



Minutes

SMP Coastal Panel Meeting 12: Draft Coastal Adaptation Plans

- Times & Date: South East Coast 9:00am-12:00pm Tuesday 24/05/22
- Venues: Whangamata Council Boardroom or MS Teams
- Chairperson: Amon Martin (South East)
- Attendees: **TCDC** - Amon Martin, Jamie Boyle, Karen Moffatt-McLeod
SMP Consultant (Royal HaskoningDHV) – Sian John, Nick Lewis
Mitch Crotty – Via Teams
Coastal Panel Members: Jean McCann,
Paul Shanks, Matthew Purdon,
Via MS Teams - Callum Stewart,
Eleanor Haughey, Sharon Harvey, Victoria Spence,

WRC: Alejandro Cifuentes
- Apologies: Kerry Gibb, **Chris New, Christina Needham,**
- Observers:

Meeting Objective

Review and sign-off of draft Coastal Adaptation Plans for submission to the SMP Committee of Council and public consultation.

Agenda Items

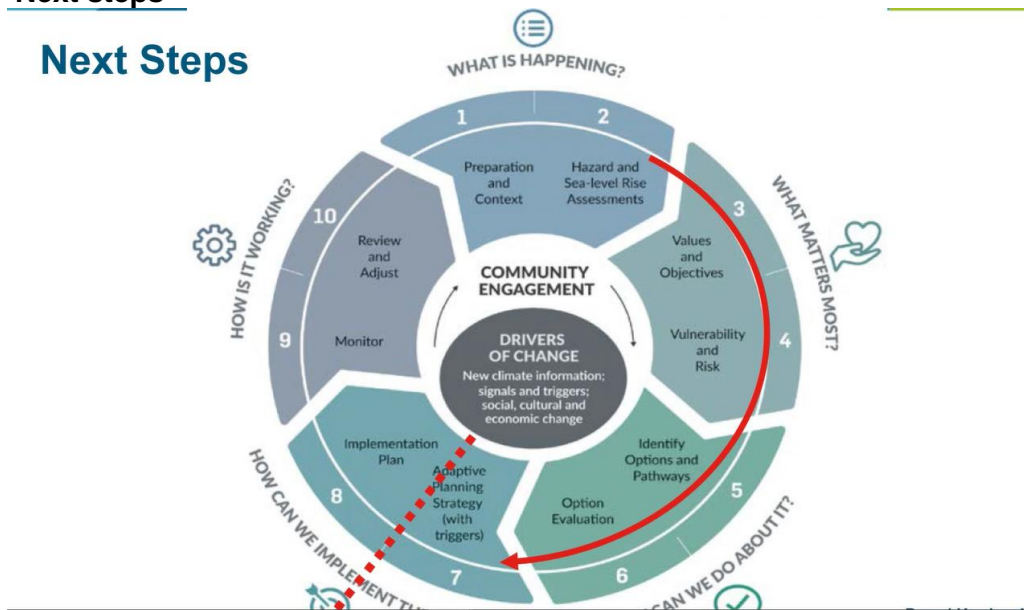
1. Introduction
2. Progress:
 - Minutes of Meeting 11 (March 2022)

- Review of Actions

Updated table below

3. Next steps

Next Steps



Next Steps

1. *“Last” Coastal Panels Meeting (Today)*
2. *Public Meetings Starting (June 17)*
3. *Place holder Coastal Panel Meeting (July 7,8)*
4. *SMP Committee Adoption (August 18)*
5. *Council Adoption (September 13)*

See timeline calendar for more details

4. **Feedback on draft Coastal Adaptation Plans**

- Comments from the community
- Comments from the Coastal Panel
- Agree any updates
- This first on is a summary map.

PU124 - Hikuai

Strategy

The adaptation strategy proposed for this Policy Unit includes developing planning policy that restricts inappropriate development in the hazard zones in the short term. Further to this, in the near future, Waka Kotahi NZTA will need to raise sections of SH25 and other local roads may also need to be raised. However, it is acknowledged that further cross-agency co-ordination is required regarding this location. WRC are planning to undertake hydraulic modelling to provide better information on river flooding events and have recently installed a Tairua River water level recorder on Morrison Road bridge to assist with setting alarm levels and defining response actions.

