

Information Release 6 February 2023

OKRA – New Kuratau Erosion Committee – First Result

The Omori-Kuratau Ratepayers Association (OKRA) formalised a sub-committee (Kuratau Erosion Committee) on Friday 3rd February to represent members and the community with both the erosion and lake level issues. It has been working closely with TDC over the past weeks, and is very pleased with the first result.

We were advised by Taupo District Council (TDC) late on Friday evening that stronger preventative measures will be undertaken to limit the erosion along the eastern shore of Kuratau. Currently TDC has been undertaking beach nourishment (sand dumping) which has not worked as hoped.

TDC's senior staff responsible for the issues advised they have agreed to the following actions for now:

As a temporary measure, construction of a geotextile and armour rock barrier starting from just south of the existing rock revetment near the playground (end Parehopu Street), with work expected to commence on Tuesday 7 February.

They will continue to replenish the beach with sediment at various locations. Public perception is that this is not effective, however advice from TDC's technical experts supports continuation of this activity in the interests of longer-term positive effects.

Monitor the health of the (currently submerged) living walls south of the river mouth. When lake levels reduce, some remediation may be required.

- Speak with building inspectors and request that they conduct inspections of lakeside properties where there is concern that erosion may have caused damage to the properties or services.
- Continue to monitor all erosion effects using the marker poles along the beach.
- Continue to consider long term solutions in discussion with the other key parties concerned with this matter e.g. Mercury, WRC etc.

OKRA - Kuratau Erosion Committee - Tasks

Happily ratepayers should note this is the first stage of rectifying the reserves/foreshore, it is not an overnight fix, but this is a tremendous step towards ensuring Kuratau has a reserve along its eastern edge. So patience at this point is requested, as more work will be done by our Kuratau Erosion Committee over the coming months (let's not hope years!) including:

Erosion – Short and Long Term

The short-term mitigation, as stated above, of the geotextile and armour rock barrier is a temporary measure, but it very much needed immediately to halt the erosion.

However, while this work is being undertaken we'll be working with TDC on the most viable and suitable long-term erosion mitigation to protect and restore the area.

This week we will ask TDC what is happening to the area between the river mouth and Parehopu Street, and ascertain the erosion prevention measures there.

For other areas within Omori-Kuratau we will work with TDC on your behalf where necessary.

Lake Level

- Currently this is left with TDC as:

Within the next 2-3 weeks they are meeting the relevant parties of Mercury, Waikato Regional Council (WRC), and Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board. OKRA-Kuratau Erosion Committee is invited to represent our community.

This is to discuss the resource consent process which stipulates the lake levels which Mercury/WRC work to. This five yearly consent is due October this year and in the past has not been notifiable but effectively rolled over.

With TDC acknowledging the detrimental effects of the continuously high lake level the aim of this meeting is to make the resource consent a notifiable process.

If this becomes notifiable, we (OKRA via Kuratau Erosion Committee) will put a submission in.

If this does not become notifiable, we will tackle the various parties of Mercury and Waikato District Council. This will be a much tougher task.

Please note: The focus by the Kuratau Erosion Committee is on our Omori-Kuratau area only, with our remit to represent this area. At

times we will share info and work with other groups, however we believe it best to have many different parties working separately, as more squeaky wheels we hope will get the desired result!

So we have a good starting point, and thanks to all of you who have contacted TDC over the past year or so – reiterating how bad the erosion was. Thanks also to Turangi-Tongariro Ward Councillor Sandra Greenslade as she has helped open doors and advocate on our behalf.

New Point of Contact for Lake Shore Erosion & Lake Level Issues:

Importantly, TDC now ask that you do not contact them directly for lake shore erosion or lake level issues – they acknowledge the genuine concerns, but would appreciate if channelled through the new erosion committee.

So for Lake Shore Erosion & Lake Level Issues (only) that spokesperson is me, Angela Salmon – with my details of:

angela@asalmon.co.nz or 0274 751 069.

Please note emails are much preferred with good detail and photos if relevant. So please channel any queries through me. But as noted above, patience is requested please as we believe the relationship with TDC is on a good footing and we are very positive about what we can achieve on your behalf.

All the best,

Angela Salmon

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For Kuratau Erosion Committee – OKRA (Angela Salmon, James Kendall, Nicky Reeves)