

Council Members

Chair Allan Birchfield
Cr Stuart Challenger (Deputy)
Cr Brett Cummings
Cr Peter Ewen

Cr Debra Magner
Cr Laura Coll McLaughlin
Cr John Hill



PUBLIC COPY

Meeting of the West Coast Regional Council
(Te Huinga Tu)

Tuesday, 12 April 2022

West Coast Regional Council Chambers, 388 Main South Road, Greymouth

and

Live Streamed via Council's Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/WestCoastRegionalCouncil>

Following the completion of the Resource Management Committee Meeting

COUNCIL MEETING

Council Meeting

(Te Huinga Tu)

A G E N D A

(Rarangī Take)

1. Welcome (*Haere mai*)
2. Apologies (*Ngā Pa Pouri*)
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Public Forum, Petitions and Deputations (*He Huinga tuku korero*)
5. Confirmation of Minutes (*Whakau korero*)
 - 5.1 Council Meeting 8 March 2022

Matters Arising
6. Chairman's Report
7. Chief Executive's Reports
 - 7.1 Monthly Report
 - 7.2 Westport Flood Recovery Steering Committee minutes
8. Reports
 - 8.1 Operations Group Report
 - 8.2 Central Government Co-investment in Flood Protection Schemes
 - 8.3 Rating District meetings – Minutes
 - 8.4 Land River Sea Buller Model Peer Review Report
 - 8.5 Local Elections 2022 – Timetable, Order of Candidate Names and Other Matters
9. General Business
10. Public Excluded Items
 - 10.1 Confirmation of Confidential Minutes – Council meeting 8 March 2022
 - 10.2 Confirmation of Confidential Minutes – Council Extraordinary meeting 23 March 2022
 - 10.3 Council Quarries
 - 10.4 West Coast Emergency Management update

H. Mabin
Chief Executive

Purpose of Local Government

The reports contained in this agenda address the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 in relation to decision making. Unless otherwise stated, the recommended option promotes the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

Health and Safety Emergency Procedure

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THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 8 MARCH 2022,
AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH,
COMMENCING AT 10:32 A.M**

PRESENT:

A. Birchfield (Chairman), S Challenger, J. Hill, P. Ewen, D. Magner (via zoom), B. Cummings, L. Coll McLaughlin (via zoom).

IN ATTENDANCE:

H. Mabin (Chief Executive) via zoom, R. Beal (Operations Director), C Brown (Regional Director CDEM).

Also in attendance: Brendon McMahon (Grey Star)

1. WELCOME

Cr Birchfield read the prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

The Chair called for apologies. There were no apologies.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

The Chair called for declarations of interest. No declarations were made.

4. PUBLIC FORUM

The Chair called for any speakers for the public forum. There were no speakers.

PRESENTATION

There was no presentation.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.1 The Chairman asked the meeting if there were any changes to the minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 February 2022.

Moved (Challenger/Hill) *that the minutes of the Council meeting dated 8 February 2022 be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters arising

In response to a question from the Chair regarding the funding split from NEMA, R Beal confirmed that there was no funding from NEMA for emergency works as it does not meet the criteria for funding.

5.2 The Chairman asked the meeting if there were any changes to the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 23 February 2022.

Moved (Ewen/Challenger) *that the minutes of the extraordinary Council meeting dated 23 February 2022 be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

REPORTS

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chair took his report as read. He thanked Cr Challenger for attending the local government sector meeting on the 25th, on his behalf.

Moved (Hill/Cummings) *That this report is received.*

Carried

7. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORTS

7.1 Monthly Report

H. Mabin spoke to her report and took it as read. In response to a question from Cr Coll McLaughlin regarding the fuel storage capability workshop, H. Mabin outlined that there would be a report going to the Joint Committee and then to the partner Councils. H Mabin advised she did not have a timeframe within which the piece of work would be completed. Cr Ewen noted that there was some urgency with this, and that this had been flagged a decade ago. He advised that there would be a record of the previous discussions which would assist the project. H Mabin said she would provide further information to Council about who was canvassed.

Moved (Challenger/Coll McLaughlin) *That this report is received.*

Carried

7.2 Risk Register

H Mabin spoke to the report.

Moved (Ewen/ Cummings) *That Council:*

- *Adopt Council Objectives of:*
 1. *Value our People*

2. *Strong Governance and representation*
 3. *Good relationships & partnerships (community, iwi & central government)*
 4. *Resilience & sustainability for the region.*
 5. *Financial sustainability.*
 6. *Deliver effective & efficient services to our community*
 7. *Fulfilling statutory obligations; and*
- *Agree Council's initial strategic risks are:*
 1. *Failure to keep people safe*
 2. *Failure to deliver the agreed levels of service to our community*
 3. *Inability to retain knowledge to undertake Council's functions*
 4. *Failure to adequately plan for a natural disaster*
 5. *Failure to deliver robust planning policies*
 6. *Failure to implement adopted planning policies*
 7. *Financial mis-management*
 8. *Loss of Council's assets*
 9. *Loss or inaccurate corporate data*
 10. *Council's information used for other than intended purposes*
 11. *Failure to fulfil statutory obligations*
 12. *Failure of Council's relationships and partnerships.*

Carried

7.3 Risk and Assurance Committee minutes

H Mabin noted that the unconfirmed minutes were just for tabling to Council for their information and noting.

7.4 Westport Flood Recovery Steering Committee minutes

H Mabin advised that these were the minutes of the Steering Group to be tabled to Council. H Mabin introduced John Hutchings of Henley Hutchings who joined the meeting via zoom. Mr Hutchings noted that the letter from the Minister calls for an integrated package of solutions, and that the steering group and the Joint Committee each have an important role to play. He outlined the work being undertaken as part of preparing the business case seeking co-investment from the government for the works.

Cr Coll McLaughlin outlined that the Buller /Westport was a special case for co-investment as the area that could be rated was limited geographically and did not include the upper catchment. She asked about the process for considering red-zoning of areas. H Mabin responded that this would have been considered by Buller District Council and was a matter for them.

Cr Coll McLaughlin asked about whether the Regional Council received reimbursement for response costs. H Mabin replied that Claire Brown would be able to advise. H Mabin in response to a further question advised Council of the process for rates remissions for those ratepayers in red and yellow stickered buildings, and is working with Buller District Council on obtaining updated information. Cr Cummings referred Cr Coll McLaughlin to Buller District Council in terms of the issues raised in the steering group minutes that Buller DC was dealing with.

Cr Ewen queried whether the issues with communication raised by Buller DC noted in the minutes have been resolved or improved. H Mabin responded that she had asked R Beal for a communications plan, that the steering group now had a designated resource for stakeholder engagement and communication, and that she had ensured that N Costley was included in all developments to ensure communications. Cr Coll McLaughlin confirmed that she felt there had been a shift in the understanding of the community of what the Council was doing. H Mabin commended N Costley for her work in this area, which was supported by Cr Coll McLaughlin.

Cr Cummings, Birchfield, and Coll McLaughlin all noted they would like the works to be proceeded with soon. Cr Ewen felt that KiwiRail should be followed up as to why they were not at the table yet.

Moved (Cummings/Challenger) *That the Council receive and note the attachments to the report.*

Carried

7.5 Electoral Officer Appointment

H Mabin took her report as read, noting that this was the standard process as it is an election year. She advised that N Costley was to be the Deputy Electoral Officer. She also advised that Council would need to resolve the order of the candidates on the voting form, at their next meeting. H Mabin advised that the previous arrangement where a Grey District Council staff member was the Electoral Officer for the Regional Council no longer applied as that person had since left the Council.

Moved (Challenger/Ewen) *That the Council appoint Anthony Morton of Electionz as the Electoral Officer for the West Coast Regional Council.*

Carried

7.6 Development West Coast (DWC) Nominations

The Chair advised that Julie Christie had resigned, and that the Council needed to appoint someone on the selection panel to appoint her replacement. Cr Magner asked who had been the Council representative in the past. The Chair advised that it had previously been him. Cr Cummings expressed an interest in the role and there were no other nominations.

Moved (Coll McLaughlin/ Challenger) *That the Council:*

- 1. Receive this report; and*
- 2. Appoint Cr Cummings to the Appointments Panel of Development West Coast.*

Carried

7.7 Annual Plan 2022/23 Process

H Mabin took the report as read.

Moved (Cummings/Hill) *That the Council note the report.*

Carried

8. REPORTS

8.1 Operations Group Report

R Beal spoke to this report and took it as read. He advised that Karamea and Nelson Creek Rating Districts have asked for a reclassification review. He noted that damage assessments were ongoing for the February events. Staff are drafting up a NEMA claim on behalf of Wanganui, Taramakau and Franz Josef to date. He advised that staff would table the peer review of the Land River Sea work to the April Council meeting.

Cr Ewen asked whether there was an update on the Coal Creek situation and whether the peer review had been done. R Beal advised he would follow that up.

Moved (Ewen/Cummings) *That the report is received.*

Carried

8.2 Westport Joint Committee meeting and recommendations

R Beal spoke to this report and introduced Matt Gardner who joined the meeting via zoom. R Beal advised that the Joint Committee at its inaugural meeting had supported the recommendations put to it, as attached in the agenda. R Beal read out the recommendations to the meeting.

Cr Coll McLaughlin asked for clarification on the process, as this seemed different than the usual rating district process and was more complicated. She asked about the wording of the staff recommendation in Mr Beal's report and what it was asking the Council to do, noting that it doesn't ask Council to follow the recommendations of the Joint Committee. R Beal responded that the Council could ask for some amended resolutions.

H Mabin advised that if Council felt they had enough information to resolve to proceed with the works for stage 1 of the flood protection scheme then they could do that, but they may want to be aware of the financial costs and information regarding who's assets they would be and the funding arrangements. She recommended that Council be cautious about proceeding without fuller financial details. She also advised Council consider agreeing to fund all of the works out of the \$10.2m, to be mindful of the impact on the ratepayer.

R Beal advised which works would be done under the emergency works provisions, and that staff needed decisions in order to proceed with final designs and costings. Cr Ewen asked Matt Gardner for his view and whether these decisions would impact on the work he was doing. Mr Gardner confirmed they would not.

Cr Coll McLaughlin felt the recommended resolution should be reworded to commit to action, especially on item 5.5 attachment 4, as these works are clearly emergency works. Cr Ewen asked Mr Gardner to advise on his view about the railway embankment. Mr Gardner responded that the stopbank at the O'Connor home should help to address this. Cr Magner agreed that these are emergency works and felt Council did need to be clear about funding as part of the \$10.2m.

R Beal asked that the Council modify the recommended resolution following that discussion, to resolve that they approve the works in 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5 of the attached Joint Committee report. In response to a query from Cr Coll McLaughlin regarding 5.5, the works that were not covered in the Council's Long Term Plan, H Mabin advised that the Council would need to decide at a later date a source of funding, whether out of the \$10.2m, out of the investment portfolio, or an increase in the general rate for 2023, etc. She noted the Morrison Low report stated that affordability was critical. R Beal noted that there is no cost information before Council for the works as the tender process had not yet been undertaken, but the TAG group have presented them as works that need to be undertaken.

H Mabin advised the Council that the works should be paid out of the \$10.2m if Council feel the works have to be undertaken, without knowing the cost of the work. Council would then revisit the source of the funding, as central government funding cannot be assumed. Cr Ewen felt the works were important to address and get underway, and that the emergency reserve could be utilised as with Waiho. R Beal advised that NEMA funding criteria would not be met. He confirmed that there is more work required and there would be additional budget, and they could not say with any certainty that there would be funding from central government.

Cr Challenger asked about whether the works could be approved in principle, with final approval to be obtained once prices had been obtained. Cr Birchfield confirmed a special meeting could be called at short notice to given final approval once costs were known.

Moved (Challenger/Coll Mclaughlin) *That Council:*

1. *receives the report for consideration; and*
2. *approves in principle the recommendations of the Westport Rating District Joint Committee; and*
3. *approves the tendering of the works identified in 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5 of the Westport Rating District Joint Committee works and recommendations report; and that a special meeting of Council is convened once costs are available.*

Carried

8.3 Civil Defence Emergency Management Partnership Agreement

C Brown spoke to this report and took it as read. Chris Hawker, CDEM Consultant to the Council, joined the meeting via zoom. C Brown advised it had been endorsed by the CEG Group and then the Joint Committee. Cr Ewen queried the figure of 105% of budget. He also asked that a map of the region be included in the document, to show the length of the West Coast region. Mr Hawker clarified that the 105% was intended to provide a cap on spending, and that the Regional Council would always be kept informed as to expenditure and financials. He advised that the intent was that there could be a 5% variance in the budget, not a 105% variance. There was discussion on the budget process and how that worked with the Regional Council setting its annual budgets.

C Brown updated the Council on the projects that funding was being sought for including the fuel storage project.

Moved (Cummings/Challenger) *That Council receives and endorses the West Coast Civil Defence and Emergency Management Group Partnership Agreement.*

Carried

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:19 p.m., with the Chair noting the meeting would resume in a public-excluded session following the completion of the Resource Management Committee meeting.

The meeting was reconvened at 1:58 p.m.

10. PUBLIC EXCLUDED ITEMS

Moved (Challenger/ Hill) *that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of the meeting, namely, -*

- *Items 10.1 – 10.6 (inclusive)*

Item No.	General Subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 7 of LGOIMA for the passing of this resolution
Item 10.1	Confirmation of Confidential Minutes – Council meeting 14 December 2021	The item contains information relating to funding opportunities	To allow the Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (s 7(2)(i)).
Item 10.2	Confirmation of Confidential Minutes – Council Extraordinary meeting, 23 February 2022	The item contains personal information relating to individuals	To protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons (s 7(2)(a)).
Item 10.3	Confidential Minutes for tabling - Risk and Assurance Committee meeting 10 February 2022	The item contains information relating to legal and commercial matters	To maintain legal professional privilege and to protect commercial information (s 7(2)(b) and s7(2)(g)).
Item 10.4	Tender Process	The item contains information relating to commercial matters	To protect commercial information (s 7(2)(b)).
Item 10.5	Report on Cybersecurity	This item contains important information relating to Council IT and security of Council information and records	To prevent the disclosure or use of information for improper gain or improper advantage (s7(2)(j)).
Item 10.6	Report on Commercial Client (verbal update)	The item contains information relating to commercial matters	To protect commercial information (s 7(2)(b)).

and that:

- *Heather Mabin and Randal Beal be permitted to remain at this meeting after the public has been excluded, because of their knowledge on these subjects. This knowledge will be of assistance in relation to the matter to be discussed; and*

- *The Minutes Clerk also be permitted to remain at the meeting.*

Carried

The meeting continued in a public-excluded session.

.....
Chair

.....
Date

UNCONFIRMED

Report to: Council	Meeting Date: 12 April 2022
Title of Item: Chair's Report	
Report by: Chairman Allan Birchfield	
Reviewed by:	
Public excluded? No	

Purpose

For Council to be kept informed of meetings and to provide an overview of current matters.

Summary

This is the Chairman's Report for the period 8 March– 4 April 2022.

As Chair, I attended the following meetings:

- LGNZ Zone 5 & 6 meeting, 14 March 2022
- Te Tai o Poutini Plan Natural Hazards workshop, 25 March 2022
- South Island Freight Summit, 28 March 2022
- Te Tai o Poutini Plan committee meeting, 29 March 2022
- Meeting with Local Government Review Panel, 30 March 2022
- Westport Flood Recovery Steering Group meeting, 1 April 2022

I also signed the attached joint submission from the four Councils on the discussion document for review of stewardship land in Aotearoa New Zealand put out by the Department of Conservation.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council resolve to:

Receive this report.

Attachment

Attachment 1: Joint Submission by the West Coast Regional Council, Buller District Council, Grey District Council and Westland District Council on the *Stewardship land in Aotearoa New Zealand discussion document*.



To:

Stewardship Land Consultation
Department of Conservation
P. O. Box 10420 Wellington 6143

stewardshiplandpolicy@doc.govt.nz

Submission by:

**West Coast Regional Council, Buller District
Council, Grey District Council and Westland District
Council**

**Stewardship land in Aotearoa New Zealand
discussion document:**

Options to streamline processes for reclassification and disposal

Introduction and summary

This joint submission is made by the West Coast Regional Council, Buller District Council, Grey District Council and Westland District Council ("the Councils").

The Councils request a meeting with the Minister to discuss this submission.

The West Coast Region covers a vast area with a sparse population: it extends from Kahurangi Point in the north, and south to Awarua Point, a distance of 600 kilometres. This distance is the equivalent from Wellington to Auckland (see map in Appendix 1). The Region is predominantly rural.

The Conservation Estate comprises 84.17% of land area within the West Coast Region, with 1.55% under Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) administration. This leaves 14.28% available for private ownership. The land in Conservation Estate and Crown ownership is not rateable by local authorities.

The West Coast has received past Government support to transition from an extractive economy to tourism. This transition has made the West Coast economy hugely reliant on international visitors. With the current border closures, the West Coast economy is suffering, to further erode the West Coast economy by restricted use of land due to Conservation values is unjust. Local West Coast communities are affected communities and should have the opportunity to participate meaningfully in this fundamental government decision, which will affect them. It is our submission that to be meaningful to the West Coast Region, the result of this consultation must evidence "no further harm" to environmental, economic, social and cultural well-being. Every stewardship land decision that impacts local farming or business there must be an "offsetting" business opportunity within the region.

