

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **LIMs to be revised as a result of new scientific information**

**17 DECEMBER, 2013**

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Council is making changes to coastal hazard information included in Land Information Memoranda (LIMs) to take into account new information it has received as part of the recent expert coastal panel process.

Mayor Ross Church says coastal science is still evolving and Council has always said it would be open to any new any information that came to light.

“Council brought a panel of world-renowned experts to Kāpiti to review the science it had been relying on, after it was questioned by many coastal residents. Those residents got an opportunity to table scientific reports from their own experts and that information will now be included in LIMs alongside Council commissioned reports.”

The new information refers to scientific reports from two experts challenging the extent, or even existence, of erosion on some parts of the Kāpiti coastline.

In future, any LIM requests for properties will refer to these latest reports from Dr Willem de Lange and Mr Angus Gordon, as well as the 2012 report from Coastal Systems Ltd, which led to new information being included in LIMs from August 2012. Projected shoreline maps or lines will no longer be included in the LIM itself.

“We have listened and we will continue to listen,” says Mayor Church. “In recent weeks the new Council has put considerable effort into building bridges with the community and taking a more collaborative approach on what is a very important issue for this District. I hope the convening of the coastal panel and commissioning of an independent review of the Proposed District Plan have regained some of the goodwill and trust I think we had lost.”

Mayor Church says the removal of projected shoreline maps and lines from LIMs will be a relief to coastal property owners.

“We accept these lines on LIMs have not been well received and in response to the new scientific information and in line with the new wording on LIMs, we will be removing them. Prospective purchasers will instead be directed to our website to review the detailed information Council holds, including projected shoreline maps.”

Council has also signalled it will be relaxing its building consent processes related to properties in natural hazard zones. Process will revert to those that applied under the existing Operative District Plan and were not as restrictive.

Chair of Coastal Ratepayers United, Christopher Ruthe said: “We consider there is no scientific basis for any information to be on LIMs as there is no agreement amongst experts as to what is a hazard. However, the newly elected Council is moving in the right direction by substantially

modifying the LIM information." Mr Ruthe said he hoped the problem with Building Act issues would be speedily resolved, and he was pleased to see KCDC flagging its intentions in this regard.

Affected property owners will receive a letter this week informing them of the changes.

**For more information contact, Anna Kenna 04 2964676 or 0275555676**