



P.O. Box 20717 Glen Eden Auckland 0641

Resource Use Group  
Waikato Regional Council  
PO Box 4010,  
Hamilton East,  
Hamilton 3247,

Dear Christin,

Thank you for your email dated 14 September to our president Paul Shanks, in which you informed us that the Waikato Regional Council has decided to undertake a review of consents 121398 and 121399 for dredging and depositing of spoil at Whangamata.

In your email you also stated that if we “wish to provide further scientific information which may assist the review process, please do so.”

While the Surfbreak Protection Society (SPS) welcome this review, we must point out that a review would be rendered ineffective, unless the review included Surf science to monitor the Bar, as surfing was the reason for initiating the Whangamata Bar Report.

As mentioned in the report, SPS are attempting to raise funds for a camera monitoring system to observe the Whangamata Bar surfing wave characteristics, as prescribed by Dr Shaw Mead of eCoast Ltd.

The camera monitoring system, once GPS mapped and located, then has the ability to 3-D model the waves as they break over the ebb tidal delta. This is the most cost effective method to measure the wave quality at the Whangamata Bar.

That said, our report also recommends a better understanding of the whole Whangamata beach – ebb tidal delta – lower estuary sedimentary system.

eCoast Ltd is situated in Raglan and has in the past worked with WRC and collaborated frequently with Waikato University. eCoast is a company that works in the field of coastal processes science, including surfing wave science, and considered to be world leaders in this discipline.

To date, Dr Jim Dahm (previously engaged by the Marina society) Dr Terry Hume (an expert in sand and beach processes at NIWA) and Dr Vernon Pickett (of WRC who has previously

worked alongside eCoast) have all stated that a Bar camera monitoring system is needed at Whangamata.

The Surfbreak Protection Society has located a suitable property overlooking the ebb tidal delta for a camera monitoring system, but is still raising funds for the equipment. The Whangamata Bar monitoring camera is only one of several projects around the country that require our organisations financial assistance.

We would also like to point out that in the granting of the original marina consent, costs of monitoring the Whangamata Bar fall on the Marina Society.

The Surfbreak Protection Society therefore formally request the assistance of WRC to source funding for this camera monitoring system, and for the data to be collected and analysed as part of the consent review process currently underway.

We have attached a costing and description of the camera monitoring system by Dr Shaw Mead to this letter.

The contact details for eCoast are listed below

eCoast

PO Box 151

Raglan

Mob: 021 423224

[info@ecoast.co.nz](mailto:info@ecoast.co.nz)

<http://www.ecoast.co.nz>

The Surfbreak Protection Society looks forward to a favourable response to this request

Kind Regards

Paul Shanks

Surfbreak protection Society

CC : Bob Laing WRC CEO, John Tregidga Hauraki Gulf Forum Chair, Tim Higham CEO Hauraki Gulf Forum, Gary Taylor Environmental Defence Society