Failure to allow consideration of wider economic, cultural, and social values

The proper reclassification, disposal, or exchange of stewardship land is a significant issue impacting on the environmental, economic, social and cultural wellbeing of the West Coast and all our communities.

In general terms, the Councils are supportive of measures to streamline the process for the reclassification, exchange and disposal of existing stewardship land. However, for the reasons set out in the submission, the Discussion Paper fails to have proper regard to the conservation, economic and social context within which stewardship land is administered by the Department on behalf of all New Zealanders. This includes the potential use of stewardship land to support the West Coast's resilience and adaptation to climate change. The Discussion Paper also fails to acknowledge the Government's stated intention to review all conservation legislation and national policy as a priority. Proceeding with the reclassification of large areas of land in advance of that review risks undermining, or being inconsistent with, the more fundamental review of the Conservation Act and other relevant legislation.

Large-scale reclassifications should not be progressed until the criteria for reclassification have been reconsidered as part of this review. Unless the criteria are amended to enable these wider considerations to be taken into account there is no compelling reason to rush the reclassification process in the meantime, notwithstanding the Government's desire for speed. Resources would be better spent

first on a strategic review of conservation legislation and policy, of which stewardship land is an important part.

Having said that, the Councils agree that the Panels can perform an important role in the meantime, and that certain changes to the reclassification process can usefully be made. The Councils wish to highlight the importance of finding the right balance by ensuring that there is no further decline in economic, social or cultural wellbeing on the West Coast.

Lack of clarity about the reasons for this reclassification process

The Councils remain unconvinced from the reasons set out in the Discussion Paper that the delays to date in the reclassification process are the result of the current statutory provisions. The Councils consider that significant progress could be made if the non-legislative suggestions in the paper (which the Councils support) are implemented. The Discussion Paper fails to mention that in 2018 the New Zealand Conservation Authority and the Department requested all Conservation Boards to provide their recommendations as to priorities for stewardship land reclassifications. There is no comment in the Discussion Paper or in the NZ Conservation Authority minutes of why these recommendations have not been progressed.

The paper also fails to refer to the March 2018 advice and recommendations from the NZ Conservation Authority about the concept of net conservation benefit arising from reclassifications and exchanges of stewardship land. Proceeding with the stewardship reclassification process prior to the Government's strategic review would be contrary to that advice.

The test of 'no or very low' conservation values is uncertain and no longer fit for purpose

There is an unstated assumption in the Discussion Paper that the objective of this review is to reclassify all stewardship land with conservation values which have the potential to have greater than 'no or very low' conservation values to some form of specially protected areas under Part 4 of the Conservation Act as easily as possible. The Paper also implies that the test of 'no or very low conservation values' is a statutory one, whereas that requirement is found in Policy 6 of the 2005 Conservation General Policy. The Councils consider that the 2005 Conservation General Policy, and Policy 6 in particular, should be the subject of fundamental review as part of the overall review of conservation legislation, and that wholesale reclassifications of stewardship land which contain more than very low conservation values should not proceed until such a review is finalised.

The Councils consider that a test for reclassification of stewardship land having the 'potential'¹ for more than 'no or very low conservation values' is no longer fit for purpose. Consequently, the Councils generally oppose a streamlined process which further enables the Panels to apply such a test in reclassifications.

¹ The Councils have received advice that this is a valid interpretation of the Supreme Court's decision in the Ruataniwha case, and is referred to in the March 2018 report to the Minister from the NZ Conservation Authority.

Moreover, even if a review decided that this is the appropriate test, there is no clear definition of what 'very low' or 'low' conservation values mean. That should be clarified prior to the Panels undertaking any work.

The Councils consider that simply reclassifying additional stewardship land as specially protected areas under Part 4 of the Conservation Act would fail to have regard to the different conservation values and priorities of different regions. Not all regions are the same, and in general terms the West Coast already has significant levels of conservation land. Rather, the Councils consider that a strategic approach should be taken about what level of statutory protection should be provided to different types of ecosystems in different ecological districts and regions. If that were done, decisions about how much stewardship land might therefore be available for exchange or disposal could be made within that broader context. This is known as a 'target based approach' to conservation.²

There is also an unstated assumption that all land with more than very low conservation values should be held as specially protected areas under the Conservation Act because that will give that land better protection. The Councils consider that such an assumption is unwarranted and not supportable. On the West Coast there are large areas of existing conservation land which the Department does not have the resources to effectively manage for animal pests and weeds.

The Council's consider the review fails to give effect to Section 4 of the Conservation Act. The effect of reclassification on Mana whenua cultural, economic and social values should be considered. The alternative is that the land is held until a review of the Conservation Act and Conservation General Policy occurs in a manner which gives effect to Section 4 of the Conservation Act.

On the West Coast, there are significant areas of stewardship land where the relevant conservation values would likely be better protected overall if they were in private ownership. Protection of land through private ownership can be achieved through a combination of the RMA and its replacement legislation, the recently operative Regional Policy Statement, the proposed National Policy Statement of Indigenous Biodiversity, and the willingness and ability of private landowners to manage their land in this way. Private land, where the conservation values are managed and enhanced by landowners, will also have the social and economic advantages which accrue to the community through the ability of the Councils to add to their rating base.

There are also intraregional differences in types and uses of stewardship land. Some existing economic land uses can occur alongside conservation values and can have a net effect of improving land with high conservation value. Uses like extensive grazing serve to control weeds and prevent invasive species spreading to conservation areas.

Some areas such as South Westland would benefit from a process similar to the Crown's tenure review process. Whereby, a voluntary process is adopted that gives pastoral lessees an opportunity to buy land capable of economic use, while land with high conservation values is protected and restored to full Crown ownership as conservation land.

² See for example, 'Moving from biodiversity offsets to a target-based approach for ecological compensation' Simmonds et al. *Conservation Letters* 2020;13:e12695.

For example, grazing leases, as it is not clear how these some parcels came to be stewardship land. Some grazing runs are held by original settler families, and have been taken over in succession, e.g., in South Westland the Sullivan family has held a grazing lease successively for 125yrs, Haast families for 130 years. Grazing lease terms have been reduced since DOC was formed, in 1987 term was 5+5+5; the renewed for only 5+5; etc. This gives no certainty for the run holders as farming is multi-generational.

The Councils consider that, in the context of the forthcoming general review, changes should be made to the Conservation General Policy (and the Conservation Act if necessary) which would require the Panels to have regard to:

- (a) the social, economic benefits of stewardship land with more than low conservation values becoming private land by way of disposal or exchange;
- (b) The means by which conservation values can be protected and enhanced if the land is exchanged or disposed of; and
- (c) the value of any Crown owned minerals in the stewardship land as part of the reclassification process (in a similar manner to s61(6) of the Crown Minerals Act).
- (d) The cultural, economic and social values of mana whenua.

The review of the Conservation General Policy must also give effect to Section 17B (2) of the Conservation Act:

Nothing in any such general policy shall derogate from any provision in this Act or any other Act.

If the reclassification of stewardship land proceeds under the existing Conservation General Policy, it is likely to derogate from Section 10 of the Local Government Act which sets out the purpose of local government which is:

- a) enabling democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, West Coast communities; and
- b) promoting the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of West Coast communities on the West Coast in the present and for the future.

Failure to provide for exchanges of stewardship land

The Discussion Paper also fails to discuss exchanges of private land for stewardship land, as distinct to disposals. The Conservation General Policy (and the Conservation Act if necessary) should be amended to reverse the unanticipated result of the Supreme Court's decision in the Ruataniwha case that an exchange is deemed to be a disposal and therefore can only occur where there is not the potential for greater than very low conservation values.

Need for independent advice on wider values to be provided to the Panels

Given the importance of stewardship land to the economic, social, and cultural wellbeing of the West Coast, the Councils consider that there should be a process by which independent advice (that is, not from the Department) on these values are provided to the Panels.

Section 4 Conservation Act obligations

The Councils are concerned that the review fails to consider Mana Whenua values as required to give effect to the Treaty of Waitangi under section 4 of the Conservation Act³. The Councils are aware of discussions between Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu and the Minister of Conservation, including halting the land reclassification process until the Conservation Act can be fully reviewed. The land classification review fails to recognise the role of customary practices on conservation land, and the Councils support the position of Poutini Ngai Tahu in their discussion through Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu with the Minister of Conservation. The effect of reclassification on Mana Whenua cultural, economic and social values should be considered. The alternative is that the land is held until a review of the Conservation Act and Conservation General Policy occurs in a manner which gives effect to Section 4 of the Conservation Act.

In summary, the Councils submit that unless the concerns set out in this submission can be addressed, until these wider issues and concerns are considered as part of a more general review of conservation legislation as signalled by the Government, there is no pressing reason at this stage to progress major reclassifications on the basis of the policy set out in the Conservation General Policy 2005.

Rather, in the interim, the non-legislative changes proposed in the Discussion Paper should be made and the Panels should be directed to focus on:

1. Progressing the priorities identified in 2018 by the West Coast Conservation Board (unless a proposal relates to an addition to a national park which should be progressed by the NZCA); and
2. Progressing the exchange or disposal of stewardship land which clearly has no or very low conservation values (subject to that term being clearly defined in advance after input from stakeholders); and
3. Undertaking a review of the cultural, social and economic value of stewardship land not falling under 1 and 2 above, with the purpose of being able to make recommendations on such land once the Conservation General Policy has been amended as described above; and
4. Ensuring Section 4 of the Conservation Act is given effect.

³ *Ngāi Tai Ki Tāmaki Tribal Trust v Minister of Conservation* [2018] NZSC 122

Discussion document proposals

A. Introduction and objectives

1. Do you agree with the objectives listed in the discussion document? Do you think there are any other objectives that should be included in this review?

The Councils agree with the objectives listed on page 6, except for bullet point 2 (“delivering clarity for everyone on the status of land, the appropriate level of protection/use and the reclassification process”). While that is an appropriate objective in itself, the proposed changes set out in the Discussion document are inadequate to properly achieve that objective. Moreover, the Councils consider that it is inappropriate and unrealistic to try to achieve this objective through this limited review which is focussed on efficiency of the reclassification process. An objective of delivering clarity for everyone on the status of land and the appropriate level of protection/use requires considerably greater strategic analysis and should be a fundamental part of the overall review of conservation legislation proposed by the Government.

Bullet point 2 should be deleted and replaced with an overall objective of this review which is to enable a more efficient process for reclassification, exchange and disposal of stewardship land in a manner which meets bullet points 3, 4 and 5 in the interim, pending a review of conservation legislation and the Conservation General Policy, but in a manner which also does not run the risk of undermining or being inconsistent with the results of the forthcoming conservation review.

2. Do you agree with the description of the problem in the discussion document? If no, please provide reasons to support your answer?

The Councils accept that the reclassification process to date has been time consuming and unwieldy. However, the Councils do not agree that the description of the problem of time delays is necessarily because of the existing legislation. The minutes of the NZ Conservation Authority throughout 2018 when this topic was considered at each of the Authority’s meetings do not support an argument that the delays and inefficiencies in the reclassification processes were caused by the legislation or the Conservation General Policy provisions.

The discussion paper implies that the second and third bullet point issues set out on page 10 of the document are ‘problems’ which cause “time, cost and complexity”. If the discussion paper is proposing that changes are made to the process which are intended to lessen or avoid these considerations, then the Councils do not agree with that fundamental proposition. Rather, the Councils consider that these issues are appropriate ones that need to be fully assessed in a strategic manner within the context of legislation and regulatory policy which is fit for purpose in the 2020s. As the Government has acknowledged, existing conservation legislation and policy are not currently fit for purpose. This review, which is said to be for the purpose of streamlining the stewardship land reclassification process, is not the appropriate place to be enabling significant reclassifications based on criteria which are acknowledged by the government to no longer be fit for purpose.

The Councils do not accept that “failure to provide the level of protection appropriate to the area risks the loss of biodiversity, cultural and other values that DOC is charged with protecting”. (p 9). The unstated presumption that a reclassification to a specially protected area itself provides greater protection, or indeed that conservation land in itself ‘protects’ conservation values is incorrect.⁴ Consideration should be given to the possibility that, in some situations, conservation values which are presently on stewardship land may be better protected if that land is exchanged or disposed of to become private land.

The discussion paper has conflated issues of process efficiency with strategic policy issues. The August 2021 Cabinet Paper was focussed on improving the efficiency of the reclassification process. However, the suggested legislative changes in the discussion paper would result in increasing actions which are based on legislation and policy which the Government has described as not fit for purpose.

The Councils are also concerned about the lack of comment about the Government’s obligations to iwi Maori under section 4 of the Conservation Act. Other than appearing to treat areas which are of great significance to tangata whenua as part of the problem (p 10), there is no indication of how ‘the complex partnership arrangements’ will be developed and what they may look like. These are indeed complex issues but need to be worked through as part of the overall strategic review of conservation legislation and policy in accordance with the principles of the Treaty, and not in an ad-hoc and non-transparent manner.

This review has stated that some stewardship land is subject to competing interests. However, the terms of reference limit the Panels’ consideration to conservation and cultural values. This creates a prioritisation of conservation values, over other values and is potentially a derogation from the purpose of local government in the Local Government Act which is:

a) enabling democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of West Coast communities; and

b) promoting the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of West Coast communities on the West Coast in the present and for the future.

For this reclassification process to be accepted by the local West Coast communities, these wider values should be considered alongside conservation values.

3. Do you think there are any additional factors that have contributed to stewardship land reclassification not being progressed on a large scale? If so, please describe them.

The Councils are not able to speculate on additional reasons. The NZCA minutes do not disclose any real reasons for the inefficiencies and lack of progress to date.

⁴ See for example ‘What does ‘protection’ of biodiversity mean?’ J Craig and S Christensen, November 2021 RMJ (Resource Management Journal).

4. Do you think there any other issues or impacts caused by the failure to reclassify stewardship land on a large scale that have not been described here? If so, what are they and who/what do they affect?

While it may be Government policy to proceed quickly with reclassifications, the discussion paper does not disclose any pressing conservation reasons why that needs to be done with haste, or in advance of a full review of conservation legislation and policy.

The status quo in terms of not being able to exchange or dispose of any stewardship land which has the potential to have more than very low conservation value has impacted negatively on opportunities for the West Coast ratepayers to own and make use of land in a manner which nonetheless protects those conservation values.

This has in turn created uncertainty for many users of stewardship land on the West Coast. The review affects helicopter operators, moss pickers, miners as well as concessioners and grazing run holders. Adding to a failure to consult with users prior to undertaking the review, there have been impacts on economic and social wellbeing in terms of financial uncertainty affecting health and the inability to plan for future generations. This is contrary to the fundamental rights of the West Coast community to provide for their economic, cultural, social and environmental wellbeing.

There is an assumption that all the former Timberlands land which was classified as conservation land following the West Coast Accord has conservation values such as to warrant conservation land status. Many grazing concessions and leases are historic, and it is not clear how the land came to be stewardship land. The Councils do not accept that assumption in all instances.

Having said that, there are many examples of stewardship land on the West Coast which clearly have no or very low conservation values (such as land used for buildings, or land which has been grazed for many years). The Panels should, and can, proceed directly with proposal to dispose of such land.

B. Improving consistency of public notification and submission processes

5. The discussion document sets out three possible options – please indicate your preferred option. You may provide further analysis or comments to support your choice.

The Councils support Option 1.1 – shortening the submission period to 20 working days. That is consistent with public processes under both the RMA and the Reserves Act.

However, if the submission process is shortened current users of land should be consulted with prior to the notification process, i.e., lease or concession holders. These are the people whose economic or social wellbeing will be most affected by the process.

6. Do you think 20 working days (one month) is adequate to prepare a written submission? If not, what time period would be adequate?

Yes.

7. What role or function do you consider hearings play?

Pending the outcome of the review of conservation legislation, public hearings are important to ensure transparency and accountability. That is particularly so when the 'tests' around reclassification remain unclear and are unrelated to any strategic objectives.

Hearings should be held without formality and current users should be provided resourcing to participate in the process. The process should take into account that some land users live in remote locations without adequate internet access to participate via video link.

8. Are there any further options you think DOC should consider that would meet the objectives set out in the discussion document?

To ensure the Department meets its obligations under the Conservation Act, the Conservation General Policy should be reviewed, and that review must give effect to Section 17B (2) of the Conservation Act, and thereby not derogate from the purposes of local government.

C. Enabling the national panels to carry out the public notification and submission process

9. The discussion document sets out two possible options – please indicate your preferred option. You may provide further analysis or comments to support your choice.

The Councils support option 2.2. The justification in the discussion document for a change to the status quo is weak. If DoC does not provide a secretariat and administrative role, then that will have to be created for the Panels, so the Councils see no administrative efficiency in a change. Issues of the independence of Panels can be managed in the same way that independent hearing commissioners undertake work for councils under the RMA.

The discussion paper makes it clear that the Panels are not given powers to make decisions on matters that relate to non-conservation values. The terms of reference state that the panel has been appointed to make recommendations on conservation and cultural values⁵ and do not have expertise to be considering other wider values.

⁵ Section 13 Terms of Reference

The composition of the Panels is fundamentally flawed by not providing for members with expertise or experience to enable the proper assessment of the social or economic value of stewardship land to users and the wider community. This should include the assessment of such matters as biosecurity from managed grazing areas, appropriate net conservation or biodiversity gain from alternative uses of parcels of land, community sustainability and resilience, and wider cultural and social values.

10.If the national panels carried out the public notification and submissions process, what impact do you think this would have on the reclassification or disposal process?

