

Local Board Presentation. 19<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

**The Mahurangi River Restoration Trust.**

Thank You for the opportunity to present to you. My name is Steve Burrett a member of the Advisory board.

The Mahurangi River Restoration Trust is represented today by Trustees Hugh Gladwell and Peter Thompson who will be willing to answer any questions. Peter has a long track record of being a visionary in Warkworth having been instrumental in creating Lucy Moore Park, developing the wharf area and building the foreshore walkway. If it wasn't for these Gentlemen the Jane Gifford would not have been saved and would not have Warkworth as her home port.

Firstly we would like to thank the Local board for its Support of this project. Past Boards have helped fund and Council staff have help guide the resource Consent process. The consent was issued last year.

On referring to the Rodney Local Boards Plan of 2017 this project ticks all 5 of the boxes you have outlined as important.

***Communities are Influential and empowered;*** The recent WW Community Aspirations document delivered after wide consultation with the Community has its No 1 key idea that there be a clean healthy river.

***Parks and Sports facilities that everyone can enjoy;*** The River is available to all. The Town Basin is a recreational zone in the City area. This area can be developed substantially when the river has been cleaned out so the tide height will not restrict activities.

***Our harbours, waterways and environment are cared for, protected and healthy;*** with sediment cleaned from the river the increased water flow must help water quality. More folk will have the opportunity to enjoy, not being restricted by tide times. The Jane will be able to make more trips allowing more people to view and appreciate the wonderful scenery the River offers. Fish will return to the river

**Arts and Culture is vibrant and strong;** Currently there is a strong move to extend the Jane Gifford Restoration Trust to include other Heritage Vessels into the fleet. These vessels will be an additional tourist attraction and with all tide river depth weekend gatherings will be possible instead of a 2 hour window on the top of the tide. We will see a significant influx of visiting craft which will enhance interest in the Town Basin. High St shops must benefit.

**We can get around easily and safely;** Growing townships will need improved facilities and walkways. The expansion of the Lucy Moore walkway with better views to the river will be beneficial for those wanting exercise. Once the river is dredged a Stage 2 scenario could include a Park and Ride facility for a ferry terminal further down the river, This would serve commuters through to Auckland Central and more importantly open up the whole Rodney region for Tourists from Cruise Liners who currently do not come north due to the vagaries' of the road system and getting back to the city on time for departures.

Significant work has already been completed to construct the dewatering pens. The land based site is ready to receive the sediment. Over a million dollars has been gifted and or donated by the community. The amount we need to raise following these donations is just over \$4million for the anticipated three year construction period.

We have approached Government and will be approaching other funding institutions for the bulk of these funds however we currently need an immediate amount of \$300,000 to enable us to get access to the river from the dewatering site.

This project has the backing of the community. We have perhaps been dilatory in not applying for funding earlier but we have wanted to make sure we have done our homework in all facets of the project before we apply for funding. This has only been completed earlier this week.

We earnestly request that the Local Board look favourably at this funding request so as the Community can see genuine support from their Local Board.

Thank you for this opportunity. We look forward to your questions.

## **Mahurangi River Restoration Trust**

### **Mission Statement:**

*To have clear, clean, deep, swimmable water right up to the heart of Warkworth*

A community inspired project.

Reverses the damage done by man over the past 100.

Aspirational Plan (just conducted and presented by Auckland Council) has the main point that the river must be cleaned.

Will allow ferries to bring Tourists back up the river to a timetable.

Will allow the Jane Gifford to continue operating on a continuous schedule.

### **Benefits:**

Increased business opportunities for retailers and commercial operations from visiting boats. (Refer Whangarei Town Basin.)

Tourism, ferries have full time access up river.

Increased water flow and access assists Aquaculture and Oyster operations.

Envisioned Stage 2 for Ferry Terminal at Dawson's Creek will help relieve road congestion but more importantly give direct access from Auckland Central to the Rodney area for Tourists off Cruise ships. Currently unable to visit due to Traffic congestion.

### **Cost of Project:**

Costings to take dredging's to sea in excess of \$19 mill—unsustainable!

Current costs offering of Land based depositing \$5mill.

Less support by Business and residents with donations and services valued at over \$1 mill. Leaves an approx. **Projected cost of \$4mill**

Urgency required because of Landfill time limits.

Desire to have completed before America's Cup.

Purpose designed equipment won't be available forever. (Will be sold).

If nothing done;

River dies. Jane Gifford goes. Town Basin becomes a muddy hole. A Wonderful asset lost.

## **Reasons why Council should assist;**

The community have made significant submissions to the Aspirational Plans for Warkworth with the main and first requirement, that the River be protected and enhanced.

Warkworth Community has already shown its commitment by Building the Wharf structures, creating Lucy Moore Park and developing the foreshore walkway etc.

