

Waikato Coastal Database

Hauraki Catchment Board – Cooks Beach

1/22/0 Shingle from water courses. Volume 2. Report starts February 1957.

Associated files: Lands and Survey file 3/686 Hamilton District Office.

The land settlement Board was working a license to extract shingle; however, it was not specified where they would be doing the extraction. SC, RCC and Land and Survey issued a circular in 1956/7 on the control of shingle extraction in rivers;

1. In tidal rivers or where tidal action occurs it was owned by the Crown and controlled by the Marine dept,
2. Navigable rivers (as defined in s206 of the Coal Mines Act 1925) owned by the Crown and administered by L&S,
3. Non-navigable waterways where there are fishing or road reserves owned by Crown and administered by L&S,

On all other water courses the shingle is owned by the adjoining landowner.

1/22/0 Shingle from water courses. Volume 3. Report starts October 1971.

NWASCO (file 72/2/1/11) produced draft guidelines for shingle extraction from New Zealand Rivers and coasts.

1/22/0 Shingle from water courses Volume 4. Report starts April 1978.

The file commences with a report on sand mining in the Coromandel Peninsula (Works file 47/16) stating that the HCB is to phase out mining in any area suspected of being a closed system or where there is insufficient information about the resource.

There are a series of applications to mine sand from the entrance of Whangamata Harbour, Tairua Harbour, Whitianga Harbour and the Katikati entrance to Tauranga Harbour.

1/22/0 Shingle from water courses. Volume 6. Report starts July 1982.

From late 1982 through to 1984 the Board were conducting a sand and shingle resource assessment for the whole of their region. A table of material used and the source for the previous two years is included in the report. It was noted that there had been a number of “one off” extractions approved in connection with bridge construction around the Peninsula. There is a draft copy of the Sand and Gravel Report.

2/11/0 Eastern Catchments–Parts of Ohinemuri and Thames Counties Volume 2.

22 June 1973: Report by J.G. Gibb on the condition of Buffalo Beach, Cooks Beach, Tairua, Whiritoa and Waihi beaches together with comments on the condition of the Tairua, Wharekawa and Whangamata estuaries. The report summarises many comments from earlier work on the Coromandel Coast. However the descriptions of the beaches are important as they provide an “as is” description of the condition of the beaches at that time.

The flood of 8th March 1962 was the second or third highest flood in the previous 26–30 years. Largest flood was that of Jan-Feb 1936.

2/3/115000-120000 (Vol 1) Whitianga Area Catchments 1976-1984

15 November 1976: A solicitor's letter to the Hauraki Catchment Board claimed that a storm water drain placed across a recreation reserve and beach, by developers at Cooks Beach was causing erosion. Suggested that the erosion was in the order of 30 feet (9 m).

8 December 1976: A letter to the Chief Engineer from a Mr Sutton expressing concern about the erosion being caused by the storm water drain near 63 Captain Cook Road. He suggested that the outlet be extended until it was covered by at least 5 ft (1.5m) of water at low tide and that a picket fence be installed backed by rock-fill and then the remaining land be filled with soil to the level of the present sections.

In February 1977 the Hauraki Catchment Board resolved that the developer had placed the drain under a general authorisation for the development of Cooks Beach and that there was no specific authorisation for the drain. Board suggested that the general authorisation be withdrawn and the developer be required to apply for a water right. There was no comment on mitigating the erosion.

27 October 1977: The Chief Engineer R.W. Harris had a meeting with the Suttons who were adamant that the erosion was caused by the outfall. Erosion was about 10 m from 1971 to 1977. However he did not think that the outfall was the sole cause he agreed to go and inspect the site with the County Engineer.

14 July 1978 Erosion at Cooks Beach. A report by Tonkin and Taylor consultant engineers said that there had been a reduction in sediment supply over the past few years as pastures matured. This sediment reduction has translated into a change in the plan curvature of the beach. They suggest that the erosion experienced adjacent Iiti Lane (sections numbers 56-63) has little to do with the storm water outfall and is a function of the changes sediment supply.

Bach owners wish to put up a rock wall to protect their property. However, there were complications as the land in front of the sections was designated esplanade reserve. This esplanade had been severely reduced in size as a result of the erosion and the bach owners faced the problem of placing protection works on public land.

August 1978 Catchment Board wrote to TCDC noting the storm of 18-19 July caused significant erosion at Cooks Beach. There are no details given.

14 September 1978: Hauraki CB wrote to TCDC about the Whitianga Harbour improvement proposals stating that the information required for the harbour improvements needed to be along the lines of that suggested by the Auckland Harbour Board Report of 1976 including: (i) Hydraulics, (ii) Hydrology, (iii) Hydrography, (iv) Topography and geology, (v) Ecology, (vi) Soils and vegetation, (vii) Water quality, (viii) Sediment transport, and finally town planning issues.

The Board suggested that there also needed to be investigations of the effects of pile moorings on sediment transport and ecology of the area.

8 August 1978: A Mr Newitt of Matamata requested financial assistance of the Cooks Beach residents for their placing of a stone barrier to protect their houses from further sea erosion. The Catchment Board replied that it only had Regional Water Board authority and as there were no rates paid by Coromandel district, the Board could not help

16 October 1978: Tonkin and Taylor (Consulting Engineers) Sent a copy of a report on Cooks Beach carried out by Professor A. J. Raudkivi.