

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: 27 April 2020



FUNDING FOR SAND NOURISHMENT CAMPAIGN AT WYOMI BEACH



Photo: Nourishment placement site (southern compartment)

Kingston District Council has been successful in receiving grant funding from the Coast Protection Board to implement strategies to minimise erosion risk in vulnerable areas at Wyomi Beach.

This funding had originally been sourced for the installation and extension of sandbags to both ends of the existing sandbags which were installed in April 2019.

Through the initial planning phase, further collaboration with Coast Protection Board representatives meant that alternate strategies needed to be considered in an effort to minimise associated damage with the existing dunes and vegetation, as well as not further compounding the erosion concerns in the immediate area.

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As requested, further assessment of coastal processes and the complexities of the area was undertaken. Both the technical assessment and Coast Protection Board recommended that a sand nourishment campaign be undertaken as the short-term strategy to address the high risk areas. Council formally considered the matter and associated technical note at its meeting of 24 March 2020, where it endorsed the recommendation to proceed with a sand nourishment campaign.

Mayor Kay Rasheed said "Although a sand nourishment campaign at Wyomi wasn't Council's original intention for the grant funding, there are a lot of sensitive factors to consider when trying to implement strategies to manage and protect our vulnerable coastline".

The sand nourishment campaign will be undertaken in May 2020, with approximately 7,000m³ of sand placed to the south of the existing rockwall and sandbags to protect the area. A minimum of 3,000m³ will also be placed to the north of the existing installation.

The sand placement will provide a 'buffer' for the short term protection of the area whilst long term strategies, triggers and financial commitments are determined through the development of a Coastal Adaptation Strategy. Sand nourishment is considered a crucial aspect of coastal protection as seen at various locations across the state, and becomes particularly important where 'hard' options, such as rock walls or sandbags, have previously been installed.

Mayor Rasheed said "We appreciate that the sand nourishment campaign may not be the community's preferred option, but in comparison, to 'do nothing' is not viable or responsible and would likely see further damage to the area and could have a devastating effect".

In conjunction with the sand nourishment campaign, Council will be activating a coastal revegetation project for the area as an additional erosion and sand drift mitigation strategy, which will also contribute to the amenity and restoration of this section.

Mayor Rasheed said "We acknowledge the potential disruption and inconvenience to residents and beach users, and we appreciate the understanding and co-operation of the community during this campaign. We are so lucky to live on such a beautiful stretch of coastline, we need to ensure we look after what we have." Council will continue to update the community during the campaign, and particularly property owners within the immediate area.

- ENDS -

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