The Community has also resurrected and rebuilt the Jane Gifford and operates her out of Warkworth benefitting, tourists, local groups and educating school children from around the region.

Council have assisted other foreshore projects in creating Groynes, re-sanding beaches, rebuilding sea walls etc. (Mission Bay-Kohimarama-Orewa, are examples).

The River is the sea-wall/foreshore of Warkworth.

Local residents have established the Project by putting considerable time and money up.

The project is already consented.

Specialised equipment has been purpose built.

The most cost effective solution has been found.

The most environmentally friendly option utilised;

- Not dumping sediment at Sea.

- Retaining the sediment on land from whence it came.

- Shortest distances being travelled (less fuel usage).

The project fulfils the Councils desire to clean up waterways and rivers to a safe swimmable standard

The project is ready for an immediate start without the need for Council to do anything further.

It would show commitment to ratepayers with resultant positive action.

It would appease Rodney ratepayers who saw a \$2.2mil Navigational Dredging fund absorbed into General funds following amalgamation. The new suggested levy would be easier to accept.

## **Mahurangi River Restoration Trust Case Statement**

### **Restoring our River**

The Mahurangi River provided the original access to the township of Warkworth and was essential for the development of the Rodney region. Now it is little more than ankle deep at low tide in parts due to the build-up of silt.

The revival of the Town Basin through building a new wharf, pontoon structure and Riverbank walkway and creating the Lucy Moore Park has highlighted the poor state of the river and the inability for boats to navigate to the town.

Over the past 10 years, a plan has been formulated to restore the River and enhance the Town Basin along the lines of the Whangarei Town Basin. By dredging the river, the water will flow better and give greater access for vessels of all sizes.

The Mahurangi River Restoration Trust has been formed to bring the river back so it can be a resource for all to enjoy. The removal of sediment will allow free movement of vessels on the River over all tides which will attract significant numbers of visitors for recreational and commercial purposes. It will also mean the Jane Gifford can continue operating out of the town where she is used for educational school trips and also tourist trips.

An all-tide Town Basin and river will allow development of the foreshore so it can be used and enjoyed by the public. Ideas for kayaking, rowing, paddle boarding, picnic and viewing areas are being promoted by the community. The impending closure of the sewerage outfall will also assist.

### **The Project**

Increased water flow on the River will have an environmental benefit by helping to flush the River and Harbour making cleaner water for all users. It will make the Mahurangi River a focal point for the town and surrounding region and enhance its beauty and that of the riverbank for the benefit of all.

Normally this would be a long, drawn out process. Dredging is expensive. Initial investigations indicated that the preferred method would be offshore sediment disposal with a sea-going barge and a tug, and requiring every load to be taken the length of the river and double-handled. The scoped works were quoted at \$19million.

However, if we act now, we have an opportunity to complete it for a fraction of the price.

### **Our Opportunity**

The Trust has negotiated the use of a section of land on the river where a clean fill has been consented. The use of a clean fill site on the river dramatically reduces time and costs of the project. The sediment does not have to be taken out to sea, nor transferred between vessels. The process is not dependent on the tide and the crew is not so affected by bad weather, meaning less down time, and less unnecessary travel by the tug to Auckland during down time.

Custom equipment has been engineered to allow for a streamlined process in removing the sediment from the river and site works have been consented and achieved in preparation for the river cleaning process to begin.

### **The Cost**

The total cost of this approach is \$5,139,300.00

Members of the Trust have invested significant time and resources into the engineering of specialised equipment that can operate at all tides and will contribute to the management of the project. Many local professional firms have either sponsored or worked at cost to get it to a point that it is a realistic goal. The Trust has the support of many other groups and individuals, including local Iwi, local action groups, and local councillors. Independent costings have determined that all gifted work and donations has reduced the project cost by a further 20%.

Less Gifts and Donations already Received	\$ 538,863.00
Less Clearwater Gift in kind	\$ 536,200.00
	<b><u>\$1,075,063.00</u></b>

*This leaves a Total to raise of* **\$4,064,237.00**

The project has been managed by an advisory Board appointed by the Trustees. The Board is made up of people with business, commercial, local body and boating experience.

### **Our Challenge**

The timeframe envisaged would be spread over 3 years however this would be influenced by the level of funding. Progress and outcomes will be monitored and quantified continually by electronic means.

It is planned that the additional investment required for this project will be found through a focused capital fundraising campaign to be launched later this year. Before doing so, we have decided to engage consultants to assist in developing a fundraising plan. To do this work, advice and guidance will first be sought from those who we believe may have an interest in the future of the Mahurangi River as an asset for Warkworth.

Your confidential thoughts on the proposed campaign would be most helpful as we go forward in developing the fundraising plans – to make sure that we are moving in the right direction and maximising our prospects of success.