



Media Advisory

Bluecliffs State of Emergency

Number: 08

Date: 4 March 2024

Time: 17.15

Local State of Emergency extended

This is an official message from the Civil Defence Controller Lucy Hicks

Update – Bluecliffs state of emergency - #8

On Sunday 3 March, Southland District Council Mayor Rob Scott extended the State of Emergency at Bluecliffs for another week, until Sunday 10 March.

“The reason the emergency is being extended is to advance the two workstreams arising from the original declaration – firstly to open the bar at the Waiau Mouth where the work so far is being peer reviewed and advice is being sought on the next steps.

“While that is being done we are focusing on finalising plans for the removal of material at the old dump site, and the risks that this poses to the community,” Mayor Scott said.

“Work is likely to start in the next week, and may take up to three weeks. There are potentially explosives, asbestos and other hazardous material there, and our focus is on ensuring the safety of the residents and those working in the area.”

Minister for the Environment Penny Simmonds recently announced a successful joint funding bid by Environment Southland and Southland District Council for the removal of material at the dump site at Bluecliffs. They have been granted \$1.35 million towards planning and the remediation works.

The Bluecliffs dump site is situated in a former gravel pit located within Te Waewae Bay, west of the Waiau River mouth. Waste material was dumped at the site from the 1970s through to 1980s, and fly tipping took place up to 2000. Coastal tides and Waiau River mouth flooding have eroded parts of the site and surrounding areas.

ENDS

This release has been issued by the Duty Public Information Manager on the authority of the Southland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Controller.

Contact Duty Public Information Manager, ph 027 384 0104

Website: www.civildefencesouthland.govt.nz