Further targeted consultation with the community is proposed and will be led by WRC.

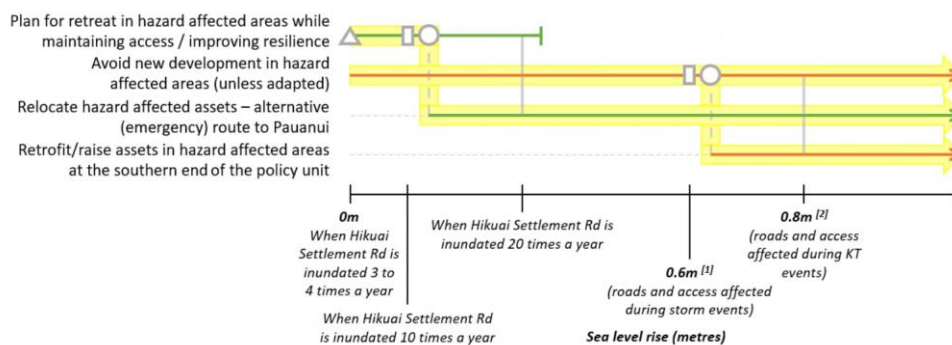
PU125 – Tairua River East

Strategy

The issues relevant to the southern end of this Policy Unit overlap with those relevant to Hikuai, where WRC are planning to undertake hydraulic modelling to provide better information on river flooding events. The Hikuai Settlement Road is already inundated 3 to 4 times a year (typically near the junction with SH25), signalling a need for action. However, this is largely associated with river flooding/rainfall events. The proposed trigger for the relocation of hazard affected assets (including providing an alternative route to Pauanui) is when the Settlement Road is flooded 10 times a year (restricting access).

With 0.6m of sea level rise, roads at the southern end of the Policy Unit will also be affected by coastal inundation and increasing the height of affected infrastructure is proposed.

Needs further clarification.



Do the pathways fit the issues in this area? Flooding around Settlement Rd is fluvial rather than coastal.

SJ – we need to ensure that the road is raised as an appropriate time.

AM – a secondary route for an alternative route is a good back up for emergencies

EC – gas stations need a long lead in time to any changes/retreat

Action: Pathway needs to be re done to make it clearer

AM – we need to raise the road (floods 3-4 times a year) so it doesn't get worse.

AC – note that there is a fluvial component on the pathway

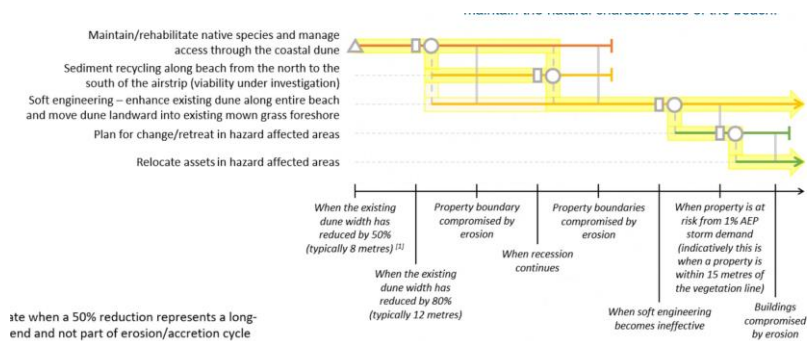
VS – area of road where it dips down is very low and would flood too

PU127 - Pauanui Beach

Strategy

The adaptation strategy for this Policy Unit in the short term includes rehabilitating the dunes by planting native species and managing access. In addition, due to erosion rates at the southern end of the beach in the last two years being higher than the historical trend, options for beach nourishment (e.g., from the estuary entrance and offshore) are being investigated. Once the existing dune width has reduced by 80%¹ soft engineering is advocated to enhance the dune and move it landwards into the existing reserve. This could be supplemented by beach nourishment/sediment placement (at a reasonably significant cost) that may remain on the beach for 10 to 20 years (under normal circumstances) or 1 to 2 years (if the events of recent years are replicated).

Over a 100-year timescale, the soft engineering is also expected to be compromised and, in time, properties compromised by erosion. The adaptation strategy advocated should this arise is retreat of the affected assets. This approach aligns with the values of the wider community to maintain the natural characteristics of the beach.



