

WHY YOU SHOULD BE SCARED OF YOUR COUNCIL'S LATEST BAD IDEAS – (NOT A FAIRY STORY!)

Kapiti YOUR COAST YOUR HOME



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We all know climate change is here. Just how bad it will get, what it will mean for us in Kapiti, and what we can and should do about it are serious issues.

That is why the last thing we need is a panicky, slogan-based reaction from our Council that we think may cause more damage than climate change itself.

DID YOU KNOW?

Council has now tagged* every property in the District as subject to 'coastal erosion'. (* this tag will appear on the property LIM as a 'feature' of the property).

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

Here's what we think:

If you live miles from the coast, or on a hill, or even near a beach that has been growing for decades, you may think it's just another bit of local authority silliness? Well, maybe not if you're an insurer or a banker, making decisions about whether a property is an acceptable insurance risk or a reliable security for a loan. If you're that person, you might think that if anyone understands local risk then the local council will, and you may not check the facts with anyone else.

9 years ago, Council put hazard lines through maps of 1800 coastal properties to indicate that they were "coastal hazard" areas, **restricting owners' ability to build and/or renovate.** The affected owners formed CRU and set about successfully challenging both the science and the policies behind Council's actions. **Independent panels set up by the Council itself subsequently concluded that neither the science nor the policies were fit for purpose. The hazard lines were abandoned in 2014.**

WHAT NEXT?

Having sulked since 2014, the Council is now ready to follow the same approach and attack its own community's interests again.

Council has this time, hired Jacobs Consulting, whose American parent company is known for working in weapons and missile production, including nuclear weapons technology, whose clients include Saudi Arabia, UAE and the US Defence Department. Their work will precede another round of hazard lines and restrictions on your properties. Who's paying? You, of course!

Council has also set up a small hand-picked 'community group' to make decisions on your behalf regarding property controls. This 'community' group

(known as 'CAP') consists of 6 iwi members and 6 other community members, CAP is led by former prime minister, Jim Bolger.

According to Mr Bolger, CAP will not meet in public, will neither hear nor respond to submissions and will not release a draft of its recommendations. Essentially, **the Council will not consult with the community** because it sees CAP as representing the community. CAP will be exclusively advised by much the same Council consultants involved in past problems.

In the meantime, the Mayor has instructed councillors not to talk to CRU, or other interested people, about their concerns because this might interfere with the CAP project. Similarly, the Council CEO Wayne Maxwell has refused to meet with CRU. Requests for information have been met by repeated delays.

So, **we are left with a Council which has outsourced its key obligation, to talk to its people and communities, to a group which we think has no intention in doing so.**

We are headed inevitably to the same expensive chaos caused by the same Council's project of 9 years ago. The agenda is still the same – an unnecessary "managed retreat" of houses and infrastructure from the coastline based on unlikely science.

You, the residents and ratepayers, will be picking up the bill.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

2022 is local government election year. If you like what's happening, vote for the incumbents, and nothing will change. If you don't like what's happening, **vote them out**, and elect people who are committed to restoring a Council which listens to people and makes intelligent, well-informed decisions.

Join CRU: we have over 400 members, and a history of holding Council to account – with good science, good law, and sound, community-based policies.



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