

Whangarei District Council Meeting

Supplementary Agenda

Date: Tuesday, 29 April, 2025

Time: 9:00 am

Location: Civic Centre, Te Iwitihi, 9 Rust Avenue

Elected Members: His Worship the Mayor Vince Cocurullo
Cr Gavin Benney
Cr Nicholas Connop
Cr Ken Couper
Cr Jayne Golightly
Cr Phil Halse
Cr Deborah Harding
Cr Patrick Holmes
Cr Scott McKenzie
Cr Marie Olsen
Cr Carol Peters
Cr Simon Reid
Cr Phoenix Ruka
Cr Paul Yovich

For any queries regarding this meeting please contact the Whangarei District Council on (09) 430-4200.

7. Decision Reports / Whakatau Rīpoata

7.5 Notice of Motion: Councillor Scott McKenzie - Accessible Ramp Inclusion in Ngunguru Seawall Project

7.5.1 *Councillor Scott McKenzie - Notice of Motion - Replacement Notice of Motion and Additional Information*

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7.5.1 Notice of Motion: Councillor Scott McKenzie - Accessible Ramp Inclusion in Ngunguru Seawall Project - Replacement Notice of Motion and Additional Information

Meeting: Whangarei District Council
Date of meeting: 29 April 2025
Reporting officer: Simon Weston (Chief Executive)

1 Purpose / Te Kaupapa

To consider a replacement Notice of Motion from Councillor Scott McKenzie and additional information provided.

2 Recommendation/s / Whakataunga

That the Council:

1. Acknowledges that an accessible ramp was not included in the original scope of the Ngunguru seawall construction project.
2. Notes that a design and cost estimate for the ramp has been prepared by staff, with an estimated cost of \$75,000.
3. Requests staff to prepare a report with options for including the accessible ramp during the current project works and return to Council for a decision at the Council meeting on the 22nd of May.

3 Background / Horopaki

Subsequent to the agenda being circulated, it was discovered that a timeframe for staff to provide options was missing. This report provides an updated recommendation that contains a timeframe and additionally, provides a letter of support.

It is intended that this Notice of Motion replace **Item 7.5 Notice of Motion: Councillor Scott McKenzie – Accessible Ramp Inclusion in Ngunguru Seawall Project**, for Elected Member consideration.

4 Attachments / Ngā Tāpiritanga

Attachment 1: Cr Scott McKenzie Notice of Motion – Replacement Notice of Motion
 Attachment 2: Letter of support

Council Meeting**Date: 29th April 2025****Author: Cr Scott McKenzie****1. Notice of Motion – Accessible Ramp Inclusion in Ngunguru Seawall Project**

2. Recommendation

That Council:

1. Acknowledges that an accessible ramp was not included in the original scope of the Ngunguru seawall construction project.
 2. Notes that a design and cost estimate for the ramp has been prepared by staff, with an estimated cost of \$75,000.
 3. Requests staff to prepare a report with options for including the accessible ramp during the current project works and return to Council for a decision the council meeting on the 22nd of May
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3. Background

Construction of the Ngunguru seawall is currently underway. During the design and planning stages, provision for an accessible ramp was not included. Following community engagement and feedback from elected members, Council staff developed a concept design and obtained a cost estimate of \$75,000 for a compliant accessible ramp.

The proposed ramp would provide safe, equitable access to the water for a wide range of users, including those with limited mobility who do not necessarily use wheelchairs. While it is acknowledged that there is another accessibility ramp within 2km near the Ngunguru School, this does not provide access to swimmable water.

Council staff have indicated that inclusion of the ramp would require Council direction due to current budget constraints and the need to modify the construction scope. Bringing this matter back to Council is the appropriate process for a decision of this nature.

4. Significance and Engagement

This matter is of low to moderate significance under Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. While the decision is unlikely to impact a large number of residents, it has strong relevance to the principles of accessibility, equity, and inclusion in public infrastructure. Community members have expressed support for including the ramp, and engagement has been ongoing.

5. Financial/Budget Considerations

The estimated cost for the accessible ramp is \$75,000. Funding options would be outlined in a staff report to Council, including whether this can be managed within existing budgets or requires reallocation or deferral of other works.

6. Attachments

Nil – staff report to follow if recommendation is adopted.

Signed:

Cr. Scott McKenzie



Loren Hope
1987 Ngunguru Road
Ngunguru,

29th January 2025

Whangarei District Council
Private Bag 9023
Whangarei 0148

Dear Whangarei District Council,

I am writing to advocate for a small yet meaningful addition to the Ngunguru Estuary seawall development—an addition that would ensure equal access to the water for all people, regardless of their physical abilities. I urge you to consider the inclusion of a slip-resistant surface ramp with a handrail that leads down to the shore opposite the pedestrian crossing, so that people of all abilities—across the whole Whangarei District—can enjoy this natural resource.