SJ – feedback for Pauanui has been strong and diverse e.g. natural, soft engineering, rocks etc

The trigger in some locations has already happened and some work has been undertaken recently.

PS – looking at the significant event in the last 2 years, thinks Pauanui has nothing to worry about. Terminology should be 'if' not 'when'.

EC – step of moving houses is missing from the chart.

AM – alternative is to wait and make that decision later on – more time – easier to transition, but lots of other information in the future may effect the decision.

Consider the person buying the house, is it better to indicate retreat may be required, or leave it open

MP – leave it open

EC – leave it open – the choice should be there – need to warn people about retreat

SH - I would like to support planned retreat as opposed to rocks....keep one option open

CS – what is the general tone of the Pauanui Beach front owners in terms of a managed retreat type of scenario?

AM – there has been resistance – some want more done now e.g. soft engineering, others want rocks as their investment is more important that the beach.

CS – why would we rule out what might happen 30 years in the future? There may be other solutions by then. JM agrees

PS – another option is just to leave it – the beach will rehabilitate itself – natural engineering. If we rush in and do soft engineering – we may be spending money we don't need to.

SJ – believes the pathway is correct – advocating for retreat in the distant future and involves a handful of properties only. The few should not determine the solution when it has a detrimental effect on the other residence. SH agrees

AC – regulatory changes may suggest retreat , maybe on a natural cycle - would expected would be reflected in cost/benefit analysis

VS – from the point of view of ratepayers, it might be helpful to give an idea of cost of options in the short- and long-term solutions.

AM – cost to wider-ratepayer could be reduced by targeted rates to the property owners who are affected.

PS – keep options open (3 options)

JM – thinks options are too tight – maybe other options in the future – keep it open

EC – agrees with SJ comments, managed retreat puts the onus on the property owners.

AM – in the pathway provide both options, but in the words indicate that there maybe a small number of properties that may need to be retreated.

SJ – what we say here, does not determine the future – the plan would need to be reviewed as things change in the future

SH - I think managed retreat should be signalled so that investment is not encouraged in problematic areas/ on risky sites

VS – when we get to the point of managed retreat, it won't be such a frightening concept (new and frightening at the moment), by the time we get there we will be in a different world.

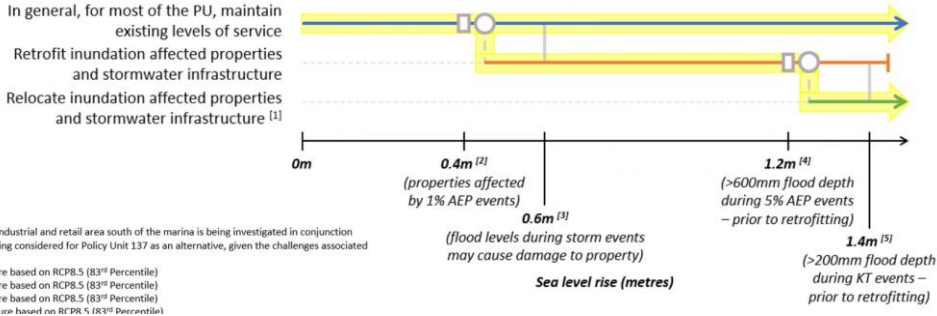
PU136 - Wentworth River East

CS – in the absence of having an alternative for the light industrial area, you have no other option than to protect it.

Strategy

In the long term, the adaptation pathway advocated for most of this Policy Unit is to maintain the existing levels of service (i.e., No Active Intervention). For the areas exposed to inundation (moderate to high risk), with 0.6m of sea level rise some properties will be impacted by storm events. Therefore, once 0.4m of sea level rise occurs (in the medium term), the properties and stormwater infrastructure in these locations will need to be retrofit and/or raised. In the long term, with 1.4m of sea level rise, the same assets are likely to be affected by King Tides and, prior to this, would need to be relocated.

As detailed below, however, a protect option is also being investigated (as an alternative to the above) given the importance of the light industrial and retail precinct to Whangamatā and the challenges that would be associated with relocating it (i.e., there is not an alternative location currently available in Whangamatā). Because floor levels are generally raised in this area, flooding during storm events is unlikely to cause damage until water depths exceed 0.5m (which is predicted to occur with 0.8 to 1m of sea level rise and a 1% AEP event, or 1 to 1.2m of sea level rise and a 5% AEP event); i.e., some 70 years into the future (dependent on the rate of sea level rise).