The Councils anticipate that this will duplicate resources, and result in less efficiencies.

If the Panel carries out the process under the existing terms of reference, there will be an inappropriate bias toward conservation values. The Panels have no ability to consider social or economic, or other cultural values when hearing submissions and making recommendations.

This will result in a process and outcomes which are unlikely to be accepted by West Coast communities.

11.Are there any further options you think DOC should consider that would meet the objectives set out in the discussion document?

Yes.

The Panels' recommendations on any stewardship land should be further considered by local conservation boards and the NZCA against alternative land uses under a revised Conservation General Policy which allows consideration of wider values.

The Councils are concerned that the only information available to the Panels is provided by Department officials. Given the importance of stewardship land to the economic, social, and cultural wellbeing of the West Coast, the Councils consider that there should be a process by which independent advice (that is, not from the Department) on these values are provided to the Panels.

D. Clarifying responsibilities for making recommendations to reclassify stewardship land to national park

12. What particular expertise/experience do you consider the national panels could bring to the process?

The Councils consider that the Panels should not have a role in making recommendations to reclassify stewardship land to national park. Decisions about adding land to national parks should continue to be made by the NZCA and not by the Panels. There is no evidence that the NZCA has not undertaken that role efficiently and effectively to date. The NZCA is experienced in that process, and the Councils consider it is important that the requirements in the National Parks Act be properly adhered to, unless and until they are changed as part of the overall review of conservation legislation.

The broad experience and expertise of NZCA members as mentioned on p 25 is a reason for the NZCA to retain that role. The membership of the Panels is not an improvement on the membership of the NZCA.

13. If the national panels were responsible for making recommendations to reclassify land to national parks, do you consider this would create any risks?

The Councils consider that this is a strategic policy issue which should only be made as part of the strategic review of conservation legislation and policy. It raises the issue of the role (if any) of both local conservation boards and the NZCA. These bodies were created by legislation to provide strategic local level input into conservation decision making by the Department and the Minister (who are making decisions on behalf of all New Zealanders). There is no pressing need to change the status quo in advance of a full review of the role of conservation boards and the NZCA.

The Councils do not accept that the Panels replacing the role of the NZCA would in itself result in efficiencies.

For the West Coast, the reclassification of some stewardship land to national parks may have perverse outcomes. For example, grazing runs, and national parks do not go together, it is a review risk for lease holders if the grazing runs are to be put into National Parks, as they can no longer graze them. Broader consideration of potential stewardship land to national parks needs to be allowed. The Councils consider the terms of reference of the Panel is too narrow to allow them to fully consider the implications of such a reclassification.

14. Are there any further options you think DOC should consider that would meet the objectives set out above?

Unlike reclassifications and disposals of stewardship land for other purposes, the criteria for adding land to a national park is clear in the National Parks Act. No changes are required to the process or the criteria.

The Councils are concerned that the only information available to the Panels is provided by Department officials. Given the importance of stewardship land to the economic, social, and cultural wellbeing of the West Coast, the Councils consider that there should be a process by which independent advice (that is, not from the Department) on these values are provided to the Panels. There should be a mechanism for this to be done alongside Departmental advice and before a proposal is notified, and not solely left to submitters once a proposal has been notified.

E. Removing the statutory step to declare all stewardship land to be held for conservation purposes before it can be reclassified or disposed of

15. The discussion document sets out two possible options – please indicate your preferred option. You may provide further analysis or comments to support your choice.

The Councils support option 4.1, however there is a concern in the Community that the assessment process will not be undertaken fairly or equitably.

16. Are there any alternative options that have not been discussed here? Please provide analysis or comments to explain your answer.

The West Coast community remains sceptical about whether much of the stewardship land should have been allocated as conservation land when the Department was formed in 1987. That relates to what is perceived to be a failure at that stage to considered historical use of the land, including present and future economic value. River run grazing farms in South Westland, for example, have been used for generations, and the community feels are part of “their culture”. Some are still held by original settler families, and have been taken over in succession, e.g., the Sullivan family 125yrs, Haast families for 130 years. There are also areas of stewardship land the community would like to use for micro hydro electricity generation, to improve their energy and climate change resilience, and to transition to a low carbon future. A low carbon future is a government priority. These are all examples of the wider values and considerations that need to be part of the reclassification process. Simply restricting the Panels to considering conservation values will result in outcomes which may be contrary to the wider social, economic and cultural, as well as environmental, wellbeing of existing and future West Coast and wider New Zealand generations.

17. Do you think that there are any other risks or impacts associated with declaring all section 62 stewardship land to be held for a conservation purpose via a legislative change that have not been identified here?

The risk is not providing for the community's wellbeing and not allowing local decision-making processes to occur.

The consideration of kaitiaki also needs to be considered. The risk is that Department sufficiently resources to have more land come into strict conservation classification that may restrict other economic uses. This may mean there is less option for economic gain to the Department from leases and concessions, and unforeseen risks from poorly managed land. For example, biosecurity and weed control in river run blocks that are currently grazed.

F. Enabling the Minister of Conservation to direct the proceeds of sale from stewardship land to DOC

18. The discussion document sets out two possible options – please indicate your preferred option. You may provide further analysis or comments to support your choice.

The Councils support Option 5.1.

19. What are the risks or impacts associated with allowing the Minister of Conservation to direct the proceeds of sale of stewardship land to DOC that have not been identified here?

None that the Councils are aware of.

20. Are there any further options you think DOC should consider that would meet the objectives set out in the discussion document?

Not that the Councils are aware of.

G. Clarifying the status of concessions on reclassified stewardship land

21. The discussion document sets out two possible options – please indicate your preferred option. You may provide further analysis or comments to support your choice.

The Councils support option 6.2. This is consistent with Section 64 of the Conservation Act which provides for existing licences and leases etc.

22. If a concession is inconsistent with a new land classification or on land that has been recommended for disposal, should it be allowed to continue? Please explain your answer.

Yes. This would be similar to existing use rights under the RMA but will only operate for a defined period (even if there are renewal rights). The Councils do not accept the statement in the discussion document that this option ‘may not ensure conservation values are adequately protected in every case’ (p 33). In granting the concession, the Department should have had regard to the conservation values as they exist, and not just to the classification of the conservation land. Those values will be the same irrespective of a change in the classification of the land.

This option is essential to create certainty for existing occupiers and users of this land. Tenure is an important consideration in business planning, the Department cannot expect economic gain from leases and concession holders if no security of investment is offered in return.

23. Are there any other risks or impacts associated with allowing inconsistent concessions to continue?

The concessions should not be inconsistent because they were granted having regard to the actual conservation values of the land and they will not have changed with a reclassification.

24. Are there any further options you think DOC should consider that would meet the objectives set out in the discussion document?

Not that the Councils are aware of.

H. Non-regulatory options to improve stewardship land reclassification

25. Are there any other non-regulatory options to help streamline the process for reclassifying stewardship land that we should consider? Please explain your answer.

The Councils support the three non-regulatory changes proposed.

If the Panels are to be holding public hearings, they should receive training and be qualified in the same way as hearing commissioners under the RMA. This is important for consistency of decision making, transparency, accountability, and to ensure natural justice, as well as competence in weighing and assessing technical evidence in order to make competent recommendations.

1. Implementing changes

26. Are there any additional evaluation or monitoring measures that you think should be implemented? Please explain your answer.

Unless the concerns set out in this submission can be addressed, then until the review of conservation legislation and policy is completed, the scope of the Panels' work should be restricted to:

1. Progressing the priorities identified in 2018 by the West Coast Conservation Board (unless a proposal relates to an addition to the national park which should be progressed by the NZCA); and
2. Progressing proposals (on a non-notified basis) for the exchange or disposal of stewardship land which clearly has no or very low conservation values (subject to that term being clearly defined in advance after input from stakeholders); and
3. Undertaking a review of the social and economic value of stewardship land not falling under 1 and 2 above, with the purpose of being able to make recommendations on such land once the Conservation General Policy has been amended as described above; and
4. Ensuring Section 4 of the Conservation Act is given effect.

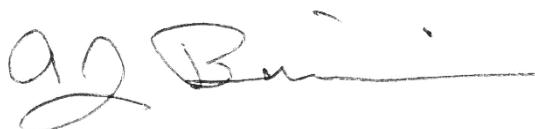
The judicial review process is the only option for contesting any decision made on the reclassification of Stewardship land. This option is mostly unaffordable to some current occupiers of Stewardship Land who may be affected by the Panels' decision making. A formal objection and reconsideration process should be provided to those persons who are directly affected by a reclassification decision (similar to the objection process in section 357 of the Resource Management Act).



Mayor Bruce Smith
Westland District Council



Mayor Tania Gibson
Grey District Council



Chair Allan Birchfield
West Coast Regional Council



Mayor Jamie Cleine
Buller District Council

Report to: Council	Meeting Date: 12 April 2022
Title of Item: CEO's report	
Report by: Heather Mabin, Chief Executive	
Reviewed by:	
Public excluded? No	

Report Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to provide Council with a summary of activities undertaken by the Chief Executive.

Report Summary

This paper details the interactions, appointments, significant contracts executed, and meetings attended by the Chief Executive for the month of March 2022.

Draft Recommendations

It is recommended that Council resolve to:

Receive this report.

Activities Undertaken

Activities undertaken during March 2022 by Heather Mabin were:

- March 3
 - Attended via Zoom the Westport Recovery Steering Group meeting.
 - Attended viz Zoom the Westport Rating District Joint Committee inaugural meeting
 - Extended Chris Hawker's contract for services to develop CDEM capability on the West Coast.
 - Signed funding agreement with NEMA for Chris Hawker.
 - Signed three submissions to the Ministry for the Environment:
 - On discussion document: *Our Future resource management system – materials for discussion.*
 - On Te Ara Paerangi Future Pathways Green paper 2021
 - On consultation document: *Improving the protection of drinking-water sources.*
- March 9
 - Signed Contract for Services with NEMA re: development of CDEM capability on the West Coast
- March 10
 - Attended via Zoom the West Coast CPG-RFL meeting
- March 11
 - Signed contract with Cedilla Limited for the provision of Programme Manager services to the Buller Recovery Steering Group.
- March 17
 - Attended via Zoom the Long-term Flood Resilience Workshop 1 for Westport.
- March 18
 - Attended via Zoom the Westport Recovery Steering Group meeting.

- March 22
 - Attended via Zoom the Inaugural meeting of the Te Whanaketanga – West Coast Economic Development Strategy 2050 Steering Group.
- March 25
 - Attended via Zoom the TTPP Natural Hazards Workshop 3.
- March 28
 - Attended via Zoom the South Island Freight Summit
- March 29
 - Attended via Zoom the TTPP Committee meeting.
- March 30
 - Attended via Zoom the LG Reform Review Panel meeting.
- March 31
 - Signed submission to Taumata Arowai on *Drinking Water Supply Regulations*.
 - Appointed Chris Barnes Compliance Team Leader.
 - Attended via Zoom the Kotahitanga ki Te Uru meeting.

Considerations

Implications/Risks

Transparency around the activities undertaken by the Chief Executive is intended to mitigate risks associated with Council's reputation.

Significance and Engagement Policy Assessment

There are no issues within this report which trigger matters in this policy.

Report to: Council	Meeting Date: 12 April 2022
Title of Item: Westport Flood Recovery Steering Group	
Report by: Heather Mabin, Chief Executive	
Reviewed by:	
Public excluded? No	

Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is to table the approved Minutes from the Westport Recovery Steering Group (the Steering Group) meetings held during February and March 2022.

Report Summary

Council is represented by Chair Birchfield, Cr Cummings and the Chief Executive, Heather Mabin, on the Steering Group.

This paper presents the minutes from the fortnightly meetings for Council's reference.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Council resolve to:

Receive and note the Attachments to the report.

Current Situation

The Terms of Reference for the Steering Group have been amended to be to:

- Provide effective guidance and oversight of the financial assistance appropriated by Cabinet in August 2021 to support the Buller Recovery including related matters set out in the Funding Agreement between BDC and DIA and NEMA;
- Identify and recommend longer term flood recovery priorities for the Buller District including options to increase resilience to future flood events;
- Provide advice to the Crown and elected Council's members on future funding that may be sought from the Government to support the Buller flood recovery and increase resilience to future flood events.

Attachments

Attachment 1: Minutes Westport Flood Recovery Steering Committee 17 February 2022

Attachment 2: Minutes Westport Flood Recovery Steering Committee 3 March 2022

Attachment 3: Minutes Westport Flood Recovery Steering Committee 18 March 2022

**Westport Flood Recovery Steering Committee
Minutes
Thursday 17 February 2022
10.30 am, Clocktower Chambers and via Zoom**

Present:

Chairperson Richard Kempthorne
Mayor Jamie Cleine, BDC
Sharon Mason, BDC CEO
Rachel Townrow, BDC Deputy CEO
Cr Brett Cummings WCRC
Paul Barker, DIA
Jenna Rogers, NEMA

Via Zoom:
Heather Mabin, WCRC Acting CEO
Sharon Roche, BDC Deputy Mayor
Francois Tumahai, Ngāti Waewae

In Attendance:

Kirstin McKee - Minute Taker

Via Zoom:
Laura Harding
DIA Pam Johnston
Mike Mendonça
Michael Henstock
Suzie Paisley, NEMA

Apologies: - none.

1. Welcome and Introduction

The Chair welcomed attendees and acknowledged the recent disruptions in Buller with flood events and emergency status, on the SG meeting and timeliness in receiving papers.

2. Declaration of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Confirmation of previous minutes

Resolution:

That the minutes as circulated were confirmed a true record

Moved Cr Cummings/seconded Mayor Cleine

Carried

4. Recovery Project Status Report & Dashboard

The Steering Group was briefed on key aspects of the Project Status Report:

- Recovery programme was tracking well until the end of January.
- Insurance council data - 53% of homes have fully settled or being repaired as at end of January. 40 homes at end of January had red/yellow sticker formally removed.
- End of 2021 and through January, some of the psychosocial issues have become apparent, continued need for Community Hub and navigator service.
- Volunteer support to get the 8 temporary houses up and ready. Finishing work delayed due to contractors being pulled into immediate repair work post February event.
- Community kitchen has been stood up.

- Worked with Hub and Navigator providers to ensure they continue past March, monitor how this sits with Regional Covid response.
- Continuing work with DWC on business continuity.

The Steering Group was briefed on Project risks:

- Communications continue to be a focus, better placed around July recovery with comms, and receiving positive feedback.
- As of January delivered 94% of recovery programme, tracking well towards end of February.
- Begun the draft exit strategy for July, now to be revisited following the February event.

The Steering Group was presented with a high-level dashboard overview:

- Some properties had flood affected furniture in July, now mouldy and needing to be disposed of.
- Council clarifying the use of transitional powers relating to the July event, now the district has a new emergency declaration.
- The recovery team, with assistance from NEMA, is establishing how to merge the response to the February 2022 flooding with the July 2021 event.
- February flooding caused four Westport and 18 rural Buller houses to be yellow or red stickered.
- It was confirmed that a small number of people had applied for temporary accommodation from the February event and the temporary village is definitely required.
- HUB and navigator support are getting towards the upper end of the appropriation from the July flood, and there is obviously a need for the continued service. There has been work with NEMA/DIA and the Recovery Programme on further funding.

Resolution:

***That the SG receive the Project Status report and Dashboard
Moved Mayor Cleine/seconded Cr Cummings
Carried***

5. Draft Amended Terms of Reference

It was agreed that there would be a standard agenda item for sharing of information between the Joint Committee and Steering Group.

The Steering Group agreed to extend membership to John Hutchings of Henley Hutchings in an *ex officio* capacity to advise on flood protection measures.

Resolution:

***That the Terms of Reference are agreed, with the addition of John Hutchings to the membership in an ex officio capacity.
Moved Mayor Cleine/seconded Cr Cummings
Carried***

6. Proposed Approach to Forward Work Programme

The Steering Group was briefed on a planned process to deliver an integrated package of options to the Government in June. While further work is required, and recent emergencies have diverted effort, the Steering Group was advised that:

- The business case will need to be based on compelling evidence and analysis.
- Timeframes are very tight given the amount of effort required, and given public expectations around a quick process.
- Close collaboration with Councils and other agencies will be critical.
- Planning is underway regarding the running of workshops. These will likely require input from all Steering Group members, and will be independently facilitated.
- A multi-faceted approach will need to consider flood protection, stormwater, land use and how to draw these aspects together to improve overall flood resilience.

- It is critical that the Steering Group and the Joint Committee are aligned and that there is clarity on the different roles.

Resolution;

That the proposed approach is endorsed

Moved Richard Kempthorne/seconded Deputy Mayor Roche

Carried

7. Establishment of Westport Rating District Joint Committee

The Steering Group was advised that expressions of interest have been invited for the independent chair of the Joint Committee, this is the first order of business for the Joint Committee. Mayor Cleine, Chair Birchfield and Council CEOs will make a decision. A report on the appointment will be presented to BDC as a late paper, and WCRC is to have an extra-ordinary meeting.

It was noted that careful co-ordination and communication between the Joint Committee and the Steering Group will be critical to attracting Government funding.

This is to be a standard agenda item for the Steering Committee.

8. Steering Group Communications and Engagement Planning

Additional resource has been engaged to assist in this area. An engagement framework is under development including key external messaging that is aligned and helps to make the community aware of the Steering Group and its mandate.

