

Kaikōura District Council Media Release: 03/12/20

Wakatu Quay opens to the public in time for the summer season

Wakatu Quay will be open to the public from Friday 11 December, following the demolition and removal of three derelict buildings. The site is cleared to ground level, two areas require further remedial work, these will be fenced off to protect public safety and work to complete this will take place in the New Year.

The demolition of the buildings is part of the \$10.888M Kaikōura Marine Development Project funded by the Provincial Growth Fund. Now that the site is cleared, the project has commenced the design concept phase. The project team will be seeking input from the community early in 2021, this will be chance for people to share their thoughts on what they suggest could be built on the site. Opportunities to do this will be publicised through the Kaikōura Star, Facebook and the Kaikōura District Council website.

Project Lead Chris Sturgeon has said “Together with the Kaikōura Marine Development Governance Group we have developed a vision for Wakatu Quay. It’s such a special area with a lot of cultural history and a unique identity, we want the site to reflect this and be an asset for our community.”

“There is a need to ensure that the development is economically viable, creating yet another reason for people to visit Kaikōura and support our local businesses. At the same time this is an opportunity to create a space for everyone to enjoy, a special area that celebrates our sense of place and is a vibrant gathering point.”

After initial feedback has been gathered from the community, expressions of interest will be sought from interested parties. Once a design has been chosen interested parties will be invited to develop the proposal further moving forward into the build phase. It is not expected that there will be any construction on the site until late in 2021, early 2022.

Sturgeon said, “We recognized that a visit to Wakatu Quay and fishing off the wharf is an activity that many locals and visiting families enjoy over the Christmas period so we wanted to ensure that the site was open to the public in time for this.”

ENDS

For more updates follow Kaikōura District Council on Facebook or on the KDC website.

Any enquiries can be made to Kate.Finnerty@kaikoura.govt.nz