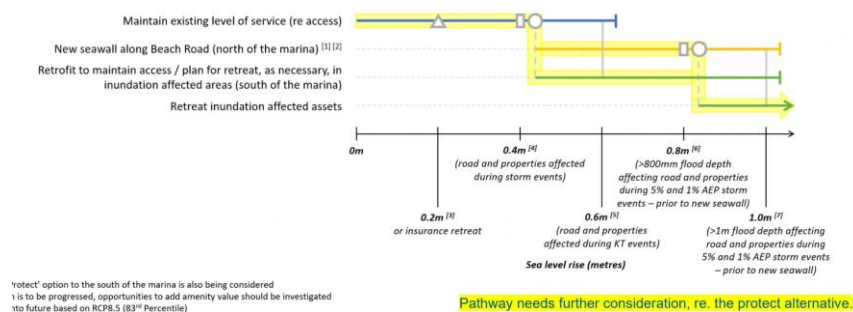
This location won't be impacted for some time – so may not need defending for 70 years – but we don't have 'defend' on this pathway. Do we need an alternative? E.g. defend or retreat.

CS – need both options – if not a risk until then, it is premature to decide so keep the options open to decide then

PU137 - Whangamata Marina

Strategy

In the short term the adaptation strategy for this Policy Unit is to maintain the existing level of service (particularly with respect to access). In the medium term, with 0.4m of sea level rise, Beach Road (between the marina and Rutherford Road) and the properties adjoining it would begin to be impacted by storm events. It is, therefore, proposed that this is the trigger for the construction of a new embankment to protect this part of Whangamatā. If this protection is not to extend south of the marina, with 0.8m of sea level rise, a significant depth of flood water would affect properties (and access) in this location during large storm events (including 10% AEP events) and retreat is advocated; other than to maintain access to other parts of Whangamatā.



There is a connection between these two PU's. Protection will work up to 0.8m when water would come in from the back which would restrict access, therefore if the prior PU is defended it would protect this area too.

CS – totally agrees with protecting the industrial area which would provide protection to this area as well.

PS – would be in danger of losing the sand on the south side if a hard structure put in place. Any change here will affect sediment transportation which will affect the bar.

AM – does strategy recognise the need to manage the risks associated with action taken here.

SJ – we would need to consider the effects, and closely look at design

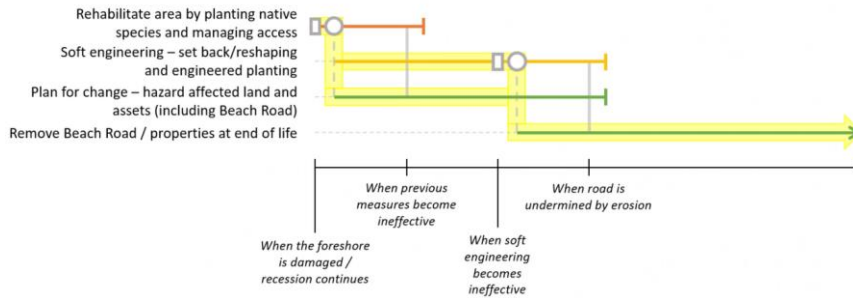
PU138 – Outer Whangamata Harbour

Strategy

Erosion of this foreshore is ongoing, and the existing groynes are not effective. In the very short term, therefore, the proposed adaptation strategy is to move from rehabilitation to reshaping the foreshore and providing a geotextile matrix (or similar) for planting and stabilisation.

In time, if the erosion of this foreshore continues, the soft engineering is likely to become ineffective and Beach Road may need to be removed. In advance of this, new development behind Beach Road should also be restricted.

The use of a hard engineering solution in this location is not advocated because of the influence is likely to have on the dynamic harbour entrance and, from there, Whangamatā beaches and offshore sand banks.



CS – has done a lot of surveys in this area. Historically almost eroded back to the road, groynes put in in early 80's, sand put in to widen. Up until last year it hasn't been unstable as it was historically. Area has been tinkered with over a long period of time – if we removed the groynes and left it to nature the access to the property owners at far end would not have access.

