

Petition: Officers' Response

Title: This 'Harbour City' of ours requires jetties at Boat Ramps

Primary Petitioner: Marc O'Connor
Total Signatures: 44 (via ePetition)

Presented by: Marc O'Connor
Contact officer: Peter Hemsley – Manager Coastal and Sports Turf,
Paul Andrews – Manager Parks and Gardens

Director responsible: Neville Brown – Director City Services

Officers' recommendation:

Officers recommend that the Committee:

1. *Receive the information*
2. *Agree that no further action will be taken and that officers will thank the petitioner for his petition and advise the petitioner that no action is appropriate on it*

Background:

The ePetition 'This 'Harbour City' of ours requires jetties at Boat Ramps was initiated by Marc O'Connor on 16 July 2010 and closed on 16 September 2010. There are three formed and one sand boat ramps on the south coast in the following areas (See attached map).

The purpose of the petition is to request the Wellington City Council to improve boat launching facilities on Wellington's South Coast.

The petition was open to all members of the public with internet access to the Council's website. It received 44 signatures.

Officers' response:

While we have had a small number of previous requests to install floating pontoons and piles at the Owhiro Bay boat ramp since the ramp was built. The design of the ramp purposely did not include piles or pontoons so that the natural values of the south coast were preserved.

The exposed nature of Wellington's South Coast means that any pile/ pontoon structure would not survive due to the exposed nature of the coastline.

Piles would be considered a new structure and the relevant policy in the South Coast Management Plan (2002) is to seek to limit new structures on the coast, specifically on the seaward side of the road to only those that are necessary. 'Necessary' is assessed in the primary context of coastal values and implies that all other options have been explored or that alternatives are not available.

To undertake any further construction Council would be required to obtain a resource consent. The ramp is now also within the Tapu Te Ranga marine reserve boundary.

The original construction of this boat ramp and the required resource consent was challenged by the local community at the time and went to the environment court. Any decision to install piles is likely to face similar community opposition.

In regards to the safety risk in this area of the coast the lack of piles has an advantage of ensuring that a minimum of two adults are required when launching. The exposed nature of the ramp is that it can only be used in fair weather which also supports the use by experienced boaties only.

Council's priorities are to upgrade the main boat ramp at Evans Bay within existing LTCCP budgets. This includes the replacement of the northern finger jetty (scheduled) the upgrade of the ramp surface and the south finger jetty and the addition of pontoons if the current wave surge can be addressed.

Officers recommend that this petition is not supported