Equal access is not just a matter of fairness, but of creating a more inclusive community where no one is left behind. When we design spaces that are accessible to everyone, we are not only meeting the needs of a particular group but enhancing the experience of the entire community. Whether you're a parent with a stroller, an elderly person, or someone with mobility challenges, everyone should have the same opportunity to enjoy our shared spaces.

Whangarei District is home to diverse communities, each with unique needs, yet we all share a love for the outdoors and a deep connection to nature. From families and children to our many visitors, we all want to experience the beauty of places like the Ngunguru Estuary. But, as it stands, not everyone can easily access the shore. A dedicated ramp to the water will provide safe, equal access for all—ensuring that no one is excluded from enjoying this natural gem, whether they live here or are visiting our district.

Ngunguru is a prime example of the rapid growth we are experiencing across the district. The area is a sought-after destination, for day trippers from around the district, for tourists, for young families and retirees looking for a place to settle. My home, overlooking the estuary and the pedestrian crossing, has shown me the pressing need for safer and more inclusive infrastructure—especially for families with young children, the elderly, and anyone with access needs.

Given this context, I propose the inclusion of a slip-resistant surface ramp with a handrail leading to the shore, located opposite the pedestrian crossing. This change would not only improve access for people with mobility challenges but would also enhance safety for all pedestrians, particularly young families and children who use the crossing. Such a feature would provide the whole Whangarei District with the assurance that we are actively creating spaces that are welcoming, safe, and accessible to everyone.

The need for equal access is becoming more urgent as we face an aging population. The 2023 census shows that by 2034, 20% of New Zealanders will be over 65 years old, a group that is especially vulnerable to mobility challenges. This is a challenge that affects not just a portion of the population, but all of us as we age. Planning for access today will ensure that our communities remain inclusive for future generations. Accessibility is not an isolated concern—it is a shared responsibility that impacts us all.

I understand that the Ngunguru Estuary seawall development has already been consented. However, there are practical solutions for incorporating accessible features, such as ramps, into the existing design. As the governing body, you have the authority to make these adjustments, and I truly believe that adding such a feature will have a positive, lasting impact on the community. This step is not just about infrastructure—it's about reflecting our shared values of inclusivity, equality, and care for one another.

Boat ramps, while often included in such developments, are not suitable for those with mobility challenges. These ramps are designed primarily for boats and do not serve the purpose of providing safe and easy access to the water for people. A dedicated access ramp, however, would provide a solution that works for everyone, ensuring equal access for those with mobility issues, families, the elderly, and visitors.

In closing, this is about the type of community we want to build—not just for today, but for the future. We want a community that values equality, inclusivity, and respect for all people, regardless of their physical abilities. By adding an accessible ramp to the Ngunguru Estuary seawall development, you will send a powerful message that everyone is valued and welcome, reinforcing Whangarei District as a place where all people can enjoy our shared resources.

I urge you to consider this urgent change, which is both practical and compassionate. It will make a world of difference for many, and will ensure that all of us have the equal opportunity to connect with the beauty of our environment. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Councilor Scott MacKenzie also supports inclusive infrastructure in this high demand area. He understands well the infrastructure needs of this particular dynamic community.

Sincerely,

Loren Hope

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

Move/Second

That the public be excluded from the following parts of proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered		Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for passing this resolution
1.1	Confidential Minutes Whangarei District Council 27 March 2025	Good reason to withhold information exists under Section 7 Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987	Section 48(1)(a)
1.2	KPP Chair's Report		
1.3	Property – Infrastructure Agreement		

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public, are as follows:

Item	Grounds	Section
1.1	For the reasons stated in the open minutes	
1.2	To protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or it the subject of the information. To enable Council to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).	Section 7(2)(b)(ii) Section 7(2)(i)
1.3	To enable Council to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).	Section 7(2)(i)

Resolution to allow members of the public to remain

If the Council wishes members of the public to remain during discussion of confidential items the following additional recommendation will need to be passed:

Move/Second

"That _____ be permitted to remain at this meeting, after the public has been excluded, because of his/her/their knowledge of Item _____.

This knowledge, which will be of assistance in relation to the matter to be discussed, is relevant to that matter because_____.

Note: Every resolution to exclude the public shall be put at a time when the meeting is open to the public.