PS – doesn't agree with the dredging that goes on, (content of dredging). If you push the beach out on that point it will draw the flood tide on the other side and narrow the channel (increase the velocity of the water).

SJ – what we are saying now – advocating now for maintaining the groynes and recharging with dredged material

EH – are we removing part of Beach Rd to restore back to dune planting.

CS – road staying, maintain the groynes, soft engineering and dune planting (if road is in danger)

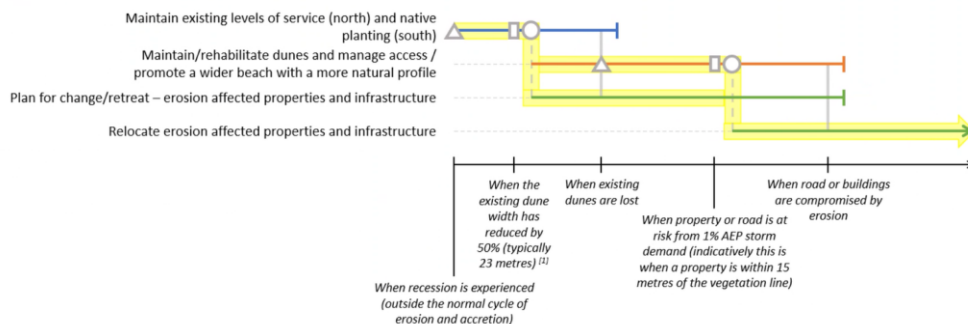
PU139 – Whangamata Beach North

Strategy

Dune planting currently occurs on the southern end of the beach. In the short term, it is proposed that this continues and is extended to the northern part of the beach as necessary, alongside the promotion of a wider beach with a more natural profile and the management of access (to designated routes).

In the longer term, erosion is expected to continue and the natural defences will be lost. Once (and if) roads or property are affected (undermined) by this, it is proposed that they are retreated from the beach front.

The use of hard defences is not advocated in this location.



PS – trigger point at 23m is appropriate as provides a good buffer. At northern end of beach when there is a strong swell there is a spur that goes into the estuary, long term drift of sand is good for the beach at the moment.

EH – is there any advantage if the Esplanade carpark was planned to be returned to a dune area for resistance.

PS – thinks this is naturally happening and creating its own undulating dunes.

PU140 - Whangamata South

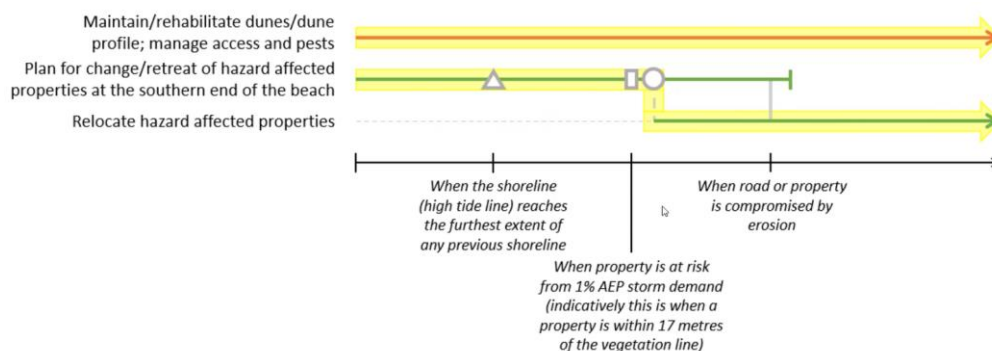
Strategy

In the short, medium and long term, it is proposed that maintenance and rehabilitation of the dunes is undertaken. This should include planting, the restriction of access to designated routes, management of pests (rabbits) and the promotion of a wider beach with a more natural profile.

In the longer term, erosion is expected to continue and the natural defences will be lost. At the southern end of the beach this is expected to occur by approximately 2070 (dependant on the rate of sea level rise and storm frequency). Once property is affected (undermined) by this, it is proposed that they are retreated from the beach front.

The use of hard defences is not advocated in this location.

JB – ‘natural defences lost’ is not the right term, they will still be there, but perhaps ‘squeezed’ is a better term



PS – storm water outlet put in seems to have dissipated the surf coming straight in there.