It was noted that:

- The community has a high level of anxiety about heavy rainfall and flooding and needs answers about improving resilience to future flooding. It is critical to make real progress quickly.
- An engagement plan is under development with input from the Steering Group members.
- Key messages and actions need to be communicated with the community as soon as possible. Key messages are to be circulated information before the next meeting.

9. Financial update

The Steering Group was provided with an overview of finances in relation to the project status report. The Steering Group was advised:

- It is proposed to claim through NEMA against the appropriation for flood affected waste, Community Hub and Navigators, and immediate response and recovery costs.
- Flood affected waste is coming in under budget and will be able to take into account the additional 25 properties affected from July flood.
- The Community Hub is approaching the end of the \$1m appropriation. It is intended to switch to the DIA lotteries funding to deliver this programme.

Resolution;

That the Steering Group:

Notes the summary of Claims paid to 31 December 2021 against each of the appropriations.

Receives and endorses Claim 5 to be put forward for payment in February 2022 as follows:

CLAIMS BY APPROPRIATION	CLAIM 5
FLOOD AFFECTED WASTE (\$1.5M)	\$25,876
COMMUNITY HUB & NAVIGATORS (\$1M)	\$276,446
IMMEDIATE RESPONSE & RECOVERY COSTS (\$1.45M)	\$123,972
TOTAL	\$426,295

Moved Deputy Mayor Roche, Seconded Mayor Cleine

Carried

10. Funding request

BDC staff with NEMA support are developing a funding request (Tranche 2) to Central Government to assist with repair and recovery post the July event. The bulk of this is around infrastructure repairs. Further work and analysis is required.

Resolution;

That the Steering Group endorses Tranche 2 work

- 1. Noting the elements of the Tranche 2 request that is being developed.***
- 2. Supporting further work being done to finalise the request for presentation as soon as possible.***

Moved Mayor Cleine/seconded Deputy Mayor Roche

Carried

11. General Business

The Steering Group briefly discussed a WCRC proposal around the O’Conor Home site and how this work intersects with NEMA funding. There are challenges around the policy settings for betterment and asset ownership. The Steering Group was advised that NEMA advice to WCRC indicated that this work needs to be incorporated into the flood protection options that are currently being progressed.

No other matters were raised. The meeting closed at 12.05 pm

Next meeting – Thursday 3 March at 10:30am

Westport Flood Recovery Steering Committee

Minutes

Thursday 3rd March 2022

10.30 am, via Zoom

Present:

Chairperson Richard Kempthorne
Mayor Jamie Cleine, BDC
Sharon Mason, BDC CEO
Rachel Townrow, BDC Deputy CEO

Heather Mabin, WCRC Acting CEO
Sharon Roche, BDC Deputy Mayor
Paul Barker, DIA
Cr Brett Cummings WCRC

In Attendance:

Annikka Pugh - Minute Taker
Laura Harding
Pam Johnston, DIA

Mike Mendonça
Michael Henstock
Suzie Paisley, NEMA

Apologies:

Jenna Rogers, NEMA

François Tumahai, Ngati Waewae

1. Welcome and Introduction

The Chair welcomed attendees and outlined the protocols for conducting a meeting via Zoom.

2. Declaration of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

A register of declarations of interest will be collated and managed by the Programme Manager with the support of BDC.

3. Confirmation of previous minutes

The Steering Group noted that prior to confirmation of the minutes of the meeting of 17th February:

- Assessment is still underway regarding the claim to be presented to NEMA.
- With respect to community engagement, it is intended to utilise and support existing channels.
- That the level of detail in minutes of meetings needs to strike the balance between recording the essence of the meeting without unnecessarily recording detail of discussions.
- The minutes of the meeting of 17th February are to be brought back to the next meeting for confirmation.

4. Terms of Reference

The Steering Group Terms of Reference were adopted as amended. These will be made available on the BDC website.

5. Risk Register

The Steering Group endorsed the Risk Register framework as proposed.

The Steering Group amended the detailed risk and treatments as follows:

- R001 (*Steering Group unable to agree*) residual risk rating reduced from *Extreme* to *Medium*.
- R004 (*Withdrawal of insurers*) – to be clarified and owner changed to Programme Manager.
- R009 (*Misalignment of work programmes*) owner changed to Programme Manager.

- R010 New risk to be added *If the community does not have access to and a sound understanding of scientific basis of options, support for options might be undermined*
- R011 New risk to be added *If key stakeholders - Kiwirail, Waka Kotahi and other agencies/businesses lose confidence in the process, their investments and support could diminish.*

6. **Report back from the Westport Rating District Joint Committee**

Hugh McMillan has been appointed chair of the Joint Committee. The inaugural meeting will occur on the afternoon of 3rd March.

This is to be a standard agenda item for the Steering Committee.

7. **Steering Group Communications and Engagement Planning**

The Steering Group was updated on:

- Communications outlining the respective roles of the Joint Committee and the Steering Group.
- A future decision required regarding the choice of logo for Steering Group communications.
- WCRC proposal to use webinars to inform people of the facts based in science.
- A draft engagement plan to be circulated to SG members prior to the next meeting.

8. **Strategic Settings for the long-term Westport flood resilience project**

The Steering Group was provided with an overview of proposed strategic settings for the business case. These will underpin the proposal to the Government. The Steering Group commented:

- The settings need to be sensitive to the geographic scope of the project, especially as tranche 2 involves areas outside of Westport itself.
- The Steering Group would like to see more focus on *partnership*.
- It will be useful to incorporate a national perspective as climate change is not restricted to the West Coast.

Steering Group members were invited to provide further detailed feedback offline.

9. **Financial update**

- a. BDC provided a brief verbal financial update, most effort is oriented around Tranche 2.
- b. *Tranche 2* – the Steering Group heard that:
 - There is a significant information threshold to be met to progress Tranche 2.
 - Clarity around the process has been a challenge but this is now resolved.
 - The Steering Group requested a verbal update at the next meeting.
- c. The Steering Group approved *External Support to the Long-term Buller Flood Resilience Programme*

No other matters were raised. The meeting closed at 12.05 pm

Next meeting – Friday 18th March at 10:30am

Westport Flood Recovery Steering Committee Minutes

Friday, 18th March 2022 10.30 am, via Zoom

Present:

Chairperson Richard Kempthorne
Mayor Jamie Cleine, BDC
Sharon Mason, BDC CEO
Rachel Townrow, BDC Deputy CEO
Cr Brett Cummings WCRC

Heather Mabin, WCRC CEO
Sharon Roche, BDC Deputy Mayor
Francois Tumahai, Ngāti Waewae
Paul Barker, DIA
Jenna Rogers, NEMA

In Attendance:

Laura Harding
Pam Johnston, DIA
John Hutchings

Mike Mendonça
Michael Henstock
Suzie Paisley, NEMA

Apologies:

Cr Allan Birchfield, WCRC

1. Welcome and Introduction

The Chair welcomed attendees.

2. Declaration of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

The Steering Group agreed that:

- The Programme Manager will maintain a Register of Interests for the duration of the Steering Group.
- WCRC and BDC will share their Registers of Interests with the Programme Manager prior to the next meeting.

It was noted that Chair has independently submitted a Register of Interests.

3. Confirmation of previous minutes (1)

The Steering Group approved the minutes of the meeting of 17th February 2022.

4. Confirmation of previous minutes (2)

The Steering Group approved the minutes of the meeting of 3rd March.

5. Risk Register

The updated Risk Register was approved by the Steering Group, and it was noted that:

- There is no change to the overall status of any of the risks.
- BDC and the Programme Manager will liaise with respect to connecting with the Insurance Council of New Zealand (risk R004).

6. Report back from the Westport Rating District Joint Committee (standing agenda item)

The Joint Committee had its inaugural meeting on 3rd March. The Steering Group received a high level summary of the meeting, highlighting three distinct workstreams proposed by the TAG and approved by the Joint Committee for consideration by WCRC, each with its own challenges. Funding is the major challenge, exacerbated by:

- The grey area between emergency works, business as usual service levels, and betterment.
- Complexities due to some assets not being in Council ownership.
- Until design specifications are identified, estimated costs are unknown.

The Steering Group was reminded that Joint Committee recommendations will be made to WCRC. BDC is 'at the table' and is therefore involved with the process.

7. Report back from workshop 17th Mar 22

The Steering Group was briefed on the Long-term Westport Flood Resilience Workshop 1. The workshop was designed for technical experts to discuss relevant topics. The workshop set out to inform the development of a recommended package of short, medium and longer-term priorities and measures to increase the resilience of Westport from flooding. The package of measures identified through this process will be included in a proposal seeking co-investment with government.

The Steering Group heard reflections from some attendees. In summary the workshop:

- Ensured stakeholders were at the same starting position regarding science and climate change.
- Reviewed and made amendments to the strategic settings including objectives and critical success factors.
- Accepted that options will need to be complex, nuanced, and span multiple timeframes.
- Came to general agreement on the suite of possible options.
- Agreed next steps, and provided a mandate for options development.

In general, the workshop achieved the aim as outlined above. The Steering Group specifically noted and commended the effort and momentum generated by Laura Harding and John Hutchings.

8. Project Engagement Plan

The Steering Group provided feedback on the proposed Engagement Plan. The Steering Group noted that:

- The Plan should avoid unnecessary duplication with other effort in Councils.
- The context should better reflect the collaborative nature of the project.
- The Plan should be linked to Council websites.

Subject to amendments based on this feedback, the Engagement Plan was endorsed by the Steering Group.

It was noted that the Plan is a living document that will change throughout the lifecycle of the project.

9. Strategic Settings for the long-term Westport flood resilience project

The Steering Group was provided with an overview of proposed strategic settings for the business case. It was noted that the workshop conducted on 17 March had recommended some changes to the wording of the settings.

The Steering Group requested that these changes be incorporated into a clean copy of the strategic settings, to be presented at the next meeting.

The Steering Group noted that the changes are unlikely to substantially change the overall direction of the settings, and that detailed work on options should not be delayed in the meantime.

10. Tranche 2 application

BDC provided an overview of the challenges associated with collating the information required to meet a tight timeframe for tranche 2 funding, with supporting material for assessment by NEMA due by the end of March.

11. General business

The Steering Group was updated on:

- Feedback on the availability of insurance in the District.
- Challenges managing the status of damaged buildings.
- The accommodation shortfall and how this is causing economic flow on effects.
- Due to external audit requirements, WCRC will continue to include adopted SG Minutes in Council meeting Agendas.

12. Communications from this meeting

Other than the normal production and dissemination of minutes, no further communication is required.

No other matters were raised. The meeting closed at 12.10 pm

Next meeting – Friday 1st April at 10:30am

Report to: Council	Meeting Date: 12 April 2022
Title of Item: Operations Monthly Works Report	
Report by: James Bell – Engineering Officer, Brendon Russ – Engineer, Lillian Crozier – BSO, Paulette Birchfield - Engineer	
Reviewed by: Randal Beal – Director of Operations	
Public excluded? No	

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an overview of the works undertaken during the month of March 2022, as well as an update on the IRG projects and the Westport Flood Protection Project. Also presented in this report will be the production and sale of rock from the council owned quarries during the months of February and March 2022.

Report Summary

Council Engineers have undertaken River Protection works on behalf of the Taramakau, Wanganui, and Franz Josef Rating District.

Recommendations

It is recommended that council resolve to:
Receive this report.

Issues and Discussion

Rating Districts

Taramakau Rating District

The Taramakau Rating District had numerous sites damaged by the February 2022 flood events. Henry Adams Contracting the incumbent maintenance contractor for the rating district was instructed to complete the flood damage works, which have now been completed.

3,560 tonnes of rock have been supplied and placed at multiple locations on the Taramakau River at a rate of \$27.50 per tonne. Also, a 25T Excavator was used to restack an existing groyne, 4 hours @ \$175.00. Total costs for this work was \$98,600.00+GST.

A claim to NEMA will be submitted for this work which if accepted 60% of the total cost will be reimbursed to the rating district.

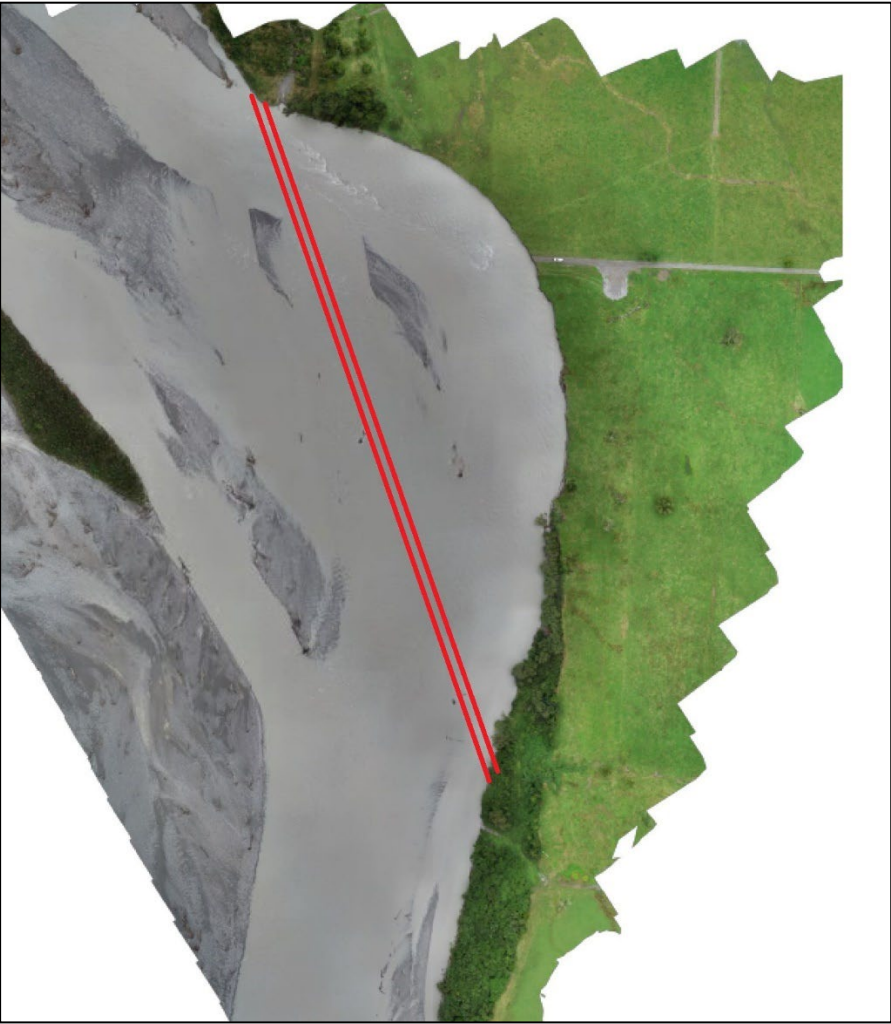
Wanganui Rating District

The Wanganui Rating District had numerous sites damaged by the February 2022 flood events. Severe damage occurred on the true right of the Wanganui River at the boundary of McGraths & Tuinier.

A Komatsu D375 Dozer from Graeme Condon Contracting was utilised to train the floodwaters away from the eroded / damaged area to prevent further damage and to allow for remedial works. The cost of the dozer work was \$31,463.16+GST.

The tender for the construction of a low height stop bank was awarded to Arnold Contracting as shown below in the drone aerial for \$108,000.00+GST. Construction volumes are 6,000m³ of bulk fill and 3000 tonnes of imported rock were initially estimated, but these volumes will increase due to design changes. Rock is being imported from the BRM Gold Mine at Lake Ianthe. The Contractor will also try to salvage rock from the existing damaged rock structures to utilise in the stop bank.

A claim to NEMA will be submitted for this work with 60% of the total cost being reimbursed to the rating district if the claim is accepted.



Drone view of Damage and Alignment of proposed low height stop bank



Looking downstream at newly constructed stopbank, groyne currently being constructed



Looking upstream stream at newly constructed stopbank and rock riprap

February Flood Damage Assessments

Staff have been heavily involved in undertaking flood damage assessments for Rating District assets as well as providing advice and support to landowners outside of the Rating Districts.

A NEMA claim on behalf of the Wanganui, Franz Josef and Taramakau Rating Districts is being prepared.

Staff recommend that an independent expert is engaged to provide advice on the Lake Stream and Christmas creek issues. It may be possible to have this work funded via an Envirolink grant.

Westport Rating District

The Westport Technical Advisory Group (TAG) have met several times in the last month and have progressed with modelling investigations well underway that include predicted climate change and sea level rise for Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) 4.5, RCP 6 and RCP 8.5 scenarios.

The TAG has a 2 day workshop on the 13th and 14th of April in Westport that includes a field day looking at specific issues identified from the model runs.

Davis Ogilvie have been engaged to undertake geotechnical investigations into the recommended stage one works. This is needed to finalise the design and volumes for the tender process.

Quarries

Quarry Rock Movements for the period of February 2022 (Excluding Royalty Arrangements)

Quarry		Opening Stockpile Balance	Rock Sold	Rock Produced	Closing Stockpile Balance
Camelback	Large	18970.52	0	0	18970.52
Blackball		0	0	0	0
Inchbonnie		0	0	0	0
Kiwi		0	0	0	0
Miedema		0	0	0	0
Okuru		450	0	0	450
Whitehorse		0	0	0	0
Totals		19,420.52	0	0	19,420.52

Other Sales

There were no other sales in the period.

