

3 October 2019 update

Following the significant erosion that has occurred recently at Port Waikato, Council is providing weekly updates to the community about the situation and plans going forward.

- It was a sad day for many residents of the Port yesterday (2 October) when the community hall came down.

It had been a much-loved gathering place for 56 years. It was initially part of the surf club quarters, but was gifted to the community after a fire destroyed the upstairs part of the building in 1994.

The hall was due to be demolished next week but was demolished ahead of schedule.

Site clean-up is now happening and work will start on the car park soon. We plan to put a one-way system in to try and ease the congestion within the car park. This would be done by forming an access way through to Ocean View Road once the hall is gone.

- Don't forget, the community meeting is on this Saturday 5 October at 10am at the surf club lounge.
- As mentioned previously, this will not be a meet the candidates/election meeting. The meeting will only cover erosion.
- Our Chief Operations Officer and Mayor will be there, along with coastal scientists and Waikato Regional Council staff.
- We will, if the tech plays ball, livestream the meeting on our Facebook page or at least record it, for those who can't make it.
- Coastal scientist Jim Dahm will be building on previous discussions with members of the local community about the difficulties of protecting the Sunset Beach shoreline against erosion.
- Ways of how we can work together with the community to plan for the future will also be discussed and car park work will be outlined.
- A staff member from the District Plan Policy team will give a brief summary of the draft natural hazards section of the Proposed District Plan (PDP) and its relevance to Port Waikato. There will be a PDP focused meeting at Port Waikato on 23 October.
- We've added another document to the Port Waikato Update page on our website – it's the GHD report done on erosion back in 2014. This was commissioned after Onewhero Tuakau Community Board raised concerns about the rate of erosion five years ago.
- Council is monitoring erosion at the beach and it will be taking drone footage on a regular basis to improve monitoring.
- Extra signage is being put up at the car park warning people to stay away from the extra barrier and at the beach access point.
- The building team is continuing to speak to the owners of the two baches which are near the cliff face on Ocean View Road.