

PROJECT: OPOUTAMA GATEWAY AEE, MAHIA



CLIENT: WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL

STATUS: Consented by the HBRC 2010. Under Appeal.

PROJECT LEADER: Neil Cook, Engineering Manager, Wairoa District Council

SITE PHOTO:



EELA PROCESS:

EELA was part of a hand-picked team to prepare a time-limited AEE for a Notice of Requirement and Resource Consent for a new road and waste water treatment scheme in the back-dunes of the Mahia isthmus, serving the small community of Opoutama. The client - the Wairoa District Council - was chasing a pre-Christmas deadline involving the close-off of Health Department subsidies for the project. A 4-month lead-time for dual consent lodging was announced. The team formed swiftly, worked intensely and the desired results were produced, with the project consents being lodged prior to Christmas, 2009. Feedback from the client was glowing.

Throughout the project, intra-team liaison was crucial and EELA liaised most closely with the project manager, the planner and the road design engineer/surveyor. Very early on, advocacy by EELA for preservation of natural character of the local environment led to a significant refinement of the drafted road corridor for the new road through the back-dunes. Retention of a significant back-dune-form fostered considerable gains towards the landscape goal of integrating the finished road well into the existing environment.

Familiar with the reserve context for the new road from earlier reserve management planning work (2006), EELA was able to incorporate key concepts from the reserve planning process, including creation of linking cycleways/walkways to the north and south of the new road, contributing to an inter-connected finished community landscape. One of the few submitters opposing the road alignment brought to the fore visual issues namely the proximity of the new road to the new 44 lot subdivision to the south of the road and more particularly to his lot within the subdivision. Mitigation cross sections were prepared by EELA to illustrate the proposed planted bund that would enable views to the road to be screened from the submitter's property, resulting in agreed mitigation conditions that met the requirements of this submitter.

