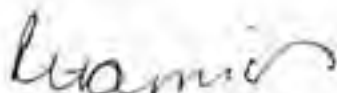
Please make sure you read and understand the consent conditions. As a resource consent holder you are responsible for complying with these conditions. Failure to do so may result in enforcement action by **horizons.mw**.

**horizons.mw** staff will monitor your compliance with the consent conditions. This may involve site visits by staff which will be charged in accordance with our cost recovery policy.

The staff member who will be responsible for monitoring your consent is Allan Cook. Allan can be contacted during normal office hours on 06-327 7189.

If you are uncertain about any aspects of the consent or your rights of appeal please do not hesitate to call us.

Yours faithfully



Robyn Harrison  
**CONSENTS ADMINISTRATOR**

Encl Decision



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horizons.mw is the trading name of the Marlborough District Council



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5/7/KRC  
GTL:FAC

23 May 2001

## **Resource Management Act 1991**

### **Decision on an Application**

#### **for Resource Consent**

Applicant:  
Koitiata Residents Committee  
C/- Peter Fraser  
31 Rapaki Street  
TURAKINA BEACH

Application No: 101797 for a Coastal Permit (Land use)  
Location: Former Turakina Riverbed, Turakina Beach  
Catchment No: 330000  
Legal Description: Pt Run 17 SO 15835  
Valuation No: N/A  
Map Reference: S23:923-237  
Regional Policy Statement Policies: Objectives 22 and 23, Policies 22.1, 22.2 and 23.1  
Regional Plans: Regional Coastal Plan  
Regional Rules: RCP Rule 37.1  
Activity Type: Discretionary

The application is for consent for activities restricted by Section 12 of the Act.

#### **The Application**

The Applicant seeks consent to construct, use and maintain an accessway across the former estuary of the Turakina River, an area defined as Protection Area in the Regional Coastal Plan. The river has avulted leaving a lagoon in the area formerly occupied by the channel between the Turakina Beach Township and the beach. Since the river has changed course and the lagoon has formed pedestrian access to the beach from the township has been extremely difficult.

The proposed crossing structure will be approximately 33 metres long and 5 metres wide spanning the former river bed. The structure will be constructed from sand supported by approximately 600 polypropylene sandbags along its margins. The 'deck' of the accessway will sit approximately 150mm below the summer low water level, and approximately 450mm below the winter water level. The Applicant has also suggested river gravels may be placed on top of the accessway to prevent sand being washed off the structure from vehicle movements.

The structure will be constructed over a nine-day period, preferably before the native bird nesting season. The Applicant anticipates periodic maintenance of the structure will be required. Such maintenance may include topping up the level of the sand between the sandbags.

The Applicant has provided the written approvals of the Department of Conservation, the tangata whenua and the Rangitikei District Council.

**horizons.mw's** Area Engineer - Northern also provided his written approval. The Engineer considered the proposal would provide a practicable means of access to the beach and have minimal adverse environmental effects.

## **Environmental Effects**

**horizons.mw's** Consulting Engineer has assessed this application.

The proposed structure is to be constructed in an area designated as a Protection Area (Turakina River Estuary). The estuary is considered to be a nationally important strategic site for migratory bird species and provides a habitat for threatened bird species. Although the estuary is currently not functioning as an estuary, its extensive mudflat areas continue to provide important roosting and feeding habitat for wading birds.

The Consulting Engineer recognises the potential for the proposed causeway to restrict the free movement of water along the old river channel. However he also recognises that the accessway will lie at least 100mm below summer low water level and that the effect will be minimal.

The Consulting Engineer has also considered the likely effects the structure would cause have if the Turakina River was to reclaim its former channel. He recognises the accessway would form a barrier to flows and elevate water levels upstream. However he considers the flow of the river would quickly wash away the structure as it will not be constructed to withstand the full flow of the river. A condition has been imposed on the consent to ensure that the polypropylene sandbags are removed from the environment in the event of the structure being obliterated by the River. The Consent does not authorise the reconstruction of the accessway should it be destroyed.

The Consulting Engineer considers the likelihood of adverse effects occurring during construction and use of the accessway is minimal provided the recommended conditions of consent are complied with.

