

Special Report presentation to the Whangamata Community Board Tuesday 7 March 2023.

Compiled, primarily by Ian Holyoake and with contributions by members of the local community.

Presented as “postman” by the Whangamata Ratepayers Association, who provided information from public comment at the recent WRA AGM.

1. Continue with and if necessary, extend the State of Emergency Powers to deal with the isolation of communities on the eastern seaboard and implications if the Whitianga - Whangamata – Waihi Road should this be compromised. The cost of the resulting isolation will run at 10's of millions of dollars, business's will close and property values will drop.
2. Install Immediately Axle counters to monitor Whangamata – Waihi Road, to record the volume of traffic for the purpose of logistics if required.
3. The immediate Installation of electronic signage to advise roads open/closed and conditions, consider reduction of speed limit to 50 - 80kph.
4. Establish an Emergency Plan to deal with the isolation of businesses, rural sector, residents, and service providers on the eastern seaboard. This will include temporary bridges and civil contractors who's specific task is to keep the road open.
5. Immediately undertake a thorough and complete review of the Whangamata Stormwater system to include design, functionality, and maintenance, which will include the TCDC engineer, identified members of the community and affected residents.
6. Take steps to immediately lower the water table to maintain manageable levels. Implement a regular maintenance programme for soak pits
7. Develop a plan that will remove stormwater outlets on the ocean beach.
8. Resolve and implement Building Consent regulations to protect new builds from flooding and erosion due to inundation and sea surges. We understand there are as many as 6 properties in town issued with building consents and code of compliance certificates that are now identified as flood prone.
9. Identify how much permeable area has been lost due to new building development and infill housing and resulting effect upon the water table. IE new development of old camp ground with 40 + new Homes on a relatively small land area. Drainage will impact on the already overloaded system.
10. Resolve the mangrove issue and the threat they present to the community by slowing the flow of water away from town specifically the upper estuary and one lane bridge trap.