

MEMORANDUM

Date:	18 January 2021
To:	Jo Miler, Chief Executive
Copy:	Mayor and Councillors, Community Board Chairs
From:	Andrea Blackshaw Director Neighbourhoods and Communities
Paper author:	Janet Lawson Reserves Assets Manager
Subject:	CLOSURE OF PETONE WHARF

Purpose (Executive Summary)

1. Following the two earthquakes in the last month, Petone wharf suffered damage to a number of piles. Emergency repairs have commenced and a dive survey of piles has taken place. On 18 January 2021 a report was received on the visual inspection of the approach piles. This has shown that the piles have deteriorated significantly and are vulnerable to further movement. A recommendation has been received from engineers to close the wharf to the public immediately while repairs are undertaken and the condition of the wharf can be further assessed. Repairs are likely to take 6 weeks. At that stage the situation will be reassessed.

Recommendation

2. That the Chief Executive agrees to temporarily close Petone Wharf to the public with immediate effect for public safety while repairs are carried out.

Background/Discussion

3. There were two seismic events in late December 2020/January 2021. Whilst small, these caused damage to at least 5 piles on the approach of Petone wharf. Further investigation revealed the need for urgent repair work.
4. On 5 January, GK Shaw attended the site and installed metal props in the area of biggest slumping. Scoping works were undertaken and a decision made to proceed with emergency repairs.
5. On 11 January, G K Shaw began emergency repair work.
6. On advice from the engineers overseeing the work (Calibre Ltd), the wharf was kept open to the public.
7. It was agreed that the planned visual dive inspection of piles would happen concurrently with the emergency repair work, prioritising those on the wharf approach, these being in the worst condition and the area of earthquake damage.
8. On 18 January, a report was received outlining the condition assessment. This shows significant deterioration and highlights the vulnerability of these piles should there be further storm or seismic events. 22 piles are considered to be in poor or very poor condition. It is recommended that these are repaired immediately. The report and supporting photos can be viewed here:
<http://portal.huttcity.govt.nz/Record/ReadOnly?Uri=5804382>

9. In response to the information in this report, verbal engineering advice (which is in the process of been confirmed in writing) has been received recommending the closure of the wharf to the public with immediate effect until repair work is complete.
10. The wharf would have to close temporarily during much of February to enable to works to be carried out safely. This decision seeks to simply bring this forward.

Risks

11. The risks of closing the wharf are low. Some members of the public will be concerned about the closure, however, an explanation through our channels of the reasons, should ensure minimal reputational risk.
12. The risks of leaving the wharf open to the public are much higher. There are high numbers of public accessing the wharf due to the warm weather. Any seismic or storm event could see further pile failures, increasing the chance of localised collapse.

Financial implications

13. There are significant financial implications to undertaking the repairs which were already noted by CLT. The decision to close the wharf has no further financial impacts.

Legal implications

14. There are no legal implications. Earthquake prone rules as per the Building Act do not apply to wharves (s133AA Building Act 2004).

Health, Safety and Security implications

15. The wharf is recommended for closure to ensure the health and safety of the public.

Communication and Engagement

16. The Mayor, elected members and Community Board Chairs will be advised.
17. Signage has been organised.
18. Information will be provided for the public via usual communication channels.

Signed:



Jo Miller