The accessway will also facilitate access by vehicles to the sensitive sand dune habitat on the seaward side of the lagoon. Although vehicle movements may adversely affect the dunes, this activity is not specifically related to the proposal and therefore cannot be restricted under this consent. However **horizons.mw's** Consents Planner notes that the Department of Conservation has provided a written approval to the proposal.

The Consulting Engineer recommends the consent be granted and conditions imposed to avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse environmental effects that have the potential to become significant. However although **horizons.mw**'s Consulting Engineer considers the environmental effects of the proposed activity will be minor, neither he nor **horizons.mw** guarantee or confirm the structural integrity of the structure.

## Planning Assessment

Objective 22 of the Regional Policy Statement is to avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects of activities in the coastal environment. The Objective is supported by Policies 22.1 and 22.3.

Objective 23 of the Regional Policy Statement is to maintain or enhance public access to and along the coastal marine area. The Objective is supported by Policy 23.1 which seeks to implement the Objective provided access will not adversely affect the environment.

The proposal will not conflict with the Objectives or their supporting Policies, provided the mitigation measures recommended as consent conditions are adhered to.

The proposed structure requires consent for a Discretionary Activity under RCP Rule 37.1(a) of the Regional Coastal Plan. Maintenance of the proposed accessway is provided for as a Permitted Activity under RCP Rule 31 of the Regional Coastal Plan provided no contaminants are released to coastal water as a result of the maintenance activity.

Although the discharge of sediment into water during the construction period may contravene the water quality standards in Section 107(1) of the Act, the discharge will be temporary and minor and comply with the exemption provisions of Section 107(2) of the Act.

The mitigation measures recommended as consent conditions will avoid or mitigate the potential for the proposal to cause significant adverse effects.

## Costs

Section 36 of the Act provides for the recovery of extra costs from an applicant when an application deposit is inadequate to meet the actual and reasonable costs of processing the application. In this case the Applicant did not pay a deposit.

The costs incurred by **horizons.mw** in processing this application were:

Staff Time	
Consents Planner 1.5 hours @ \$57.00 per hour	\$ 85.50
Consulting Engineer 1.5 hours @ \$75.00 per hour	\$112.50
Team Leader Consents 0.5 hours @ \$65.00 per hour	\$ 32.50
Administration Fee	\$ 70.00
Sub Total (Excl GST)	\$300.50

GST	\$ 37.56
No Deposit	
<b>Total Costs Owning (Incl GST)</b>	<b><u>\$338.06</u></b>

### The Decision

- A. The Team Leader Consents of the Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council (trading as **horizons.mw**) has considered this non-notified application. On 23 May 2000 the Team Leader, pursuant to delegated authority under Section 34 of the Resource Management Act, grants Coastal Permit 101797 pursuant to Section 105 of the Act, to Koitiata Residents Committee to construct and place an accessway for a term expiring on 23 May 2002 and to use the structure and associated temporary discharge of sediment into coastal water and to occupy space in the Coastal Marine Area with the structure for a term expiring on 23 May 2036 subject to the following conditions.
1. The activities authorised by this permit shall be restricted to the construction, placement, use and maintenance of a sand and polypropylene sandbag accessway in the Coastal Marine Area the at or about map reference S23:923-237 and in general accordance with Plans C101797 A, B and C attached to and forming part of this permit except as otherwise provided in the conditions of this permit.
  2. No construction or maintenance activities authorised by this permit shall be undertaken between 1 July and 31 August.
  3. The Permit Holder shall take all practicable measures to avoid disturbance of the habitat of wading or migratory birds during the exercise of this permit.
  4. The Permit Holder shall ensure that the materials used in construction of the accessway are free of contaminants, substances toxic to aquatic and marine life, and silt grade fines as far as is practicable.
  5. The Permit Holder shall undertake the works in such a manner that minimises the release of sand or sediment into surface water during the exercise of this permit.
  6. Any surplus materials not required as part of the structure remaining after the construction, repair and maintenance activities shall be removed from the work area immediately upon completion of the work.
  7. The Permit Holder shall ensure that:
    - a. no machinery leaking fuel, lubricants, hydraulic fluids or solvents is permitted to work within the stream bed, or in a position where such contaminants may enter the stream bed; and
    - b. no refuelling of any vehicles, machinery or equipment is permitted to take place within the stream bed or in a position where spills may enter the stream bed; and
    - c. the storage of fuel or contaminants adjacent to the stream bed does not result in any fuel or contaminants entering the stream bed.