CS – what has the response been from the beach front property owners to this suggestion? Similar to Pauanui?

SJ – mixed feedback, a lot of support for the soft engineering proposals, disagreement with relocation of houses/more cost effective to create a seawall etc

PS – we haven't mentioned artificial reefs out from the dunes – no advocacy for this

CS – what happened to the one trialled at Mt Maunganui

PS – 3 aspects – fish, surf and beach protection. Never finished as sandbags torn apart from boat anchors. Worked for 2 out of 3 – not so much for surfing.

SJ – maybe we need to word similar to Pauanui

Eleanor Haughey (Guest)

Sorry my computer view of chat is tiny. Prior no longer in my view the wording indicated to me trigger for planning to increase dune staking car park was after road was being undercut. In my view this trigger for this decision should be earlier. Would just like it checked thanks.

NL – this trigger may have been reached for some properties

PS – doesn't agree a big storm would take them out
NL – hasn't been a 1%AEP in this area for some time/long time
AM – check 1% AEP storm demand – is this the right level of storm we want to retreat from?
17m is a lot of room in front of the property to think about retreating now. A storm of that magnitude may not happen for 100 years. Need to check the method.
JM – can we change wording to 'prepare' for retreat
SJ - we are saying 'plan' for retreat rather than retreat now
Sharon Harvey - Something needs to be signalled because millions of dollars are still being invested in those properties. But isn't the issue also new investment?
Eleanor Haughey - Is there a step to advise architectural protection of property foundations sand returning private property to dune at the 1% AEP 17m point in between retreat option?
All agree discouraging development in risk areas.

Action – #1 need to look at this again – is a 1% AEP a too bigger storm to calculate on. #2 for the properties in that 17m now, what is the action, is it soft engineering?

SJ – is there something else we should be doing now? JB – should be the same as Pauanui
SJ – retreat or defend?
AM – giving a choice in Pauanui – to be consistent, we need to do that here too.

CS – agrees it should be the same as Pauanui
SJ – Pauanui we justified in saying it was a long time off yet, so didn't need to make a decision – this one is happening now – we need to make a choice now. SH agrees
JM – is TCDC prepared for people retreating now?
SH - I think we're advocating disincentivising investment in the first instance.
JB – says if you build in this zone, your house needs to be re-locatable – area is a little 'grey'

AC – 'Assess retreat readiness' is a good term to use
CS – discourage should be used rather than prohibit – if people have all of the information, then they should be able to make the choice.

Thank you from AM to the Coastal Panel for all their work over the past 2 years – really appreciated.

Summary of Final Comments:

JB – thank everyone, been great discussions and debates
MP – it's a been great process
PS – was sceptical at the beginning – the wording and process has made me less sceptical. Great learning curve.
JM – thanked AM for chairing the meetings, amazing experience, thought provoking and feels consultation has had a real meaning in this process, we have been listened to. Hopefully the council will take it on board and move with it.
AC – thanks TCDC to work and learn from them, appreciates being part of this process
SJ – we could not have done with without the support and feedback from the people who know these locations.
CS – thanked everyone for their opinions and ideas. Would like to see how far this work goes through into policy. Will be interested to see if there is an attitude shift in the public about SLR and climate change. National environmental standards may over-ride a lot of this work on what can and can't be done on the coastline
EC – everyone has put in an amazing and impressive amount of work

NL – a very big thank you to this coastal panel for opinions and engagement throughout the process

SH – big thank you, appreciates being involved, has enjoyed the input from everyone. Can we get emails on updates on key actions as we go forward?

VS – impressive endeavour, will be interesting to look back in say 5 years to see what has come from the work we have done here.

