

Lions Light House Proposal

TO Mercury Bay Community Board
FROM Allan Tiplady - Programme Manager
DATE 29 September 2015
SUBJECT Lions Light House Proposal

1 Purpose of Report

To consider a proposal from the Whitianga Lions Club to restore the Whakapenui Beacon on a site at the corner of Kupe Drive and Joan Gaskell Drive.

2 Background

A letter was received from the Whitianga Lions Club on 6th June 2015 seeking support from the Community Board to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Club by restoring and installing the former Whitianga Lighthouse from Whakapenui Point on a site on Waterways owned land at the intersection of Joan Gaskell Drive and Kupe Drive. The letter and detailed proposal is [Attachment A](#).

The Lions Club have also asked the Community Board to:

- 1) Approve connecting power from the adjacent power pole.
- 2) Cover power usage for the low wattage LED light.
- 3) Minimise or waive any consent / permit fees on land that may be vested in the Council in the future.
- 4) Signage explaining the history of the lighthouse alongside it.

The matter is referred to the Community Board for its views on the proposal.

3 Issue

The issues to be addressed by the Community Board have a number of elements.

- 1) Does it agree that the beacon / lighthouse should be restored and located in a public place in the town?
- 2) What is the preferred location for the lighthouse?
- 3) Is the Community Board prepared to cover the consent / permit fees and power usage costs?

4 Discussion

The following discussion relates to the matters the Lions Club have requested Community Board consent for.

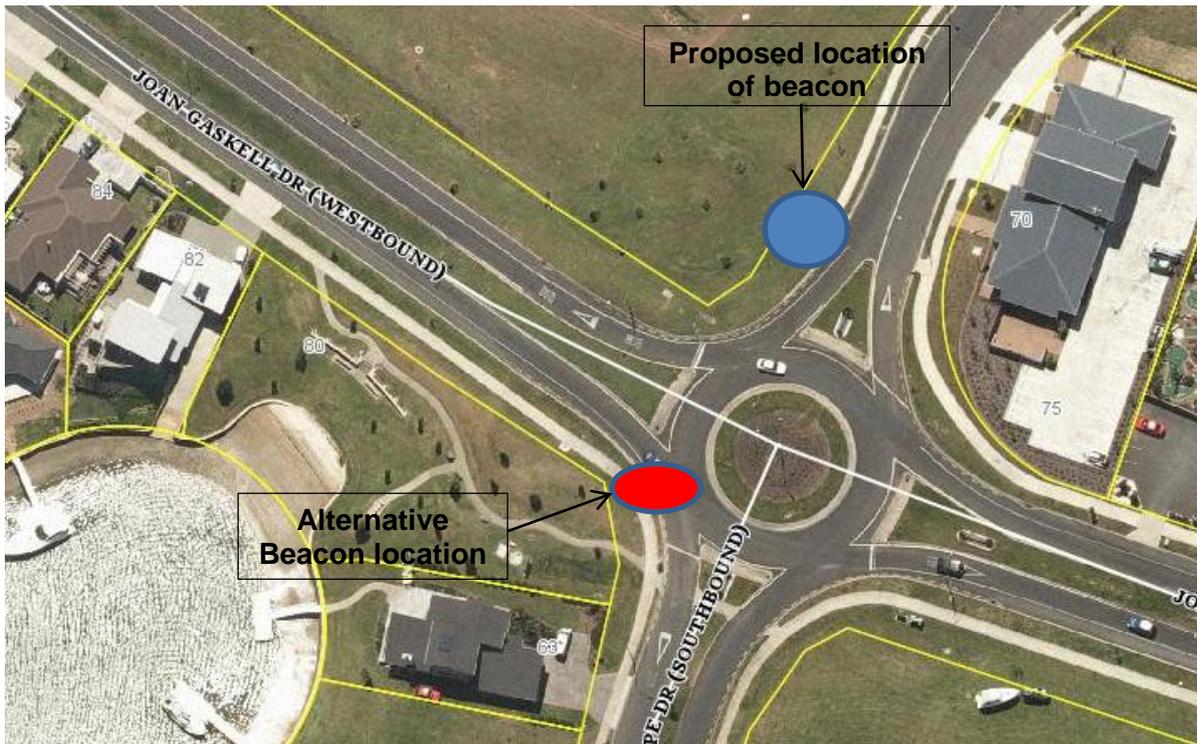
1) Restoration of the Beacon / Lighthouse

The Community Board is asked to support restoration of the beacon and its location in a public place in the town. Indications from Board Members to date is favourable to the concept, but raise issues around its locations.

2) Location

The location proposed is on Waterways owned land on the corner of Joan Gaskell Drive and Kupe Drive. The Lions Club have indicated "this would be well visible to traffic entering town, and would be located on undeveloped land, presently owned by Whitianga Waterways, who will be making this into a Reserve area with paths etc." The approximate location is shown

on the plan below.



The proposal from the Lions was circulated to Community Board members on 31st August 2015 with a number of comments received in response. These comments are summarised as follows:

- There could be a conflict with future development of the site, which could be developed for community use.
- The site on the corner of Joan Gaskell Drive and SH25, where there is an existing "Whitianga Enjoy" sign, could be a better location.
- The proposal needs to be considered in relation to the town centre upgrade proposals, which are still being finalised.

At the proposed location the beacon would stand on its own and may have to be re-located at a future date if there is a conflict with future development of the site.

Alternatives such as the SH25 / Joan Gaskell corner where it would be part of the signage welcoming people to Whitianga or in the town centre upgrade where it would fit well with the navigation theme may be more suitable sites.

The town centre proposal would not fit in with the Lions Club 50th Anniversary timeframe to erect it in 2015.

A further suggestion is the existing reserve land on the south western corner of Joan Gaskell Drive and Kupe Drive, also shown on the plan above. This has been discussed in a meeting with the Lions Club on 15th September 2015 and they have agreed that this would be a suitable location. It was in fact part of earlier suggestions for the beacon in 2006, which a plan was drawn up for. This is Attachment B.

3) Costs

The Board has been asked to cover any consent or permit fees and ongoing power costs for the light. The Lions Club have indicated that the plan is to use solar energy for the light so the power costs will no longer be an issue.

If the alternative site is agreed and the work is designed and signed off by a registered engineer building consent may not be required. If it is any fees could be waived as it is a community project.

Suggested Resolution(s)

That the Mercury Bay Community Board:

1. Consider the proposal to restore the Whakapenui Beacon and a location in a public place in Whitianga by the Lions Club to commemorate its 50 anniversary.
2. Indicate to the Lions Club its preference for the location of the beacon.

References-Tabled/Agenda Attachments

Attachment A *Whitianga Lions Club proposal.*

Attachment A - Lions Club Proposal re old Lighthouse