8. The Permit Holder shall ensure the structure is maintained in effective condition at all times during the maintenance term of the consent.

Note: Maintenance is defined as restoration of a structure to a state of good repair and includes the reconstruction or alteration of part of a structure provided the maintenance activity does not increase the area occupied by the structure, or change the character, scale or intensity of any effects of the structure on the environment (except to reduce any adverse effects or increase any positive effects). Maintenance does not include extending, removing, demolishing, or replacing and reconstructing an entire structure if destroyed. It is recommended the Permit Holder contacts **horizons.mw's** Team Leader Compliance prior to commencing any maintenance works to ensure the proposed maintenance works fit within the definition of maintenance and that the works can be undertaken without further Permits under Regional Coastal Plan.

9. In the event of the structure being destroyed by the Turakina River reclaiming the channel the Permit Holder shall, as far as is practicable, remove all the polypropylene bags that formed the sides of the structure.
10. The Permit Holder shall advise **horizons.mw's** Team Leader Compliance at least two working days prior to commencement of any works and at the completion of the works, to enable a site inspection to ensure that permit conditions have been met.
11. Charges, set in accordance with Section 36(1)c of the Resource Management Act 1991, and Section 690 A of the Local Government Act 1974, shall be paid to **horizons.mw** for the carrying out of its functions in relation to the administration, monitoring and supervision of this resource permit and for the carrying out of its functions under Section 35 (duty to gather information, monitor, and keep records) of the Act.

[Note: Section 36(1)c of the Act provides that **horizons.mw** may from time to time fix charges payable by holders of resource consents. The procedure for setting administrative charges is governed by Section 36(2) of the Act and is currently carried out as part of the formulation of **horizons.mw's** Annual Plan.]

- B. The Team Leader Consents resolved that the Applicant shall pay actual and reasonable costs of processing of this application of \$ 338.06 (GST Incl).

### **Reasons for this Decision**

In making his decision on this application pursuant to Section 105(1)(b) of the Resource Management Act, the Team Leader Consents had regard to matters as required by Section 104 of the Act.

The Team Leader considers that the activity is consistent with the sustainable management principles contained in Section 5 of the Act and that no significant long term adverse effects will arise from the activity, provided the mitigation measures required by consent conditions are complied with.

The Team Leader imposed conditions on the Permit to ensure that the potential adverse effects of the activity will be avoided, remedied or mitigated. He has specific regard to potential effects on water quality, the habitat of fauna and effects on the stability of the former bed of the Turakina River. The Team Leader also recognised the value of the Region's Coastal Marine Area in imposing conditions to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects.

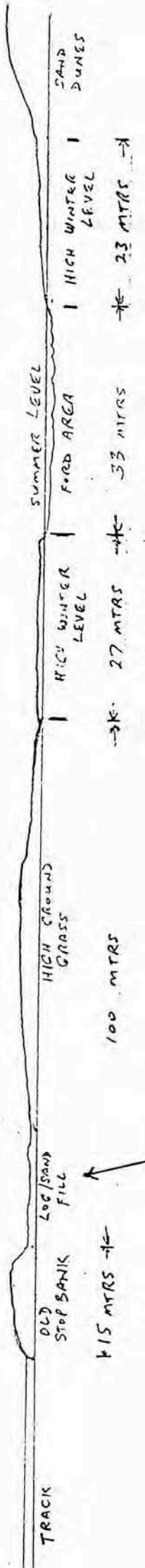
The Team Leader is satisfied that with the conditions imposed, the activities authorised by these consents will not conflict with the Regional Policy Statement for the Manawatu-Wanganui Region or the Regional Coastal Plan