IRG Project updates

Hokitika Flood & Coastal Erosion Protection

The Westland District Council CEO and Mayor fully support this project and would like to see both projects commence ASAP

Hokitika Seawall

BECA have been engaged to design and prepare a resource consent application for the seawall. BECA have updated their delivery for this project as follows:

Design and Construction Plans for Seawall Extension:

- Final detailed design (Final Detailed Design Report, including drawings and rock + geotextile spec on drawings) to Council 23.12.2021 - **COMPLETED**

Resource Consent Process:

- Continue drafting AEE up to a point when preliminary design is available and finalise AEE when design available and WCRC confirms design (expected 16.12.21) – **COMPLETED**
- Lodge resource consent in week beginning 20.12.21 – **COMPLETED – lodged week of 28 March 2022**
- Assume limited notification/ public notification March 2022 Not on track
- Hearing (if required) and decision May June 2022.

Hokitika River – Raising of stop banks

Draft Construction drawings have been completed for the section of stop bank from the State Highway bridge up to Westland Milk Products. Davis Ogilvie and Partners Ltd have been engaged to carry out a geophysical survey on the existing stop banks to ensure they are structurally sound to raise, this work was delayed due to the February weather event and field work was only completed late February 2022.

Resource Consent Process:

- Construction plans to be finalised with the Westland District Council and NZTA
- Resource consent application to be prepared for Iwi review and comments
- Lodge consent

Franz Josef (Stage One)

A resource consent has been submitted for the new gravel stop bank from behind the sewage ponds down to the Waiho Loop. Physical works is expected to commence April 2022.

Land River and Sea has completed design and construction drawings for the main stop bank from the State Highway bridge down to the sewage ponds. Resource consent application has been submitted for this work.

MBD Contracting have been approved by council to be awarded both portions of work:

Contracts are currently being signed by both parties

Physical works is expected to commence April 2022

Greymouth

Davis Ogilvie have completed the geotechnical investigations for the Greymouth floodwall and the report is due the first week of April.

Attachments

Attachment 1 - Rivers and Slope stability report - Barrytown

Attachment 2 - Rivers and Slope stability report – Lake stream catchment

Attachment 1

Thresholds in the slope domain – Barrytown

The reaching of a threshold condition in a hillslope can initiate mass movement ranging from soil creep, to a landslide. The threshold condition at which movement is initiated is affected by many factors such as climate, rainfall, seismic activity, pore water pressure, slope angle, aspect, soil cohesion, vegetation growth, and elevation.

One triggering event such as intense rainfall or earthquake in isolation is not always enough to initiate the crossing of a threshold in slope stability. Other destabilizing factors may be necessary to precondition the slope. An example of the different factors which can lead to a slope reaching its threshold of slope stability is when trees were felled by a windstorm in isolated sections of the hillslopes above Barrytown as Cyclone Ita struck the West Coast in 2014. Figure 1 shows some landslides on the deforested slopes. The preparatory factor was the hillslopes gradual loss of shear strength as the root systems of the felled trees decayed. After approximately 2 years the slopes began failing due to the triggering factor of heavy rainfall. A sustaining/controlling factor was the slope angle and the nature of the hillslope material.

The landslides provided a sudden input of sediment and woody debris to the rivers and streams. The normal stream power is insufficient to transport the additional material which built up at the base of the slopes and creek bed until an unquantified threshold storm event initiated movement of the sediment downstream. The channel form did not have time to adjust to accommodate the increased sediment load and abrupt aggradation caused the basal streams to avulse, and /or were subject to debris flows. Figure 2 shows the impact of a debris flow on a stream below the landslide affected valley. These events are likely to continue until the hillslopes readjust to a new equilibrium and return to a stable state.



Figure 1 Landsliding on hillslopes above Barrytown, West Coast. Photo: P Birchfield.



Figure 2 Debris flow in stream below affected hillslopes, Barrytown, West Coast. Photo: P Birchfield.

Attachment 2



THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

Rivers and Slope Stability *Lake Stream Catchment. March 2022*

The Lake Stream catchment is located on the flank of Mount Rochfort approximately 10km north of the township of Westport, (Figure 1). A large-scale landslide that occurred in the steep upper catchment (exact date unknown but from at least 2015) has been supplying increased sediment and debris to the Lake Stream channel. This landslide is located on the escarpment formed by the active Kongahu Fault Zone. In normal conditions the flow regime for Lake Stream will not have sufficient energy to transport the additional material and the channel would slowly evolve in response; but it is likely that the heavy rainfall event in early May 2020 was large enough to mobilize significant volumes of the slip-derived sediment and debris downstream causing Lake Stream to break-out in several places and the stream to avulse and occupy an alternate stream channel to the true left of its original flow path. This diversion occurs in Department of Conservation land approximately 1km upstream of the State Highway.

Before the avulsion occurred in May 2020, it appears that a considerable volume of sediment had been transported down the original Lake Stream bed causing blockages, break-outs and flooding above the State Highway twin culverts for Lake Stream. Much of that lag deposited sediment is still held-up in sections within or close by the original Lake Stream channel.

The Lake Stream flow is now split between at least three channels as it exits the steep gorge and flows over its vegetated debris fan. Some flow is retained in the original (northern) channel due to inputs from groundwater, with the main flow contained within channels and drains that are still adjusting to the increased flow of water.

A 1997 thesis by Kane Inwood noted that Lake Stream has a large active fan complex, and the main channel within the head zone is not confined. This means that as the slip-derived sediment is transported the stream channel will be vulnerable to damming or blocking causing the flow to avulse onto the fan surface as we are currently seeing. The morphology of the channels and drains that are now receiving more stream flow will evolve to accommodate the increased flow by processes such as lateral bank erosion, and stream gradient changes. Until the downstream channel width/depth increases to the new flow regime, flood waters will continue to break-out of the channels and drains causing flooding and sedimentation of farmland and damage to property (the lateral bank erosion will also introduce more woody debris into the channel which can cause issues such as increased flow resistance, and blockage of culverts).



Since the original file note (dated November 2020) multiple landslides have occurred in the upper catchment due to a significant rainfall event in February 2022. The majority of the slips are on the true right of the incised upper catchment which has caused the main flow of Lake Stream to avulse to the left side of the fan surface. The huge volume of slip-derived material yet to be mobilized downstream means that the main flow of Lake Stream could rapidly change direction on the fan surface and take any number of other flow paths during future heavy rainfall events.

With regards to mechanically diverting the flow and excavating the original Lake Stream channel - foot access to where Lake Stream has diverted is difficult due to the steep topography and thick vegetation.

Mechanical access would be considerably more difficult should any attempt be made to divert the flow

back to the original channel. Above the diversion site there is a substantial volume of loose slip-derived sediment and debris in the bed of Lake Stream that will be remobilized during flood events. As stated earlier, this material will cause the channel location to be unpredictable and divert flow in other areas even if the main flow is rediverted back to its original channel.

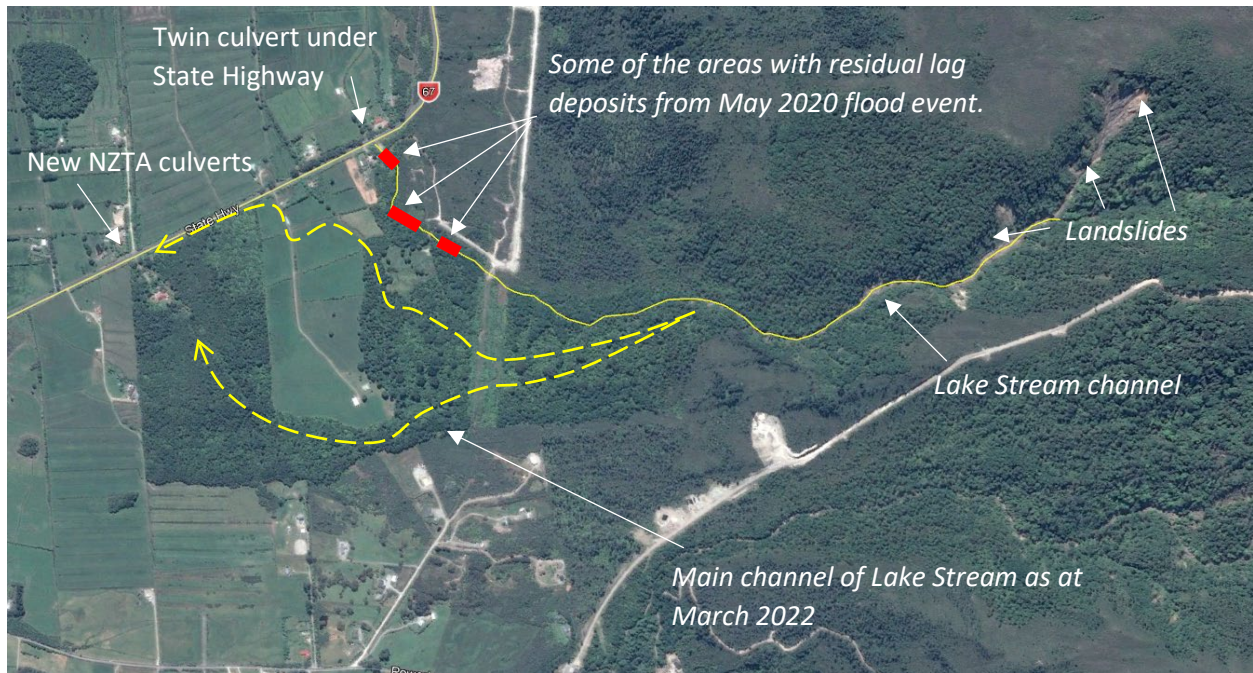


Figure 2: Approximate location of diversion site and new flow paths

Report to: West Coast Regional Council	Meeting Date: 12 April 2022
Title of Item: Central Government Co-Investment in Flood Protection Schemes	
Report by: Toni Morrison, Policy Consultant	
Reviewed by: Heather Mabin, Chief Executive	
Public excluded? No	

Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide the Council with a copy of the recently released report *Central Government Co-Investment in Flood Protection* by Regional and Unitary Councils in the Regional Sector group.

This is a supplementary report which follows a business case presented to government in 2019. The supplementary report seeks active engagement with central government on co-investment in flood mitigation.

Report Summary

The purpose of the report is to provide further evidence to support the previously published business case for future central government co-investment in flood protection schemes. The report covers recent case study examples, including Westport.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Council resolve to:

1. *Receive and endorse the report.*

Issues and Discussion

Background

A Regional Council business case seeking a central government co-investment contribution of \$150 million per annum to enhance the integrity of flood protection schemes was presented to central government officials in 2019. The three-year programme of COVID-19 relief funding has been a major contribution to Regional Councils' efforts to respond to the challenges that climate change presents. However, the business case has not yet achieved the ongoing central government commitment to co-investment it was intended to achieve.

Following the significant flood events of 2021, Regional Councils led by Environment Canterbury have worked together to create a supplementary co-investment report for central government. The purpose of this report is to update the 2019 comprehensive business case on the same topic.

Floods are New Zealand's most frequent and, cumulatively, most significant and avoidable hazard. They are the natural hazard most able to be mitigated through application of a well-proven package of flood protection schemes. They are also the natural hazard with the best return on investment from measures contributing to active 'risk reduction'.

Seeking co-investment from central government as part of a nationwide solution to a national problem is a key part of the response. The recent Westport, Ashburton and Marlborough floods have provided further evidence of the need for central government investment and the supplementary report documents that evidence as an update to the earlier report.

The report draws on case examples from 2021 - with a focus on the 31 May 2021 Ashburton/Canterbury flooding but also drawing on information from the July 2021 Westport and Marlborough events. The report describes these flood events, flood protection scheme locations and performance assessments, community responses, details about the on-going impacts of the flood events and scheme value propositions. Most importantly, the report also provides event-specific details about the many millions of dollars of valuable Crown assets protected from 2021 floods by flood protection schemes. The protection of these assets is just one of the many reasons for central government to invest in flood protection schemes.

Current situation

Following the release of the report this week, letters have been sent to key Government Ministers and meetings are being arranged. Regional Chief Executives have also been advised that a media campaign and ongoing engagement with partners and stakeholders will commence.

Considerations

Significance and Engagement Policy Assessment

There are no issues within this report which trigger matters in this policy.

Financial implications

There are no additional financial or resource implications arising from this report. However, if central government was to include a permanent budget line for flood protection in the 2023/24 budget this would be a significant boost for the West Coast and other local economies.

Legal implications

There are no legal implications associated with receiving and endorsing the report.

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Central Government Co-Investment in Flood Protection, January 2022



**Te Uru
Kahika**

Regional and
Unitary Councils
Aotearoa

**A CALL FOR NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND URGENT ACTION TO
MEET THE FLOOD HAZARD RISKS ARISING FROM CLIMATE CHANGE**

Central Government Co-investment in Flood Protection Schemes Supplementary Report

RIVER MANAGERS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP
JANUARY 2022

Central Government Co-investment in Flood Protection Schemes
Supplementary Report

January 2022

RELEASED 3PM 6 APRIL 2022

Preface

Purpose

The **purpose** of this report is to add weight to a 2019 regional council co-investment business case for central government co-investment in flood protection schemes. This is because the evidence continues to grow supporting the importance and urgency of government returning to the table to resource and help focus purposeful, timely and meaningful actions that result in practical flood protection scheme improvements.

Outcome

The outcome sought from these co-investment decisions would be New Zealanders having assurance that suitable ‘fit-for-the-future’, risk-aligned, climate change resilient and environmentally sensitive flood protection schemes are in place throughout New Zealand. This is the priority action to respond to the increased magnitude and frequency of climate-change-induced flood events. It sits alongside the need to apply a full suite of other actions e.g., spatial planning and integrated catchment management, to enhance community resilience against flood risks.

Vision

The vision underpinning this outcome is higher levels of safety, security and community resilience, enhanced protection of local and national assets and more sustainable regional economic activity. The **refocus** inherent in this vision is a necessary shift in central government attention from disaster relief and rehabilitation towards necessary ‘top-of-the-cliff’ mitigation of flood risks, with reduced all-up costs.

Audience for this report

The intended **audience** for this report is the Ministers for Local Government, Finance, Regional Development and Climate Change, alongside senior officials from MBIE (Kānoa) DIA, NEMA, MfE and Treasury, Environment Canterbury (who co-sponsored this report) and Regional Council CEOs and Chairs.

Requested action

The sought-after immediate action is central government urgently agreeing to co-invest in flood protection schemes. The subsequent and necessarily focused next step is to form a central government / region council group to define the quantum, timing, principles, framework, criteria, and priority projects for central government co-investment into flood protection schemes. We urge that central government commit to taking these steps.



Jenny Hughey

Chair, Environment Canterbury



Doug Leeder

Chair, Bay of Plenty Regional Council and
Chair, Regional Sector Group, LGNZ



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Executive summary

Higher magnitude and more frequent floods are occurring

The 31 May – 2 June 2021 Ashburton / Canterbury flood event was extreme. Both branches of the Ashburton / Hakatere River burst their banks. The Defence Force was deployed to assist with potential evacuations. The State Highway One Bridge over the Ashburton / Hakatere River was closed because of concerns about its structural stability. Other Canterbury flood protection schemes were stretched to their maximum.

The Canterbury storm event and flooding caused extensive damage to farmland but little damage to residential properties. Thankfully, there was no loss of life. The town of Ashburton was largely saved from greater damage by a well-designed urban flood protection scheme. Further damage was averted by timely community leadership.

Similarly, the foresight of the Marlborough District Council was such that flood protection investments, made after the major 1983 flood, worked largely as expected. These protected Blenheim, and its extensive surrounding wine growing district, from the potentially much greater damage that could have occurred with the July 2021 flood.

Not so fortunate were other rural areas of the Marlborough District that were not protected by flood schemes. Roads and farms in the Rai Valley were extensively damaged. Five months later, transport disruptions caused by Marlborough-wide storm-induced slipping and related on-going recovery work, are still occurring six months after the event.

Westport was also not as fortunate. A relatively modest early investment (\$10 - \$20m) in flood protection works at Westport would have saved the area from the over \$100m in direct flood damages to property it is currently enduring. It would also have avoided the substantial and on-going effects on the physical and mental wellbeing of the whole Westport community. The impacts of the July 2021 flood on Westport will take many years to recover from. The Government, insurers and the people of Westport will carry that cost.

The 2021 Canterbury, Westport and Marlborough floods are all examples of an increasing series of recent major flood events experienced throughout New Zealand. Other examples of extreme weather events have also occurred in 2021. The Kemeū area, west of Auckland, experienced its second wettest day on record on 31 August 2021. Up to sixty homes were evacuated. On 5 November 2021, Gisborne received three times the average rainfall normally received in the month of November. Widespread flooding, evacuations and 16 slips occurred but the CBD of Gisborne was largely protected.

Other major events have occurred in the last two years. The biggest of these were in Southland, Otago, West Coast, Northland, and the Bay of Plenty regions.

International precedents

New Zealand is not alone in facing the challenge of addressing the effect of extreme weather events and associated flood hazards. All countries are facing similar challenges. The United States and the United Kingdom have recently acted with urgency to significantly ramp-up their investment into flood protection schemes. The nature of New Zealand's landscape and our location in the 'roaring 40's' makes the challenge we face of even higher magnitude than in many other countries.

Flood protection schemes make a significant contribution to community resilience

The above New Zealand examples provide a stark reminder of the important role flood protection schemes play in defending 'at-risk' communities from the full impact of extreme weather events.

