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Bay Harbour News

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Coastal hazard information change 'gutless'

■ By Annabelle Dick

THE CITY council's decision to alter wording on thousands of property reports affected by coastal hazards has been described as a "gutless" move.

Christchurch Coastal Residents United spokesman Dr Darrell Latham is reeling after the city council tweaked unreliable coastal hazard information listed on Land Information Memorandum for homes in Christchurch and Banks Peninsula.

The city council altered the details put on LIMs on Monday after a review of the original Coastal Hazards Assessment Report found more scientific work needed to be done.

Dr Darrell Latham said in spite of altering the report, the information show-

ing properties are at risk from coastal hazards has been left on LIMs.

He said the city council is "gutless" for only tweaking the wording.

"The information needs to be correct and the peer review from the coastal experts is the best available information. The council needs to listen to the recommendations and remove it from LIMs because it's legally unsound," he said.

The original Tonkin & Taylor report found numerous houses in the area are at risk of coastal erosion and flooding and that information has gone on affected homeowners' LIM reports.

The review panel urged the city council to remove it and undertake more research because the maps identifying at-risk properties could be legally unsound.

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Coastal hazard report concerns

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City council chief executive Dr Karleen Edwards decided to change the coastal hazard wording on the LIMs of the 18,000 properties identified as being vulnerable to coastal hazards.

However, the update will still state houses are at risk from coastal hazards but it won't be specific about the extent of the risk and whether the risk comes from erosion or flooding.

Dr Latham said Christchurch Coastal Residents United plan on fighting it and pursuing legal action if the information is not removed.

"We will not shy away. We've carried this issue right through to this stage. We challenged the original report, we put the council under pressure and they decided to review that report. That review has suggested the council remove the current coastal hazard mapping off the LIMs until more rigorous research can be done," he said.

The report focused on areas of urban development and assessed Brooklands, Avon-Heathcote Estuary, Sumner and Taylors Mistake, Waimairi Beach to Southshore, Duvauchelle, Takamatua, Akaroa, Wainui, Charteris Bay, Teddington, Allandale and Purau.

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Legal action possibility over coastal hazards report

■ **By Annabelle Dick**

LEGAL ACTION has been threatened by homeowners if coastal hazard information isn't removed from their property reports.

Christchurch Coastal Residents United is calling for urgent action from the city council to update the Coastal Hazard Assessment

report after experts discovered more scientific work needed to be done.

The original Tonkin & Taylor report found a number of houses in the area are at risk of coastal erosion and flooding and that information has gone on affected homeowner's Land Information Memorandum reports.

LIMs contain all the infor-

mation a council holds on a property and the hazard report has devalued many homes in the coastal area.

"There are people struggling to sell their house, people are struggling to get mortgages to buy houses and people are struggling to get insurance because companies are following the advice of the city council and the Land

Information Memorandum. It's affecting people's livelihoods," he said.

"We don't want to have to move to a situation where we consider legal action but it may be a real possibility unless the CEO comes back with something more palatable."

The review panel want the city council to remove the informa-

tion and undertake more scientific research because the maps identifying at-risk properties could be legally unsound.

Christchurch Coastal Residents United spokesman Darrell Latham said the city council needs to listen to the recommendations and look at coastal hazards further.

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Coastal hazards report

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“The report is flawed, and the panel confirmed that it’s flawed too and needs substantive work in order to fit its purpose,” he said.

The city council is now considering its next move and will release plans in the next month on how it will address the problematic report.

The report focused on areas of urban development and assessed Brooklands, Avon-Heathcote Estuary, Sumner and Taylor’s Mistake, Waimairi Beach to Southshore, Duvauchelle, Takamatua, Akaroa, Wainui, Charteris Bay, Teddington, Allandale and Purau.

The panel recommended the city council work with Environment Canterbury on coastal hazards and continue engagement with residents.

City council general manager strategy and transformation Brendan Anstiss said the additional scientific work was expected to be completed by early next year.