Meeting closed after a Karakia from Alejandro at 12.10pm

Actions Table – SMP 11 May 2022

No.	Action	Responsible	Status
13	Awareness of the SMP Project to be raised with WRC / the Regional Transport Committee	TCDC/WRC officers	Completed – Amon presented at the committee meeting Monday last week (Tony Fox in attendance). On Tuesday presented at the policy & strategy meeting.
34	Further work required re. combined flooding events in Kuaotunu West (Kennedy Bay and Hikuai)	RHDHV AM	Completed
40	WRC to provide a frequency assessment for Whitianga Tide Gauge (to be assessed by NIWA)	RL (WRC)/JB	Still to come. Waiting to hear back from WRC. Closed
43	Look at adding filter to online comment tool to group by age/location etc.	Project Office	Not progressed (to date) due to the aspiration to keep the tool simple. Could be revised for March 2022 consultation events. Item closed but may come into the final delivery of the SMP Project Plan. Closed
45	Need to inform Pauanui of the re-analysis of data prior to any specific meeting. Pauanui Post & rate payers Association. URGENT	AM	Completed
47	Concept design to be produced for Whangamata	RHDHV	Completed
49	PU# 140 Whangamata South – may need to engage with specific property owners	Project Team	Completed
50	Review contaminated site data to determine influence on adaptation pathways (e.g., PU#29 – Wharf Rd Coromandel, regarding mullock from the mines)	RHDHV	Completed
51	Where Appropriate, add a box indicating a combined river/coastal analysis needs to be considered to refine the pathways	RHDHV/WRC	Completed
52	Change wording from 'seawall' to protection to better reflect all of the options available	RHDHV	Completed

53	Adjust PU#127 Pauanui Beach trigger as signal has been reached (SE)	RHDHV	Completed
54	PU#136 Wentworth River East Will update poster to show longer term pathway more clearly (SE)	RHDHV	Completed
55	PU#140 Whangamata Beach South. Re-look at the retrofit storm water trigger (SE)	RHDHV	Completed
56	PU#1 in brackets (unless adapted) needs to be better defined	RHDHV	Completed
57	PU#2 Need to add 'in appropriate places' after Maintain/Rehabilitate mangrove (Thames)	RHDHV	Completed
58	PU#3 SJ – will look specially if A & G Price building is at risk (Thames)	RHDHV	Completed
59	PU#15 look at why improving the revetment was suggested and if it has to do with the road (Thames)	RHDHV	Completed
60	PU#110 need another line added as need to deal with southern end of the beach differently than the northern/carpark end. (MB)	RHDHV	Completed
61	*Note MB area description should be New Chums to Hot Water Beach on all posters	RHDHV	Completed
62	PU#102 'avoid development in Hazard prone areas' should be now – will be adjusted – make trigger restriction of access e.g. flooded 4 times a year	RHDHV	Completed
63	PU#99 Change to show alternatives (MB)	RHDHV	Completed
64	PU#98 reflect it is a 'live' situation in terms of the resident's rock wall (MB)	RHDHV	Completed
65	Meeting to confirm approach at Kennedy Bay & plan going forward	AM/JA/SP	Completed
66	Follow up on Patukirikiri work with contamination team (Coro)	JB	JB will look into this
67	PU#26 another layer of info from Geo Tech maps has identified	RHDHV	Completed

	there is a slip risk in this area. Will look to see if this has been overlaid on this PU & Review this area and look at raise the road being added to pathway. (Coro)		
68	PU#30 update pathway to add issues as discussed (Ruffin's Bay access is private rd) (Coro)	RHDHV	Completed
69	PU#31 update pathway regarding the Campground and inundation, overlay Geo Tech erosion map & consider that pathway looks like we can maintain the defences to longer than we can (Coro)	RHDHV	Completed
70	PU#32 update pathway we are missing 'maintain natural defences' here as well	RHDHV	Completed
71	PU#36 update pathway to reflect relocation strategy – and Urupa inundation (Coro)	RHDHV	Completed
72	PU#38 plan for change when signal is reached' doesn't mean anything - update wording	RHDHV	Completed
73	PU#101 'Guiding Principles & 'Equitability' need discussion (MB)	AM	Completed
74	PU#72 - wording needs to be no development close to shoreline or allowing space for nature	RHDHV	Completed
75	PU#74 Relook at triggers & thresholds for this area – reflect on combination of coastal and river flooding	RHDHV	Completed
76	Re look at PU's with 80% dune loss triggers again to determine earlier trigger and how to determine & monitor	RHDHV/JB	Completed
77	PU#81 Remove 'investment not warranted'	RHDHV	Completed
78	PU#82 Update to indicate preferred strategy needs further thought and change signal to 50%	RHDHV	Completed

79	PU#84 Look at why 'raise the road' was recommended	RHDHV	Completed
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