What is vital, is that the lessons learned from these latest disasters do not fade away. Putting in place substantive changes to improve the long-term resilience of communities, by – among other things, enhancing the role played by flood protection schemes, requires priority attention.

Flooding is the number one natural hazard in Aotearoa. New Zealand now faces, on average, one major flood event every eight months. Flood protection schemes are the first line of defence. They provide protection to around 1.5 million hectares of our most intensely populated and used land. They also provide safety, security and protection to the families, Marae, livelihoods, and communities living alongside our rivers in over 100 towns and cities. In total, these schemes currently provide an estimated annual benefit of over \$11 billion each year. This is over five times the capital replacement value of the schemes.¹ The schemes have been some of the best value public investments ever made in New Zealand. Addressing contemporary challenges will require a step change in investment to occur like that made half a century ago. This investment will prove to be similarly valuable.

The challenge to be addressed

The challenge is this. Regional council² current annual maintenance and capital investments in flood protection schemes total close to \$175m³. This is not a sufficient level of investment to provide for the level of security desired and now required by New Zealand communities. Regional councils intend to increase their investment by a further \$25m in future years to total \$200m. This will not be enough. They estimate the annual capital cost of building further resilience into flood protection schemes would be at least \$150m beyond their current intentions.

Community tolerances about levels of acceptable risk are increasingly being tested. Regional councils now have improved knowledge about how schemes perform during severe floods and the flood levels they should be designed to withstand. These were not contemplated when the schemes were constructed decades ago. They are certainly not adequate to address climate change. The \$200m of regional council increased investment is primarily to enhance⁴ the ability of existing schemes to withstand the increased frequency and magnitude of climate-change-influenced future flood events. The need for \$150m of additional central government funding must urgently be addressed.

There is no question that greater use of a 'multi-tool'⁵ approach to building community resilience against the effects of flooding is required. More focus on the more effective use of improved planning tools to define where and how development occurs, will be particularly important. However, a focus on the use of planning tools cannot replace the fundamental importance of further investing in flood protection schemes. They will always remain the first line of defence against extreme flooding.

¹ The total estimated capital replacement value of the 367 flood protection schemes throughout New Zealand is \$2.3 billion.

² We use the term 'regional council' throughout this report to jointly encompass New Zealand's five unitary district / Auckland City Council and the eleven regional councils.

³ Regional council Long Term Plans for the period 2021-31 are currently being interrogated to provide a more precise figure of committed future investment. Work carried out as part of the previous flood protection report confirmed that planned investment was more than \$175m per annum.

⁴ In general terms, flood protection schemes should now be designed to withstand a flood with a return frequency of 200 years.

⁵ We use the term 'multi-tool' to encompass all of the approaches needed to manage floods. This may include district and regional plan requirements, building requirements, managed retreat alongside flood protection schemes and all other parts of a full suite of flood management approaches.

Equitable co-investment in flood protection is required

Present regional-council focused funding arrangements are neither equitable nor sufficiently sustainable to address present and emerging needs on their own. There is a strong case for central government to return, as a legitimate and justifiable co-investor, in improved flood protection schemes. For the past three decades, Crown-owned and related assets have received flood protection at a cost to regional and targeted local ratepayers, with little contribution from the Crown.⁶

These protected Crown assets include rail and road infrastructure, communication and electricity transmission infrastructure, some airports and education and health facilities etc. The Crown also has substantial contingent liabilities associated with public assets that it does not own, but significantly funds, such as local roads. Also protected by flood schemes is the capacity to sustain the efficient functioning of affected communities and their economies, in the face of significant flood events.

All up, Government has a broad and critical stewardship responsibility to protect and improve community resilience by reducing the risk of the failure of existing flood protection schemes. This responsibility extends far beyond their current focus on responding to flood events and assisting with recovery.

Previous regional council work to secure central government co-investment

A business case seeking a central government co-investment contribution of \$150m per annum was presented to officials in 2019 by all New Zealand regional councils.⁷ This business case has not yet achieved the task, nor central government attention, it was intended to achieve.

The business case was however valuable in helping to secure a one-off and very much welcomed central government commitment of \$217m for expenditure on 55 ‘shovel ready’⁸ / community climate resilience flood protection’ projects throughout New Zealand⁹. Work to construct these scheme enhancements is now well underway. The progress being made confirms the capability and proven reliability of regional councils – in partnership with central government, to partner to deliver these projects, even with quite short notice and in despite the on-going challenges posed by Covid-19.

The earlier business case also had some influence on the content of a July 2020 Cabinet paper. This paper provided a welcomed indication of government willingness to develop a set of principles and a decision-making framework to guide further central government co-investment in flood protection schemes. But then in June 2021, the Minister of Local Government, the Hon Nanaia Mahuta, resolved to ‘suspend’ the contribution of central government resources toward progressing this work. Correspondence to LGNZ from Minister Mahuta suggested the was because budget 2021 constraints meant that resources were not available to ‘*continue a dedicated work stream on flood risk co-investment.*’ Instead, the Minister advised the sector to focus their efforts on the National Adaptation Plan being led by MfE. The Minister also invited the regional sector to ‘*engage on the lessons learned and options for enabling greater resilience to flood events in the Buller region.*’

⁶ In the past, (prior to the early 1990s), the capital cost of substantial river management and flood protection schemes was commonly supported at levels of 50% to 75% by central government. Maintenance and operating costs at rates of around 25% were also provided. A review of documents from the time suggests this national support typically amounted to over \$114m per annum in today’s dollars.

⁷ Central Government Co-investment in River Management for Flood Protection: Critical Adaptation to Climate Change for a More Resilient New Zealand, July 2019

⁸ The ‘shovel ready’ projects that received funding were not necessarily those projects sitting at the top of a list of national priorities. They were simply those projects that were ‘ready to go’.

⁹ Regional councils throughout New Zealand are now delivering these projects – within expected timeframes and budgets. When regional council funding contributions are added in, these projects have a value of \$315m. 55 projects were initially agreed. More recently, some projects have been joined together and one project (the ‘Muggeridge’ pump project in Waikato) is now not being funded.

Regional council chairs and other community leaders have some sympathy for the workload currently being carried by central government officials but were nevertheless extremely disappointed by this decision. It ignores the reality that increased flood events and hazards are not ‘on pause’.¹⁰

Community leaders are also conscious of the importance of all parties applying more attention to a multi-tool / broad fabric approach to the future protection of homes, buildings, and community assets from floods. Regional councils have worked with DIA and MfE over the last 12 months to contribute to the development of this broad fabric of initiatives. However, they are of the view that extending the toolbox of community protection cannot and should not be progressed without giving priority focus to flood protection schemes as the ‘first line of defence.’ This is the role played by flood protection schemes. Flood protection schemes remain the number one critical existing asset protection tool.

Without further investment in flood protection schemes, the risk of communities continuing to get flooded will be exacerbated. In addition, insurers will increase the premiums they charge for protecting flood prone areas. In some instances, they insurers withdraw coverage.¹¹

Real events from 2021 demonstrate the need for urgent action

This report provides information drawn from 2021 case examples - with a focus on the 31 May 2021 Ashburton / Canterbury flooding but also drawing on information from the July 2021 Westport and Marlborough events.

The report describes these flood events and flood protection scheme locations and performance assessments, community responses, details about the on-going impacts of the flood events and scheme ‘value propositions’. Most importantly, the report also provides event-specific details about the many millions of dollars of valuable crown assets protected from 2021 floods by flood protection schemes.¹² Protection of these assets is just one of the many reasons for significant government investment in flood protection schemes, as presented herein.

Re-purposed approach to flood protection

Regional councils know the flood protection schemes of the future, compared to those of the past, must satisfy a wider spectrum of community, environmental, cultural, climate change and economic objectives. The sector is aware of the role played by schemes in supporting integrated land uses, enhanced ecological outcomes and water quality improvements. They are also aware and are responding to the role played by schemes in potentially assisting to resolve ‘drought-influenced’ water resilience challenges¹³ and contemporary iwi / Te Mana o te Wai objectives.

These objectives and challenges are real, substantial, and present right now. Regional councils have already demonstrated their ability to meet these needs. However, the high cost of meeting them, alongside the cost of increasing the ‘climate change resilience’ of existing flood protection schemes, adds to the burden for regional ratepayers to carry on their own.¹⁴

¹⁰ See correspondence from the Canterbury Mayoral Forum to the Minister for Local Government (appendix 1)

¹¹ Tower Insurance has already announced their intent to increase premiums in flood prone areas. Further details are provided in the body of this report. Enhanced investment in flood protection schemes, to keep this ‘risk’ to an acceptable level, is one of several critical actions required to keep insurers in the market.

¹² This information has been generated using valuation methods developed by economist Julian Williams.

¹³ This may include by creating wetlands to enhance ground water recharge.

¹⁴ Regional councils have already clearly displayed the need to extend their flood protection toolbox beyond simply constructing and maintaining flood protection schemes. They have applied the new principles to this area of their work. They have engaged with iwi / Māori – and will continue to actively participate in central government processes to develop a national planning framework – noting this will encompass the more extensive use of spatial planning and managed retreat tools (where appropriate).

Apportioning co-investment funding

As noted previously, central government annual funding of at least \$150 million is required. This is proposed to sit alongside the \$200m per annum to be committed by regional councils.

A long-term funding formula is proposed as a starter for a discussion about how central government funding should be apportioned. This recommends central government make:

- Co-investment of up to 75% assistance toward the cost of works to recognise the importance of adopting a **whole catchment climate change adaptation** approach, alongside achieving a wide range of other objectives.
- Co-investment of up to 50% toward the cost of the capital works required to **upgrade existing** river management and flood protection works.
- Co-investment of 33% of assistance toward the **maintenance** of existing scheme works.
- Co-investment of 75% of assistance towards the emergency repair of flood protection assets where substantial damage occurs from major storm events.

The above cost-share formula is offered as a start point for discussion. It is realistically and fairly determined and is focused on achieving the necessary step-up in protection, within a reasonable timeframe. The July 2020 community resilience / flood protection Cabinet paper offered a set of cost-share principles that should also be considered.

National leadership and urgent action required

The Government has an important and urgent role to play in leading and adequately resourcing the purposeful, timely and meaningful actions to help deliver practical scheme improvements. These improvements are fundamental to the task of greatly increasing community resilience against flooding and generally sustaining community well-being.

Details about the preferred design of a co-investment model should be prepared by a joint central and local government officials group, supported as needed by external advice. This group should be invited to provide recommendations to core Ministers and regional council chairs within three months of the receipt of this supplementary report. These recommendations should include decisions about the budget allocations required to meet immediate 2022 investment priorities¹⁵ as well as the sums that should be included in budgets for each year extending from 2023 to 2033. The recently announced ‘Climate Emergency Response Fund’ is the likely and very appropriate source for these funds.¹⁶

For more than half a century, regional councils have demonstrated they have the capability and capacity to ensure flood protection schemes deliver flood protection to New Zealanders. Regional councils have further demonstrated their ability to deliver necessary improvements by their recent performance in rolling-out the fifty-five-flood-protection scheme improvement projects.¹⁷ These selected projects were those that were ‘shovel ready’ at the time.¹⁸

Regional councils fully support government’s December 2021 decision to establish a new Climate Emergency Response Fund (CERF). It is critically important for New Zealand to commit significant financial resources to respond to the climate change challenges that are with us now, noting these will

¹⁵ The River-Link project in the Lower Hutt Valley and the proposed ‘multi-tool’ approach to flood protection at Westport are two current proposals lending themselves to immediate central government co-investment.

¹⁶ The \$1 Billion per year ‘Climate Change Emergency Fund’ was announced by the Minister of Finance on 15 December 2021. The purpose of the Fund is to assist to meet the cost of assisting communities to adapt to climate change and to build resilience against its effects.

¹⁷ These were provided with the assistance of one-off funding through Kānoa as part of the Covid related Climate Resilience Programme.

¹⁸ There are many more improvement projects requiring similar urgent action. Central government co-investment is essential if this is to occur.

increase in the future. Regional councils urge that central government give priority to expenditure of CERF-funding on necessary upgrades to flood protection schemes throughout New Zealand. Adaptation actions such as improvements to flood protection schemes are required immediately, regardless of the success or otherwise of international mitigation / decarbonisation measures.

The proposed 2022 National Adaptation Plan may be the instrument to guide expenditure of the CERF. Regional councils are participating in an MfE 'Local Government Adaptation Advisory Group.' One of the objectives of this participation is to ensure appropriate flood protection scheme investment provisions are considered by this Group and thereby included in the National Adaptation Plan. However, regional Councils fear the Local Government Adaptation Advisory Group deliberations will not be enough on their own to guide the necessary decisions. Councils therefore also urge central government support for the establishment of a working group with Treasury, DIA, MfE, NEMA and other officials (for example officials from MBIE's Kānoa Group) to develop the principals, priorities, and a project funding allocation framework to guide the necessary \$150m per annum of additional central government co-investment expenditure decisions on flood protection schemes.

Back-work to achieve this objective needs to be underway now. Without necessary co-investment decisions being made immediately, then the flooding risk to our communities will continue to incrementally increase. The consequences of not acting do not bear thinking about.

National interest in flood protection – a summary of the case for co-investment

Flood protection schemes are nationally important. They underpin the integrity of public and private assets and lifelines and provide resilience and security to communities and their investments. Central government co-investment is vital because it:

- Is fiscally **responsible and fair** to make such investments.
- Reflects Treasury's **Living Standards Frameworks**.
- Is supportive of wellbeing and social inclusion and is likely to reflect **equity / ability to pay** considerations.¹⁹
- Is supportive of **job creation, protective of previous regional economic development investments** and contributes to the desire to lift the future productive potential of the regions.
- Contributes to the security of **access routes** (rail and road) and the communication infrastructure that is vital for commerce and community functionality.
- Directly protects significant **crowd assets** such as hospitals, schools, infrastructure etc.
- Contributes to investment '**opportunity costs**.'
- Diminishes the risk of escalating **insurance** premiums, the reduction in the uptake of private insurance and the associated risk of insurance companies refusing to provide insurance cover in flood risk areas – leaving the Government as the 'bottom of the cliff ambulance'.
- Contributes to the **environmental** and water quality expectations of our communities and iwi / Māori partners.
- Provides for resilience and adaptation against the effects of **climate change-induced** 'above-design' storm events.

¹⁹ Equity and ability to pay considerations are likely to be one of the many important elements considered in designing the detail of a central government co-investment programme.

The most important of the above reasons for central government co-investment in flood protection schemes is that it will contribute to the resilience and increased levels of safety and security sought by existing and future businesses, individuals, families, whanau, and communities. Central government has a duty to share in the cost of meeting this objective.

The fundamental foundations are already in place to ‘crack on’ with improvements to flood protection schemes. Regional council have proven they have the backbone and capability to lead this task.²⁰ What is missing is adequate and equitable funding. The long-term commitment of central government funding to help regional councils meet current and future climate change adaptation, and other flood protection scheme challenges, is urgently required.

²⁰, The ‘back-bone’ performance of regional councils has been clearly demonstrated by the roll-out of the Covid related Climate Resilience Programme through Kānoa.

Central Government Co-investment in Flood Protection Schemes – Supplementary Business Case

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide further evidence to support the previously published²¹ business case for future central government co-investment in flood protection schemes.

The paper is supported by case study examples. These display the scale of zero cost protection benefits provided to the Crown by regional council and local rate-payer investments. They also demonstrate that Government funding has been heavily concentrated ‘at the bottom of the cliff’, rather than being smart ‘up-front’ investment in risk mitigation and resilience.

Funding challenge

The essential challenge is this: the cost of upgrading, constructing, and maintaining flood protection schemes to meet future ‘acceptable levels of risk’ and other climate change / contemporary operational demands – including the protection provided to Crown assets, is beyond the reasonable capacity of regional ratepayers to meet on their own.

Funding solution

Central government co-investment of approximately \$150m per annum is required. This investment should occur alongside an increased level of investment from regional councils and directly benefiting property owners.²²

Frequency of flood events

As a group of small islands in the ‘roaring forties’, our weather patterns mean New Zealand regularly experiences high-intensity rainfall. On average, a major damage and productivity loss-causing flood event occurs every eight months.

Floods are New Zealand’s most frequent and cumulatively - our most significant and most avoidable hazard.²³ They are the natural hazard most able to be mitigated through application of a well-proven package of flood protection schemes. They are also the natural hazard that has provided the best return on investment from measures contributing to active ‘risk reduction’.²⁴

Flood protection schemes are the first line of defence

Currently, flood damage is in most cases avoided because of the efficacy of existing flood protection schemes.

Regional council research indicates the current 367 flood protection scheme structures have generally been well maintained and managed in a prudent, professional, and efficient manner. They have also

²¹ Central Government Co-investment in River Management for Flood Protection: Critical Adaptation to Climate Change for a More Resilient New Zealand’, prepared by regional councils and completed in August 2019.

²² The proposed increase in regional councils investment is from the previous \$175m to \$200m.

²³ Over the past 100 years, New Zealand has experienced over 1,000 serious floods. This is the most frequent natural hazard New Zealand faces (Ministry for the Environment, 2008).

²⁴ NZIER report to DIA, ‘Investment in Natural Hazards Mitigation’, August 2020.