M J McCartney  
**TEAM LEADER CONSENTS**

23 May 2001

SIDE ELEVATION EXISTING

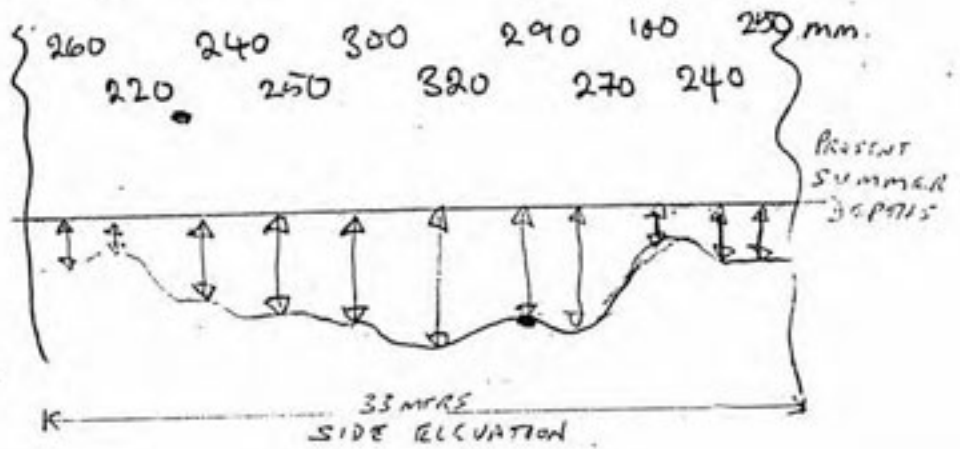


PROPOSED CULVERT  
FOR 11TH/5TH SEEPAGE

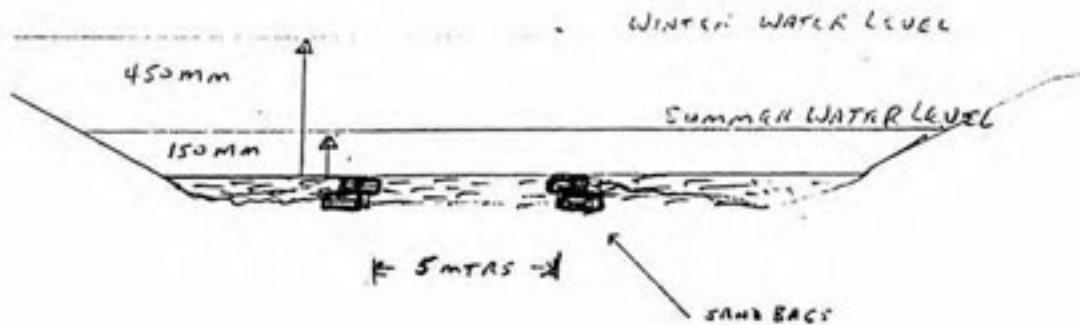
SCALE 1:750



EXISTING DEPTHS



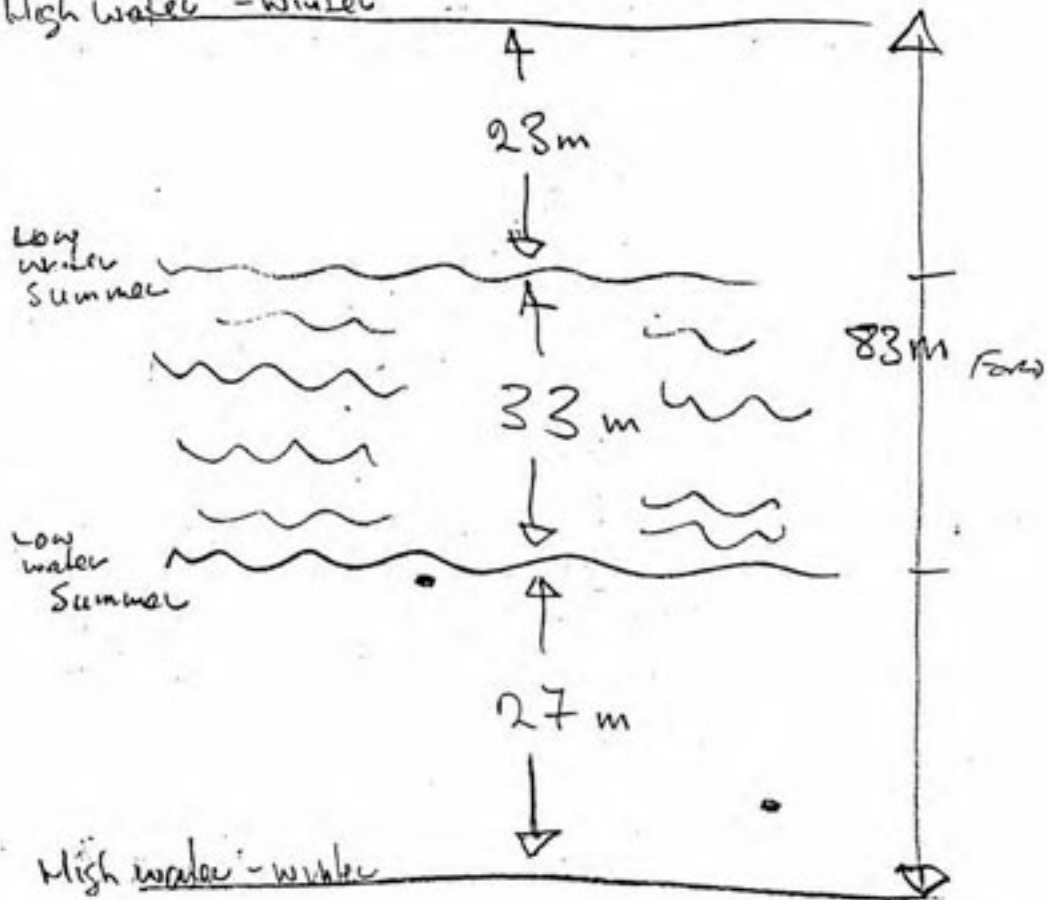
PROPOSED FORD  
X SECTION



Sea Side (west)

SAND DUNES

High water - winter



# Green light for access ford

AN impasse over access to Turakina Beach looks like being settled.

Residents of the beach community Koitiata last week received formal consent to build a ford across a lagoon formed three years ago when the Turakina River broke through dunes to form a new outfall.

Initially, many residents keen to have unhindered access to the beach were hopeful that the river's original estuary, parallel to the coast, would dry up.

Instead, the lagoon that's formed has become an even greater barrier to the beach than the river was because its less susceptible to tides.

Committee chairman Peter Smith said the proposal appeared to become a source of "unease" for authorizing agents at the Department of Conservation and regional council horizons m.w.

Consequently, the committee dropped its campaign for the "environmentally and technically difficult" causeway in favour of a "low impact" ford constructed in sand and topped with river stones. Last week's approval was for a submerged 33 metre long, five metre wide crossing sand-bagged at its margins.

