

Thames Volunteer Coastguard Inc.
P.O.Box 504
Thames 3540

28 January 2021

To Whom it may concern

Thames Volunteer Coastguard Inc fully endorses the adoption of Option 2 for the redevelopment of the Kopu Marine Precinct. While there are greater economic benefits will accrue from Option 2, our concerns are focused on health and safety issues.

Due to both our experience as a user and our observations of other users it is our firm belief that the current facilities present a risk to the safety of all operators. These risks remain with Option 1 and are only mitigated under Option 2.

In particular, these risks have increased in recent years with greater use of the facility by recreational and commercial users and are set to increase further. This increase in risk is for these reasons.

- At most stages of the tide there is a swift current flowing making vessel operations difficult. As there is no pontoon planned it is necessary for crew members to enter the water and the current. This makes night operations particularly challenging.
- Due to congestion at other ramps in the District recreational users have “discovered” Kopu increasing the number of users and creating a higher potential for harm. Under Option 1 this is further exasperated by the deletion of the recreational ramp meaning commercial and recreational will be vying to use the same space. This brings its own health and safety issues.
- The increase in recreational users has had a proportional increase in Coastguard operations and Coastguard use of this facility has increased significantly including night operations. As Kopu is the only “all-tide” facility south of Waikawau it is often used in less than ideal and often risky situations. Under Option 1 Coastguard’s ability to use the facility in an emergency or urgent callout could be compromised by the commercial ramp being blocked by other users.

In addition to obvious economic benefits, Thames Coastguard views the current project as an opportunity to eliminate the risks to current users and the users of this facility in the future.

Thank-you for this opportunity to comment on this project and we trust that our concerns will be alleviated during the design and construction process.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SE Mansell", is written over a light grey rectangular background.

SE Mansell
President