

Notice of Motion

Kaipara District Council Ordinary Meeting 25 November 2020

Recommendations

That the Kaipara District Council;

- 1) Requests the Chief Executive prepare a report about vehicle use on Ripiro Beach, including the adjoining sand hills and access ways onto the beach.
- 2) That the report includes, but is not limited to;
 - a) The environmental impact of vehicles upon;
 - i) Native fauna
 - ii) Man-made plantings for erosion control and soil conservation
 - iii) Bird life and native animals
 - iv) Disturbance of culturally sensitive sites including burial sites
 - v) Historical sites such as the Pouto Light House.
 - b) The interaction between the various means of transportation; walkers and hikers, drivers, cyclists, horse riders.
 - c) Options for regulatory levers that council may have/use.
- 3) That the report be presented to the March 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reasons for the notice of motion

1. As part of the Government's Nationwide Road Safety Strategy we are planning to review speed limits on the Pouto Peninsula. The results of this report may feed into and support that Bylaw review.
2. The council is looking to encourage tourism in the Kaipara area; Council therefore have to take some responsibility in managing the consequences of increased numbers using our resources.
3. There is rising tension between some off roaders and local land owners with reports of intentional destruction of private property to gain access.
4. Local organisations have insufficient resources or organisational capability to protect areas of cultural or historic significance.
5. Increasing uncontrolled vehicle access to the coastline, particularly the sand hills, may lead to an increase in the occurrence of accidents and injury.
6. Waikaretu Marae Kaumatua and local residents have informally asked Council to consider options regarding managing vehicle access onto and around Pouto Point.
7. Local residents and land holders have asked for guidance on the law regarding beach use.
8. Other councils around New Zealand are either reviewing vehicle access rules to beaches or have already done so; including Auckland where most beaches are closed to vehicles and on the remaining beaches only vehicles with permits are allowed. Whangarei either bans vehicles (other than for launching or retrieving a boat) or has a 30km speed limit. Our comparatively light handed regulation could lead to Kaipara becoming a destination for significant numbers of off roaders forced from their local beaches. We need to consider if this is a desirable outcome and what the ramifications may be.

- 9 Kaipara District Council is responsible for managing vehicle access routes to the beach and can set bylaws relating to the use of vehicles on the beach including banning vehicles from designated areas. Council currently has 30km speed limits at various entrances to Ripiro Beach, many are either poorly sign posted and/or not enforced.

Signed

Councillor David Wills

17th November2020