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Kapiti News

Potential to alter map lines

■ David Haxton

New coastal hazard mapping lines in Kapiti aren't set in stone — but they might prove difficult to move.

At a council regulatory meeting on Thursday, strategies and partnerships group manager Gael Ferguson said if someone was concerned about the mapping lines on their specific property then they should engage someone with the technical expertise.

“They can do that at any time, it's not time bound to the district plan.

“The advice could then be presented to Dr Roger Shand or council's technical experts and a conclusion could be determined about that specific property or group of properties.

“If there's agreement, that

information will be placed on the LIMs and potentially those lines adjusted.”

But she noted the coastal hazard assessment was conducted at a local level, which was more rigorous than other councils around the country had done.

Dr Shand, the author of the *Kapiti Coast Erosion Hazard Assessment*, which has seen 50-year and 100-year mapping lines affect 1800 coastal properties, spoke about his report at a council regulatory committee meeting on Thursday.

He said the report was based on things like early survey plans, various authority directives, current best practice methodology, local level assessment, aerial photographs.

“We had to identify past

behaviours, we had to determine future behaviours and we had to give a comprehensive uncertainty assessment.”

Kapiti Mayor Jenny Rowan backed the Shand report.

“I stand by the evidence we have before us.”

She knew many people were “extremely upset” about the new mapping lines but hoped issues could be sorted out in a “practical and feasible way” without having to go to the Environment Court.

Dr Ferguson said the district plan was more interested in development controls that might exist along the coast to take into account the precautionary approach council was required to take under the Resource Management Act in terms of development.

“People will need to submit

on those development controls if they wish to. That information will be notified, along with the district plan, on November 30.

“Then there's a submission period of 40 working days.

“We have extended that period so it takes (Christmas) into account.”

Dr Ferguson said council, in future years, would also have to make decisions about its assets which sit within the identified hazard mapping line area.

Meanwhile, Wellington Regional Council has confirmed it intends to maintain the current level of service regarding management of the mouths of Kapiti watercourses dependant on floodplain management plan reviews, the Natural Resources Plan, consenting requirements, floods and natural disasters.