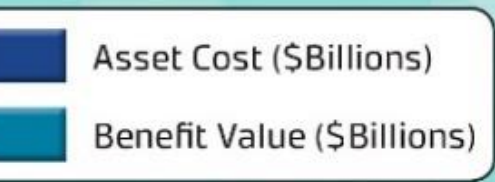
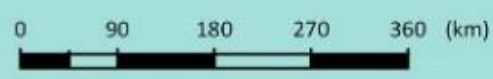
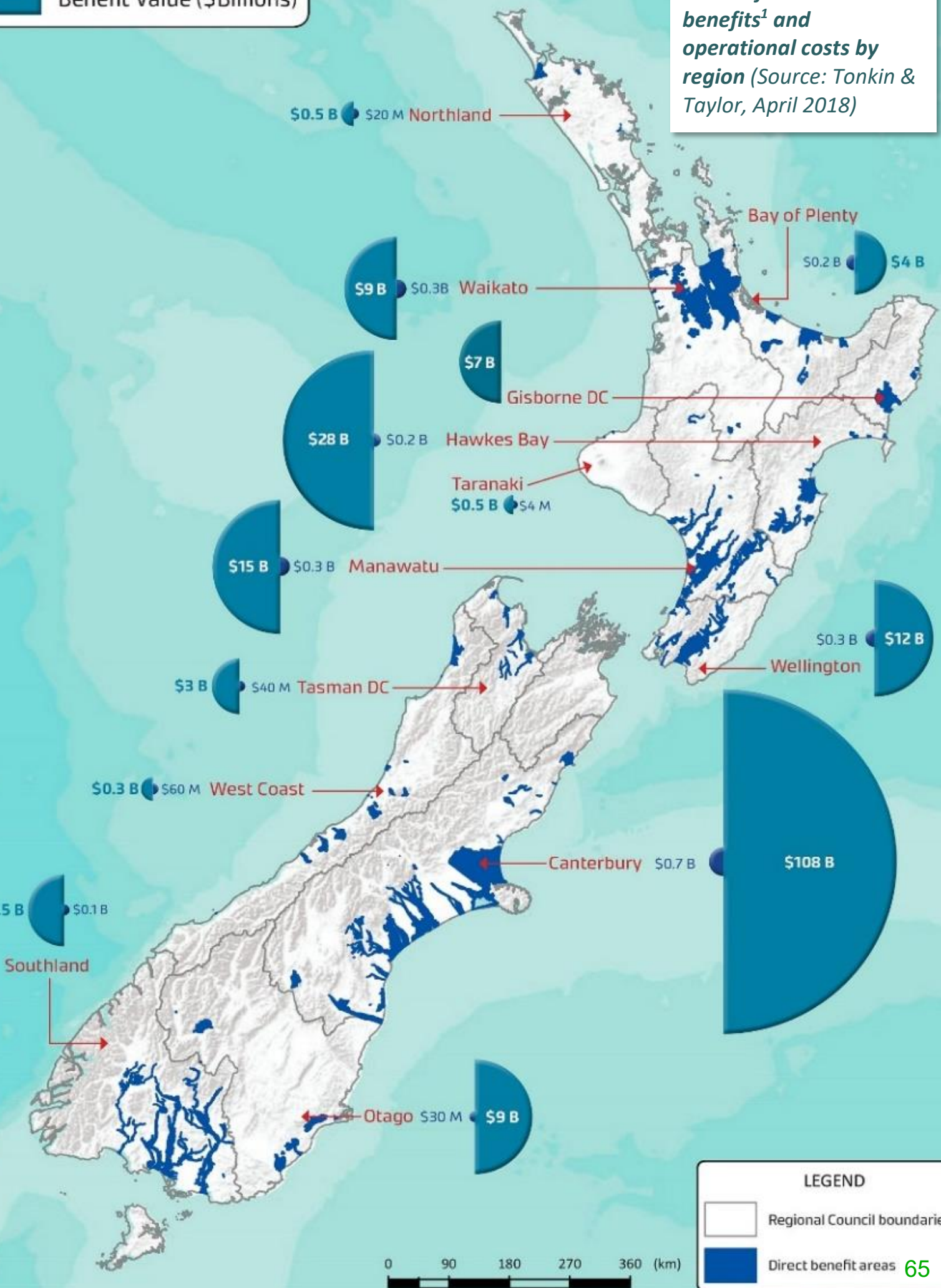


Figure one: Net Present Value of scheme benefits¹ and operational costs by region (Source: Tonkin & Taylor, April 2018)



provided good value for money (Figure one)²⁷. These schemes provide an estimated Net Present Benefit of over \$11 billion each year. This benefit value has increased markedly since the schemes were constructed because of more intensive land uses and associated increased in property values. Unfortunately, climate change impacts are effectively reducing protection service levels at many locations.²⁸ More people are now being exposed to more risks to their safety than previously. Significant adjustments are now required in the scope and scale of these schemes to meet the challenges of the future.

Climate change

Changes to the intensity and frequency of climate change-induced flood events is the biggest natural hazard challenge New Zealanders face. Climate change will substantially increase the severity and frequency of the risk of flooding.²⁹ This will cause higher levels of damage and more frequent damage to the land and assets located behind existing flood protection structures and to adjacent communities. There will be associated increased in social and environmental costs. Recent events are a salient reminder of this.³⁰ Climate change will also shift the area of geographical risk of floods and make new areas, not presently affected by such events, more susceptible to floods.

The severity of the consequences of not securing and enhancing the integrity and service levels of existing scheme structures, and the community resilience role they play, increases every day.³¹ The increased frequency and severity of flood occurrence is influenced by several climate change-induced 'additive influencers' because:

- More intense rainstorms generate higher river flows.
- Those flows cause more soil erosion.
- Higher sea levels and more significant storm surges increase flood heights for several kilometres up many river systems.³²

In combination, the above additive factors lead to more deposition of rocks, stone, gravel, and silt with resultant significantly increased and compounded flood event effects on communities.

²⁷ Tonkin & Taylor, 'Hiding in Plain Sight' (March 2018) NB the use of the 'Hiding in Plain Sight' title is appropriate. The protection provided by engineered infrastructure located at the heart of river management and flood protection schemes, is not usually visually intrusive and is not often apparent. Such schemes 'do their job,' perhaps only once or less a year. Consequently, the protection provided by such schemes is often taken for granted by New Zealanders, despite the increasing risks currently faced.

²⁸ Schemes are facing a 'pincer' challenge, where simply maintaining current assets is seeing climate change erode service levels. Ideally service levels should be substantially increasing to protect the more valuable public and private assets located behind the protection infrastructure.

²⁹ In ideal circumstances, flood protection scheme designs should provide for climate change-induced storm events capable of managing storm events that may occur between now and 2100. Such schemes would provide for an increase in peak flood flows of approximately 20% more than those expected in the period to 2000. This is based on the latest NIWA report prepared for MfE (HIRDs V4). That report states for every degree of temperature increase there is a corresponding 10.1% increase in rainfall (this is called the augmentation factor). A 10% increase in rainfall will generally translate into a 10% increase in peak flood flows. These higher flows will also give rise to increased flood heights because of higher sea levels and greater sediment flows. NB COP26 (November 2021) is aiming to reduce climate change warming by 1.5 degrees by 2050.

³⁰ A Climate Change Research Institute paper ('Climate Change Attribution', Luke Harrington, co-author, 2021) found virtually all major rainfall events between 2007 and 2017 were at least partially attributable to climate change.

³¹ Lawrence et al (2013) suggest that what is considered a 40-year return period event now, will be reduced to the equivalent of an 8-year return period event by 2090.

³² This includes large areas of drained land on the Hauraki Plains of the Waikato region and land adjacent to Edgumbe, which in some places is now below sea level.



Photo one: Canterbury late May 2021 flooding event (photo courtesy of David Williams – Newsroom)

Scope of this report

This report focuses on natural flood water flowing from catchments via rivers and streams to the sea. The paper does not include consideration of storm water systems and the network of water related infrastructure referred to within the ‘Three Waters’ reform programme.^{33, 34}

Rivers generally flow in a natural pattern across our landscape, although sometimes their flows are boosted by drainage works and sometimes their flows are constrained and channelled via flood protection schemes (figure two). The report does not include consideration of the works required to mitigate against coastal erosion or the mitigation of the effect of land inundation from waves breaking over a foredune and flooding urban areas behind these sand-dunes.³⁵

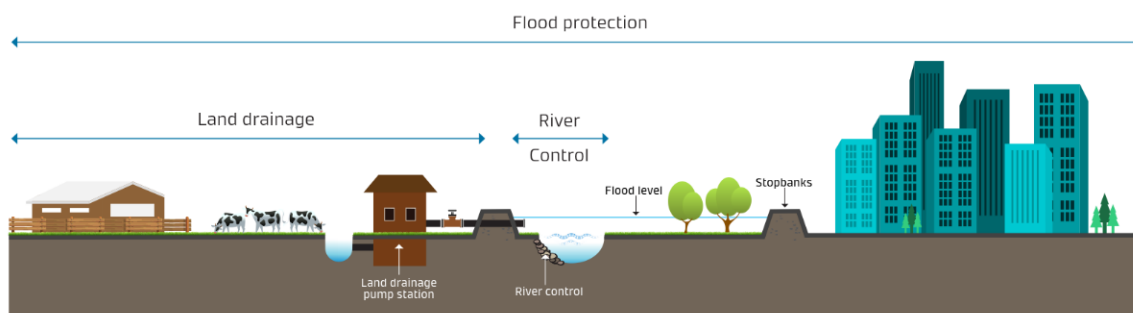


Figure two: Schematic of flood protection scheme and land drainage services (Source: Tonkin and Taylor, March 2018)

³³ The ‘three waters’ programme deals with drinking water / wastewater and storm-water treated and transported in reticulation systems such as sewers, pipes and street gutters.

³⁴ Nevertheless, the paper is entirely relevant to this reform programme. This is because of the need to manage flood water in such a way as to make it’s ‘interface’ with stormwater systems as seamless and manageable as it can be.

³⁵ Addressing the effects on communities of climate change-induced sea level rise has strong parallel challenges to those addressed in this paper.

Assets protected by existing flood protection schemes

Over 100 towns and cities across New Zealand have families and communities living alongside rivers or on flood plains that are protected by flood protection schemes. In total, river and flood protection schemes protect around 1.5 million hectares of land or 5% of New Zealand's land area. This land is where a very high proportion of New Zealand's economic enterprise takes place and where community well-being is most frequently anchored. Marae are also often located in such areas.

Schemes are designed and constructed to achieve defined performance expectations. Higher levels of protection are generally provided to urban areas compared to rural areas. Where a flood event exceeds the design capacity of the flood protection scheme, there will be resultant flooding and damage.

The 2004 Manawatū floods provide an illustration of the extent of the types of costs incurred in rural areas because of this damage. Insured losses from that event were \$112 million. However, the cost to the agricultural sector alone, in uninsured losses (lost production and uninsurable rehabilitation costs), were calculated at \$185 million.³⁶

A similar order of costs were incurred by rural communities because of the June 2021 Ashburton / Hakatere flood event. Furthermore, and as described further later in this report, recovery costs of over \$100m now being faced by the small town of Westport could have been avoided by investing around 10% of that cost into a flood protection scheme.

By contrast, work undertaken by Horizons Regional Council (figure three) indicates that of the 28,730 properties in the greater Palmerston North urban area, 12,842 properties would be affected by a flood event if the existing flood protection scheme was not in place.³⁷

Similar work – as undertaken by Greater Wellington Regional Council, indicates that over 6,500 commercial, residential, and industrial properties would have been inundated – including nine schools and many other Crown-owned properties if the existing scheme was NOT in place (figure four).³⁸

All flood protection schemes throughout New Zealand operate in a living environment. They are subject to wear-and-tear. In addition, they must now endure increased loading because of the changing nature of climate-change-affected weather events,³⁹ the increasing value of the assets they protect, the larger numbers of people to whom they provide safety, and increased expectations about reducing their impact on the natural environment.

Budgeted expenditure on flood protection

The total replacement value of the 367 flood protection schemes throughout New Zealand is estimated to be \$2.3 billion.⁴⁰

Regional authority Long Term Plans for the period 2015 to 2025 show budgets for flood protection operating expenditure of at least \$1 billion and capital expenditure of a similar amount. This excludes depreciation.

³⁶ The cost of emergency services and infrastructure repairs during the 2004 Manawatū floods was put at a further \$90 million. The flood was modelled as having a 150-year return period.

³⁷ This scheme protects these properties and communities from a flood sourced from the Manawatū and Manganui Rivers with a magnitude greater than that occurring with a frequency of 1:100 years.

³⁸ This is the number of properties that would have been affected by the flooding that would have occurred in the area adjacent to the Lower Hutt River in 2015 if it were not for the presence of the Pharazyn and CBD stop-banks.

³⁹ This results in the 'design capacity' of these schemes being more frequently exceeded than in the past.

⁴⁰ Source: Tonkin & Taylor report 'Hiding in Plain Sight' (April 2018).

These budgets are, to varying degrees, based on a continuance of the same design paradigms applied when the schemes were initially constructed. As such, they do not reflect the quantum of the changes now needed to recognise the impacts of climate change and other contemporary challenges.

Councils are aware that a ‘step change’ in flood scheme approaches and investment levels is required. Not only is climate change effectively reducing the service levels of current schemes, but existing service levels are in many cases in need of lifting, regardless of climate change effects. This is to better protect the greatly increased value of assets and the increased size and nature of the communities reliant on flood protection schemes.

Regional councils also know they cannot and should not be obliged to meet the cost of meeting this demand solely from their own rate-payer-focused funding sources. They are saying ‘central government should pay their legitimate share - as a direct and indirect beneficiary of these works, in partnership with regional councils’. They argue that, with central government help, the necessary ‘step change’ can be achieved.

As part of their approach to the management of this challenge, Regional Council Chief Executives have formed the regional council ‘River Managers’ Special Interest Group’ (SIG). This Group has developed a ‘Five Year Sector Resilience, Sustainability and Improvement Plan’ for flood protection. As part of this Plan, a work programme has been established to assist the sector to remain at the cutting edge of the challenges associated with their community resilience / flood protection task.

Regional councils⁴¹ have the capacity to ‘get the job done’ provided co-investment funding is made available from central government to meet necessary agreed risk profile and prioritised flood protection enhancement programmes. This co-investment is now urgently required. Councils are also collectively investing in improving capacity and capability to meet the step change required to the nation’s flood protection, across the full range of methodologies available for flood protection – not just schemes.

A reminder about the history of river management for flood protection




New Zealand previously led the world with its statutory recognition in 1941 that land and water management for flood protection needed to be catchment based. This need was reflected in the purpose of the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1941 ... *‘to make provision for the conservation of soil resources and the prevention of damage by erosion, and to make better provision with respect to the protection of property from damage by floods’.*

The need to ‘make better provision’ for protection against the effects of floods clearly needs to be put back on the table. The 1941 statute led to joint investment by central government, regional communities and the directly-benefiting property owners associated with or affected by river management, drainage, and flood protection schemes.

Central government, at that time, clearly recognised it was a property and Crown asset owner directly benefiting from these flood protection schemes. It also recognised it had wider national interest responsibilities. This understanding now appears to have been forgotten.

⁴¹ We use the term regional councils throughout this report noting that it encompasses both regional councils and unitary district councils and noting these are often more formally jointly referred to as regional authorities.



-  River: Full channel
-  Flooding: With stopbanks
-  Flooding: No Stopbanks

0 2 km



Figure three: Area of Palmerston North protected from flooding by Manawatū-Whanganui / Horizons Regional Council flood protection schemes.

