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Kapiti News

New coastal hazard lines threaten plants

Beach and dune planting groups should not despair following the council's announcement of new coastal hazard lines, councillor K Gurunathan says.

"These 50-year and 100-year lines, projected as a consequence of sea level rises caused by climate change, will basically wipe out significant plantings undertaken by dedicated volunteer groups.

"Tens of thousands of dollars and countless manpower hours have been spent over 10 or more years planting up the beach fronts to help build up dunes and protect

beachfront properties.

"Should it be business as usual or should KCDC and the regional council review this critical sector and how best to continue to support them?"

Mr Gurunathan said the groups, located along the district's 42km coastline, will need advice from council on how to calibrate their long-term vision and the stark reality of the message on coastal hazards and sea level rises released last week by council.

"The groups may need to review their planting plans and

programme. Will the soft engineering measures like dune restoration become more important or will they be a waste of money and effort in the long term?"

"As a founder member of the Waikanae Estuary Care Group I had planted kahikatea and even totara. These were expected to grow for more than a hundred years but now they may be wiped out in the next 50 years.

"Despite this projected threat, my own wish is for these volunteer groups to review the threat and keep up the plantings."

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K Gurunathan