

# Coastal Structures

## Community Outcomes

Mana Tangata/Social Well-being - Safe, connected communities where people feel happy and proud of where we live.

Mana Taiao / Environmental well-being - Sustainable communities that manage resources in a way that improves our environment for future generations.

## Why we do it

The South Taranaki District has a beautiful marine and river environment, and this activity ensures people can access our beaches and lakes and boat users can access the water. To maintain these facilities, we need to protect erosion prone areas close to existing infrastructure, so while this activity is not mandatory, we need to ensure compliance with our resource consents. The maintenance and provision of coastal structures enables us to preserve the environment for future generations. We also need to comply with the Taranaki Regional Council's Regional Coastal Plan.

## What we do

We provide access paths and steps to the sea and a number of boat ramps to allow recreational craft to access water bodies. This activity also provides coastal protection in the form of revetments in a number of places and maintains a number of significant structures in the Pātea estuary, such as the moles – concrete and stone walls that guide the Pātea River out to sea and limit erosion of land containing strategically important national railway and gas transmission infrastructure. We are required to have resource consents from the Regional Council for some of our structures, such as the Pātea Moles and boat ramp as well as other structures such as rock protection. STDC has 10 resource consents that we have to comply with in different areas of the coast.

## Looking Ahead

The effects of climate change are being considered during the decision-making process for all activities. Due to the location and vulnerability of the coastal structures, repairs and the full or partial replacement of structures are required. The repairing and maintaining of these structures ensure their continued use, as well as protecting vulnerable areas from further erosion or degradation. Coastal structures are assessed on a yearly basis.

The Pātea moles were designed to allow coastal shipping to access the old freezing works wharf, and access to the sea from Pātea is now only for recreational craft and the Coast Guard. Maintaining the more than 100-year old moles to their current standard is a large and on-going financial commitment.

In the first year of this plan options to replace the access ramp at Waverley Beach are being undertaken. The Waverley community approached the Council in 2023 regarding the condition of the access ramp and health and safety concerns for users. We have been working with the community on the replacement of the access ramp pending the collapse of the current structure.

With all of our coastal or river projects, effective consultation is undertaken with our Iwi partners. Māori have a spiritual and cultural connection to water and protecting the health and vitality of all bodies of water is a priority for us. Ensuring our coastal structures are maintained and that supporting activities do not have a negative impact on a coastal environment contributes to the achievement of our environmental and sustainability goals.