

Coastal Futures Update



Kia ora

As you may be aware, Christchurch City Council recently made the decision to take over leadership of the work that was previously led by Regenerate Christchurch currently in scope of the regeneration strategy for South New Brighton and Southshore.

The work has been split into two – urgent investigation into earthquake legacy repairs, and a climate change adaptation strategy (which is a longer conversation). You can read more about this decision [here](#).



The **Earthquake Legacy Repairs Project** is about identifying outstanding community needs that have arisen from earthquake changes to the estuary edge and, where possible, developing responses to these needs. It's clear from community feedback already received and deputations to the Council that people strongly feel earthquake legacy issues need to be resolved for the community to be ready for the climate change adaptation planning conversation.

The **Adaptation Planning Project** is a separate project focused on how this area adapts to climate change in the short, medium and long term.

As part of its resolution, the Council committed to the community engagement model of the How Team, and to continue to seek the advice of the How Team on how best to engage with the community on both projects.

That How Team engagement model is about being transparent in the process (including the reasons behind decisions) being honest, acting with integrity, showing respect, and building trust through relationships, two-way conversations and responsiveness. It's about being generous with time, to ensure inclusiveness and accessibility, and allowing people the time they need to process information. And it's about encouraging creativity to find solutions that also respect the natural environment and future generations.

The Earthquake Legacy Repairs Project is on a very tight timeline – it needs to report back to the Council in August, which means achieving all those things, all of the time, is going to be hard. Realistically, we aren't going to be able to involve the whole community in every step of this process. However, where we can, we will.

Update on progress

Update on progress



We recently held a workshop with community stakeholders and some residents to discuss what they felt were the outstanding community needs arisen from earthquake-related damage to the estuary edge south of Bridge Street. While we know we didn't have full community representation at the workshop, we did have a variety of different stakeholders with a diverse range of views.

We're going to be conducting engagement with others in the South New Brighton community to identify outstanding community needs related to earthquake damage north of Bridge Street. Earthquake damage in this area is a bit different from the estuary edge discussion, which is why we're doing the engagement separately. However, it all forms part of the Earthquake Legacy Repairs project and will be part of the report back to the Council in August

In the next few weeks we'll be publishing the community needs that have been identified, to give everyone an opportunity to comment if they think a need has been missed. We'll let you know more about that when the information is available.

In addition to this community engagement on needs, there are a number of other inputs to our decision-making, including technical work about physical changes to the estuary edge since the earthquakes.

Project scope

We're also doing work to ensure everyone is clear about the scope of the Earthquake Legacy Repairs Project and what it's trying to achieve. The resolutions provide the direction – we then need to work out how to deliver on that direction.

The purpose of the Earthquake Legacy Repair Project is to come up with a range of options and opportunities that could respond to the needs identified by the community in order to support individual and community wellbeing. These options would need to address the changes that have occurred since the earthquakes.

Examples of earthquake legacy changes would include:

- If it's in relation to inundation, we mean changes in the level of service that was provided prior to the earthquakes. For example, the level of flood control that was in place.

- If it's in relation to erosion, we mean damage to existing structures as a result of the earthquakes.
- If it's about land damage from the earthquakes, we mean changes to land elevation and damage to land, such as lateral spread.
- And if it's about groundwater, we mean changes in groundwater levels.

These options would need to use practicable methods that are feasible and do not compromise the range of options available to the community when considering longer term adaptation planning. For the Council, practicable would mean the best options for preventing or minimising the adverse effects on the environment. It would also mean options that comply with the Council's regulatory, operational, budgetary, and benefit-cost requirements.

Next steps

We are still working out the criteria and methodology for coming up with these options and evaluating them against community needs, technical information and Council considerations.

We don't have this whole process mapped out yet – we aren't going to have all the answers to how it's going to work. But we do commit to letting you know when we have a clearer idea of how it could work. We know transparency of process and reasons behind decisions is paramount, if we're going to build trust.

Civic Offices, 53 Hereford Street
Christchurch, 8013
PO Box 73015, Christchurch, 8154
ccc.govt.nz

[Edit your subscription](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)