Chair’s Report

**Science**

* In May we received the Kapiti Coast Coastal Hazard Susceptibility and Vulnerability Assessment Volume 1: Methodology written by Jacobs for the Council
* Having reviewed the report, CRU submitted our Technical Review of the report directly to Jacobs in July – outlining some of our concerns about the methodology used
* This was followed up by an addendum in August as a direct result of the IPCC’s newly published report
* In October Jacobs through Council gave us a response to CRU’s Technical Review in which they defended those aspects of their methodology that we were concerned about

Where to from here?

CRU is communicating directly with Jacobs to set up a meeting in the coming weeks to hopefully come to some consensus.

I hope to be able to update everybody before Christmas on the outcome of this meeting.

**Planning**

* The key planning work that the Council is undertaking presently is the Coastal Adaptation Project, called CAP for short.
* Information on that project is contained on Council’s special project website, called Takutai Kāpiti.
* Although several CRU members applied to be on that community panel, none of us were interviewed, and hence none of us chosen to become panel members.
* We are, however, confident that Mr. Bolger is open to our input.
* One of the **planning** breakthroughs we hope to make in this input to the Takutai Kāpiti project is to ensure that CAP members, and the technical experts they are working with, understand the distinction between **coastal risk assessment** (relating to the requirements under the NZ Coastal Policy Statement, Policy 24) and **coastal risk management** (relating to the requirements under the NZ Coastal Policy Statement, Policies 25 and 27).
* Each have very different and separate knowledge requirements and output objectives.
* In 2015, CRU members and technical experts met with Dr Jan Wright, then then Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment.
* She too recognized this critical differentiation between risk assessment and risk management and outlined her ideas on the different roles and expectations of technical analysts (who prepare scientific assessments) versus communities and decision-makers, who consider and determine management options to take in light of those hazard risk assessments.
* The Commissioner’s output report titled, *Preparing New Zealand for rising seas: Certainty and Uncertainty,* represents this distinction as part of the good planning we desire. That practice must first be backed by good science – which will lead the community to the implementation of good law in relation to coastal hazards identification and mitigation in the district.

**Law**

* Council in an interview with the Dominion Post in September made 2 specific points, one that Jacob’s Volume 2 was due soon and that as a result coastal hazard lines would be placed on LIMs
* This sentiment was echoed by the Mayor in October in the Takutai Kapiti Newsletter
* We had been informed that a briefing of Jacobs’ Volume 2 would be presented to Councillors in a private briefing on Oct 26
* On 28 October, the report would be presented to a full Council meeting, which would then adopt the report
* Council’s attitude was that once Council holds information; they are legally obliged to put it on the LIMs
* While that is debatable, the reality was that they were poised to put lines on our LIMs on 26 October
* On 19 October, we sent a letter to Wayne Maxwell, remind the Council of the Weir Case - 2013 Judicial Review – where the Judge set clear expectations about the process
* On 21 October, we received a response from Tim Power, Council’s Chief Legal Advisor that stated Council would not include a reference to Jacobs Volume 2 until they have met with us
* In fact, Council have asked Jacobs to hold on to Volume 2 until we have been able to discuss the Volume 1 methodology and address our concerns
* If the methodology is not fit-for-purpose, then the output will be unsuitable. You will have all heard the expression ‘garbage in, garbage out’. LIM information must be based on good assumptions and inputs to the science.
* A meeting to discuss the LIMs with Council is in the pipeline

**KCDC**

* Our relationship with the Council has been tense and difficult at times
* On 10 March, I requested a meeting with the CEO which was declined
* Since March, I have requested several meetings with Council, all of which were rejected (July 7, 13, 19, August 31, September 21)
* We attempted to speak to several Councillors to inform them of the situation some of whom were receptive, and others blanked us
* I personally spoke at the Paraparaumu/Raumati Community Board in October, when the penny finally dropped and there was some understanding of the situation
* The main difficulty was in having Councillors understand that LIMs were Council’s responsibility and not the Coastal Adaptation Panel - Council’s default position on all things pertaining to Coastal Hazards – the Staff and Mayor’s Mantra
* After this, two Councillors and the Community Board made inquiries and representation on our behalf

Currently our we have been assured that there will be discussions regarding the Science and the LIMs prior to Council taking any further steps in both these matters.

* However, engagement with our Councillors is crucial at this time. It’s an election year and I would ask all of you to meet or write or call your ward Councillor and District wide Councillor and raise these issues.
* Despite our efforts, mine and members of the committee, your involvement and participation is imperative.

**MfE letter**

* We have also written to the Minister of the Environment, who forwarded our letter to the Minister of Climate Change, who provided a response.
* We are seeking that the Government commit to updating the Ministry for the Environment’s 2017 publication called, Coastal
* *hazards and climate change: Guidance for local government,*to reflect the most recent IPCC findings in their 2021 Assessment Report 6.
* We have not yet received that assurance, and so will continue to follow up.
* The issue is critical, in that the IPCC have stated that their ‘worst case’ emission scenario (called RCP 8.5) is implausible – and therefore should not in our opinion be used in the local projections of coastal hazard lines and zones.

**General Matters**

* I’m pleased to announce a substantial increase in our membership
* And as things progress with Councill membership numbers will be an important issue that they will look at to take us seriously
* We are planning a second leaflet drop around Christmas identifying issues of concern to beachfront property owners
* I can say with some certainty, that Council is committed to managed retreat, and I have no doubt that issue will come forth loud and clear in the not-too-distant future – so we need to stay strong in numbers

Finally, in the words of Cat Stevens, “I am confident that, in the end, common sense and justice will prevail.