Consenting authority horizons m.w. said because the "accessway" will lie "at least 100mm below the summer-low water level" its effect on "a nationally important site for migratory bird species" will be "minimal".

Horizons said: "Although the estuary is not functioning as an estuary, its extensive mudflat areas continue to provide important roosting and feeding habitat for wading birds, including threatened species."

Mr Smith said the ford will be submerged beneath 100 to



Picture: HAMISH WHITE

**FORD PLANNING:** Koitiata residents' Committee chairman Peter Smith flanked by the lagoon that hampers access to the local beach

150mm of water in summer and beneath 300 to 400mm in winter.

"The proposal is to bring it back to something like what we had when we had a river", he said.

"In summer it's going to be an ankle-deep stroll and much safer for children and

elderly people."

The residents' committee has secured pub charity of more than \$1000 from Wanganui's Federal Hotel to cover the cost of consent and the upgrade of a track leading to the site of the proposed ford.

Discounted excavator hire provided by local farmer

Alex Glasgow and sand donated by district councillor Bob Major will help ease the burden on volunteers starting the project this week.

Horizons m.w. has stipulated that the crossing is to be constructed within nine days "preferably before the native bird nesting season" (July

and August).

Mr Smith said: "Koitiata people want it done before whitebaiting starts."

"Providing the weather's o.k and the digger driver's happy, we hope to have it done before the end of next month."

HAMISH WHITE