

Strategy:

5

A Beach for Havelock

Initiatives aimed at enhancing Havelock's recreational opportunities and capitalising on its waterfront setting by locating a publicly accessible beach

This strategy includes the following findings and proposed initiatives:

- Utilising Havelock's waterfront for a public facility that forms a recreational attraction for Havelock
- Further issues to be considered



CONSTRUCT A BEACH

A beach for Havelock

Havelock's recreational opportunities could be enhanced by the construction of a publicly accessible beach. This proposal aims to capitalise on Havelock's unique setting on the Kaituna River estuary and the head of the Pelorus Sound.

Figure 6-17 shows a concept design for a beach development on the eastern side of the spit in the Kaituna estuary. It utilised the existing walkway for its pedestrian access. Parking takes place along Rangitane and Ngati Kuia drives. It should be emphasised that this is a concept proposal only. Several issues need to be considered in more detail.



The water quality issue

One of the crucial issues is the local water quality. Although children often swim off the Kaituna River bridge, on the causeway, close-by the pond outlet, it is recommended to carry out some monitoring at the suggested beach site, before investing in a facility like this. The water has a perennial high bacterial loading, fed by both the Pelorus Sound and the Kaituna River. By far the biggest contributor to this state is the run-off from grazing pasture. The sewage treatment plant is a relative minor contributor. All of this is exacerbated by a slow mixing environment, relatively high temperatures from extensive and tidally-exposed dark mud and sand banks and the natural movement constraints within the surface of the estuary.

Other issues

Additional key issues to be investigated include:

- The beach site is characterised by very deep mud. Even if dredged, it is the natural process related replacement material. Apart from the bathing aesthetics and utility, deep mud can also be hazardous under tidal conditions.
- Reverse sensitivity and access issues in relation to the port's commercial interests and operational requirements.
- Protection of wildlife and vegetation in relation to access by increased numbers of people and possibly dogs.



ABOVE FIG. 6-17: concept design for a beach on the Kaituna River estuary