

# Whitianga Boat Ramps - Project Update

## 1. Background

The first stage of this project is to investigate, design and implement optimisations to the existing boat launching facilities at Robinson Road and Dundas Street with a view to providing a short to medium term solution to the congestion currently experienced at the Whitianga Wharf boat ramp. The congestion is expected to worsen as Whitianga experiences growth. Optimisation of Robinson Road and Dundas Street is intended to provide all tide use by the majority of trailer boats. These boat ramps were selected to be improved due to their proximity to town and the availability of parking.

The next stage would be to cater for long term growth. This would aim to reduce congestion as well as move the boat trailer parking away from the prime recreation area of town. This would free up the esplanade/wharf/harbour area allowing other activities to better utilise the area.

### **Dundas Street boat ramp**

Testing was carried out on the Dundas Street ramp to open the channel from the ramp to the main harbour channel. Although remaining open for 18 months, the dredged channel silted up during the first heavy rainfall event in April 2017. Upon further investigation, the Dundas Street boat ramp was found to be within Whitianga Marina Society occupied land, leased from the crown. The Whitianga Marina Society also hold the resource consent for this ramp. Additionally; Council learned that the Whitianga Marina Society planned to remove the existing outer breakwater of the marina and build a new sheet piled wall to allow 30 new 18-metre berths. This work is planned for 2018/19 year and would impact on the upgrade proposed for the Dundas Street boat ramp.. For the above reasons it was decided to hold off on any further work on the Dundas Street boat ramp at this stage.

### **Robinson Road boat ramp**

In October 2017, the Community Board and Council chose to defer the construction build cost of the Robinson Road boat ramp and improvements to the 2018/19 financial year. This meant \$500,000 would be deferred and the remaining \$80,000 budget would be utilised within the current year to complete detailed design and consent related works for the facility ready for the build in the following financial year. This work is progressing well.

## 2 Consultation

A meeting was held with local residents and users of the Robinson Road boat ramp in October 2017. The local residents expressed concerns relating to the increased usage proposed and the staging and vehicular access and parking being provided. The design however was largely agreed with some amendments noted. These amendments are included in the attached proposed design. The next phase will be to go back to the stakeholders and community to update them on the final proposed design which includes a new ramp constructed at the correct grade upstream against the older ramp with ample staging area provided.