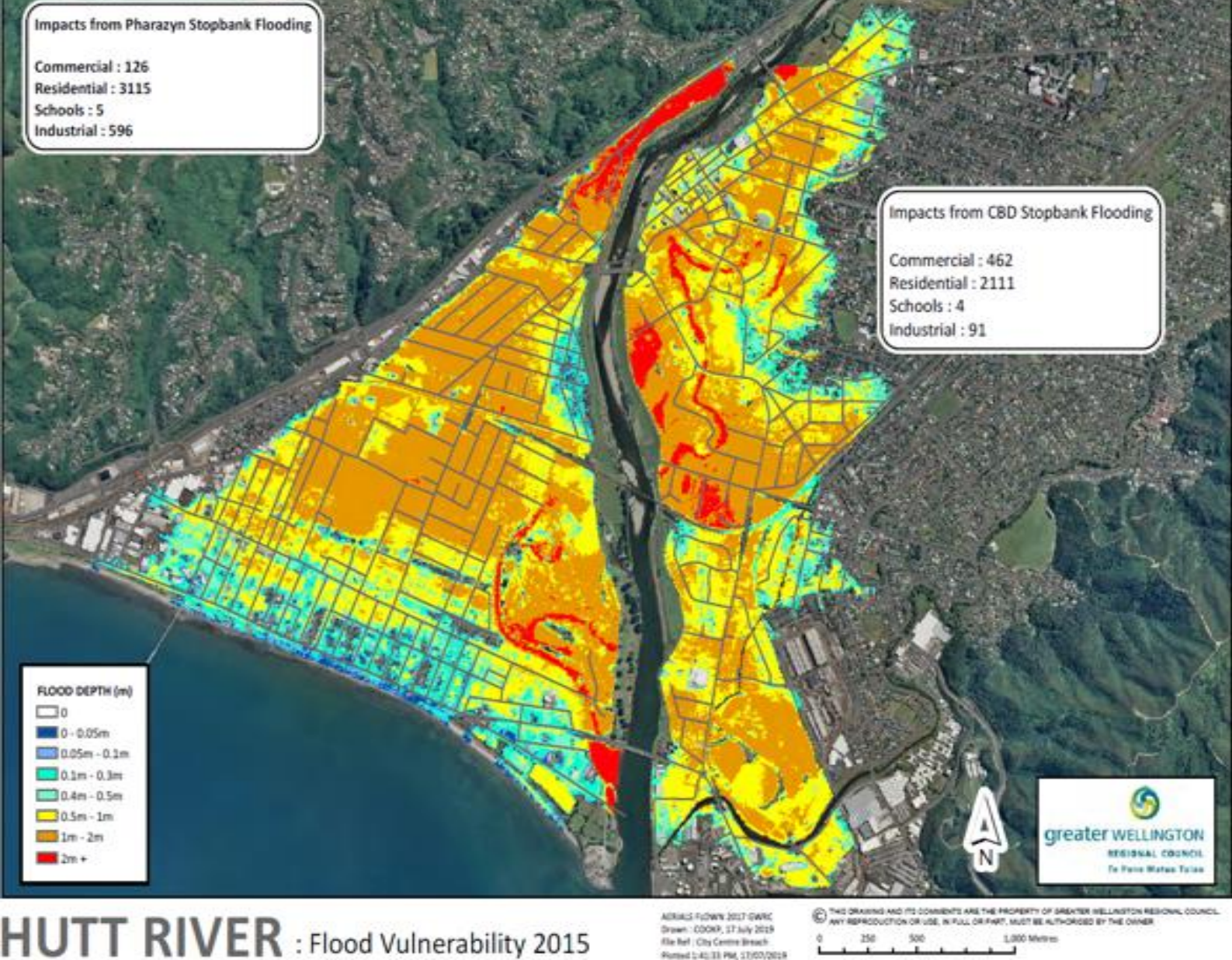


Figure four: Properties protected by Hutt Valley Flood Scheme

Refreshed perspective

A fresh perspective on the important role played by flood protection schemes is now required. Most river management, drainage and flood management schemes were constructed half a century ago. The value of the Crown, local authority and private assets protected by these schemes has incrementally increased. It is now very large. The type of land use activity carried out on this protected land is more intense than that envisaged at scheme design. In addition, the schemes are now required to operate in a more environmentally friendly manner.

Prior to the early-1990s, the capital cost of river management and flood protection schemes was commonly supported by central government at rates of 50 to 75%⁴². Maintenance, to ensure the integrity of the performance of these schemes, typically received 25% support from central government. Collectively, this level of support amounted to around \$40m per annum from central government - equivalent to over \$114m per annum in today's dollars.

⁴² We would note for example that the Waihou Catchment control scheme – a very large whole catchment scheme (and the largest addressed in a holistic manner in the country), received an 87.5% government grant.

Since the early to mid-1990s, river management and flood protection schemes' funding has relied almost entirely on regional rates and the contribution of directly-benefiting property owners, via targeted rates.

By comparison, internationally, including in Europe, Australia⁴³, and the UK⁴⁴, most developed countries currently have substantial levels of central government funding for flood protection activities. This recognises the national benefits they provide⁴⁵. More multi-tiered international jurisdictions also have State as well as Federal co-funding with local authorities. It is now timely for New Zealand's government to draw from these models and reconsider the very valid reasons why it initially shared in the cost of flood protection.⁴⁶

Current central government role in flood protection

Central government currently has just two roles with effect on the protection of communities from flooding. Firstly, it has an enabling role - to ensure regional councils have the legislative power to manage hazards, including flooding. This legislation includes the Local Government Act 2002, Resource Management Act 1991, Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1941, Drainage Act 1908 and the Civil Defence and Emergency Management Act 2002.

Secondly, when an event occurs of a size beyond local government's ability to cope, central government assists with response measures. It also provides financial assistance to speed up recovery.⁴⁷ This assistance is as per the parameters described in the National Civil Defence Emergency Management Plan (2006). For example, if a major flood damages critical infrastructure, then central government will meet up to 60 percent of the asset's repair cost, once damages reach a certain threshold.⁴⁸ Event responses also require ramped up activities and support from MSD, MPI, EQC, NEMA and health agencies.

Central government's role for the last three decades has been focused on disaster response, relief, and rehabilitation rather than as a preventor of damage. Central government's current role may therefore be viewed as more of the 'ambulance at the bottom of the cliff' than as a funder, protector, and advisor at the 'top of the cliff'. Funding assistance to communities is generally applied after the event rather than before the event.⁴⁹

Just as is the case with overseas jurisdictions, and consistent with the advice of the Productivity Commission,⁵⁰ central government must also now shift its focus toward partnering with regional councils to grow the 'first line of defence' role played by flood protection schemes.

⁴³ On top of existing 'state' contributions, the Australian Productivity Commission (2019) recommended the Australian government increase annual mitigation funding contributions to state and territory governments by \$100 million in the first year, then to \$150 million in the second year and \$200 million in the third year

⁴⁴ In the United Kingdom the current Environment Agency programme, which runs from 2015-16 to 2020-21, includes 1,136 flood and coastal erosion projects at a projected total cost of just over £6bn.

⁴⁵ Central / provincial government responsibilities in Europe vary from those applied in New Zealand. The principle emphasised here is that European countries tend to give higher recognition to the national benefits of river management for flood protection than in New Zealand. New Zealand could learn from their approach.

⁴⁶ New Zealand is now well beyond the need to apply the funding principles applied during the period of 'Rogernomics.'

⁴⁷ Government may also provide aid to parties affected by flood events within the terms and conditions defined in the On-Farm Adverse Event Recovery Policy administered by the Ministry for Primary Industries.

⁴⁸ We understand this level of assistance is now under review.

⁴⁹ For example, research funded by central government through the science system provides some guidance to the flood protection role played by regional councils.

⁵⁰ Productivity Commission, Local Government Funding and Financing, 30 November 2019.

Potential changes to central government flood protection responsibilities

Central government have commenced developing a refocused approach toward natural hazard policy. One of the stimulants for this was a 2020 review of the Resource Management Act (RMA) carried out by a Panel chaired by Retired Court of Appeal Judge Tony Randerson QC. Based on the Panel's advice, Government now propose replacing the RMA with three new pieces of legislation.⁵¹ These are the:

- Natural and Built Environments Act (NBA Act).
- Strategic Planning Act (SPA Act).
- Managed Retreat and Climate Change Adaptation Act (CCA Act).⁵²

The new legislation is intended to overcome 'RMA problems' by, among other things, giving more prominence to the need to address natural hazard challenges. Solutions are proposed to be put in place by, among other things:

- Establishing a binding set of positive **national outcomes** and priorities for natural and built environments rather than using the 'effects management' regime entrenched within the current RMA.
- Recognising the concept of Te Mana o te Wai and the need for more active involvement of mana whenua in resource management decision-making (including that related to the protection of communities from the effects of flooding).
- Providing better national direction by preparing a robust **National Planning Framework** that will include content about the management of natural hazards and climate change.
- Giving more recognition to the need for Plans – including newly proposed regional spatial plans, to provide for adaptation to climate change, the avoidance of the risks arising from natural hazards, and better mitigating the emissions contributing to climate change.

The need for a comprehensive approach to flood risk management is clearly encompassed in the above advice (figure five⁵³). In recognition of this, regional councils have embraced and are actively applying a more comprehensive approach (figure six) to flood protection than in the past. However, they argue that providing protection by building resilience into existing flood protection schemes must remain a clear, prioritised and strong tools in the toolbox for achieving these proposed legislative requirements.

One of the proposed 'National Outcomes' likely⁵⁴ to be included in the Natural and Built Environments Act will address natural hazards and climate change. The proposed new Act will likely require the National Planning Framework and by implication, all local authority resource management plans, to promote measures to ensure significant natural hazard risks are reduced and the resilience of the environment to natural hazards and the effects of climate change are improved. This is a necessary and supported change.

DIA have played an active role in the first ten months of 2021, alongside regional councils, to develop potential flood-related natural hazard content for inclusion in the proposed National Planning Framework.

⁵¹ Cabinet Paper, December 2020.

⁵² This Act will be developed in 2023. However, the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019 requires MfE to lead the process of preparing a National Adaptation Plan. Details about what it may contain are currently uncertain. Regional councils are of the view that the Plan should record flood protection schemes as the critical tool for assisting communities to adapt to the effects of climate change.

⁵³ This diagram was prepared by DIA and was included in a presentation to MfE and regional council river managers (3 November 2021).

⁵⁴ An indication of what may be included in the Natural and Built Environments Act was revealed in an exposure draft released in August 2021.

In November 2021, responsibility for further developing the ‘natural hazards’ content of the proposed National Planning Framework was transferred to MfE. In making this transfer, DIA provided the following advice to MfE about how to best address flood protection schemes going forward:

- Take a ‘systems approach’ to flood risk management with greater integration of existing policy and practice on a range of fronts.⁵⁵
- Use regional spatial planning strategies under the SPA to integrate flood risk management and climate change adaptation with strategic growth planning to enable future development to be risk-informed, climate resilient and sustainable.
- Set out where flood risk reduction will be prioritised over other outcomes.
- Provide for the maintenance of flood protection schemes⁵⁶ and adaptation for climate resilience.

Regional councils endorsed this advice.⁵⁷ What remains most salient in the above supported advice is DIA’s clearly stated recognition of the importance of the foundation stone protection provided to communities by the existing 367 flood protection schemes. The recent passing of the Resource Management (Enabling Housing Supply and Other Matters) Amendment Act compounds this challenge.⁵⁸

The challenge for both central and local government to now address is how to secure the funding to enable these foundation stones to be maintained and adapted to the changed operating environment. A solution to this challenge is critical if our communities are to withstand the increased frequency and magnitude of current and future ‘climate change influenced’ floods. In support of this point, DIA noted⁵⁹:

- Local government should not be required to meet the costs of developing and maintaining flood protection works on their own.
- Repeat flood events are a challenge for central government to respond to.
- Insurers are moving to risk-based pricing and will withdraw and / or increase flood insurance in high flood risk areas.
- Co-investment will be needed by central government to support local government investment in flood protection infrastructure, adaptation for climate change and retreat, and for upgrading schemes to meet new environmental and cultural requirements set by the National Planning Framework.

Central government’s application of this refreshed thinking to the funding models for flood protection was recorded in the July 2020 Cabinet paper ‘Improving Resilience to Flood Risk and Supporting Covid-19 Recovery.’ This Cabinet paper noted:

⁵⁵ Investing in risk reduction through land use planning has been shown to be one of the most effective policy levers to reduce risk. Providing co-investment for flood protection helps with existing development but stronger national direction to limit new development in high-risk areas is agreed as being a necessary accompaniment to central government co-investment in flood protection.

⁵⁶ This underlining has been included by us to give this point necessary emphasis.

⁵⁷ This endorsement was provided by means of the active involvement of the River Managers SIG in DIA workshops and via submissions on draft documents.

⁵⁸ Government’s Resource Management (Enabling Housing Supply and Other Matters) Amendment Act provides for significant intensification in Christchurch, Auckland, Wellington, Hamilton, Tauranga as of right. This will come into effect in August 2022. This will increase risk as it will allow for three dwellings on sites where there is currently one. There is some provision for exclusion of areas where there are natural hazard risks, but it is not clear how this will play out. Many of these cities have large areas of land that are prone to flooding from major rivers.

⁵⁹ This information was included in an A3 shared by DIA with river managers and MfE on 3 December 2021.

- Current funding arrangements for flood protection infrastructure were established over 30 years ago and they are no longer considered sustainable or consistent with delivering outcomes in line with (the) proposed framework and principles.
- Subject to further work, central government’s funding approach to building resilience should consider the benefit principle, fairness, and intergenerational wellbeing.
- Officials will work with local government to develop a revised funding model for flood protection, based on the proposed framework and principles, which would be implemented over the longer term.

Regional councils welcomed the above commitments. They were therefore very disappointed to receive notice from DIA (June 2021) that further work on developing a co-investment framework for flood protection schemes had been suspended.

Notwithstanding, the proposed principles included in Appendix B of the July 2020 Cabinet paper remain valuable. The paper refers to an intention to use these principles to underpin the framework for central government’s role in strengthening community resilience to flood risk by intervening where there is a national interest or national benefit. More explicitly, the appendix states an intention to:

- Target action where national assets and national interests warrant central government intervention and funding.
- Intervene in projects where there is a significant economy of scale or time constraints, distributional concerns, to protect health and safety, and to protect kaitiakitanga.

What is requested is the opportunity to urgently⁶⁰ work with central government to apply these principles, alongside the guidance offered in the previous regional council business case,⁶¹ to develop a flood risk funding model that will provide co-investment support to regional councils and their communities to further enhance flood protection schemes.

Protection of Crown assets, values, national interest, and resilience – and the need to reduce Crown contingent liabilities

The cost of flood events may be counted not just in terms of the cost of replacing or restoring privately owned buildings and overcoming other property losses. There are also other tangible costs. These include the number of hours or days businesses cannot operate at full production and the cost of disruptions to the functionality of Crown assets.

In addition, flood costs have both an immediate and sometimes an on-going effect on people’s lives. This includes the effect on the willingness of the residents affected by flooding to continue to live and invest in areas subject to flooding.

To avoid a worst-case flood disruption scenario, scaled-up central government and regional council investment in flood protection schemes is required. The priority reason for this co-investment is to create resilient communities and sustain economic enterprise.

⁶⁰ The 2021 Westport, Marlborough and Canterbury floods display the fact that the challenge is real and present.

⁶¹ These are summarised in the executive summary and again toward the conclusion of this report.

All levers and tools are needed to reduce flood risk

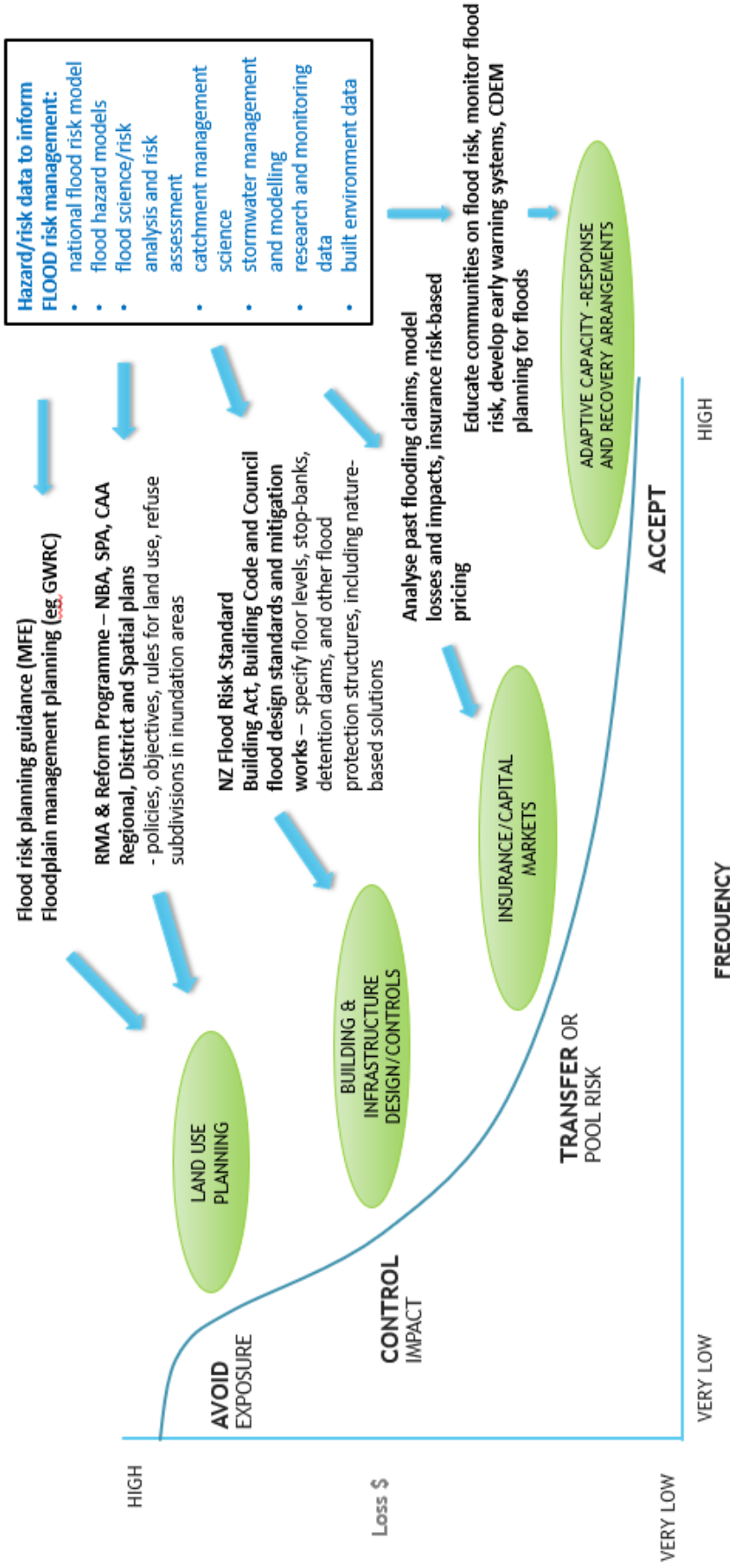


Figure five: Comprehensive approach needing to be applied to address flood protection challenges – as prepared by DIA (NB the blue circle has been highlighted by us to draw attention to the on-going critical importance of flood protection tools)

Multi-spectrum approach to building community resilience against flood risks

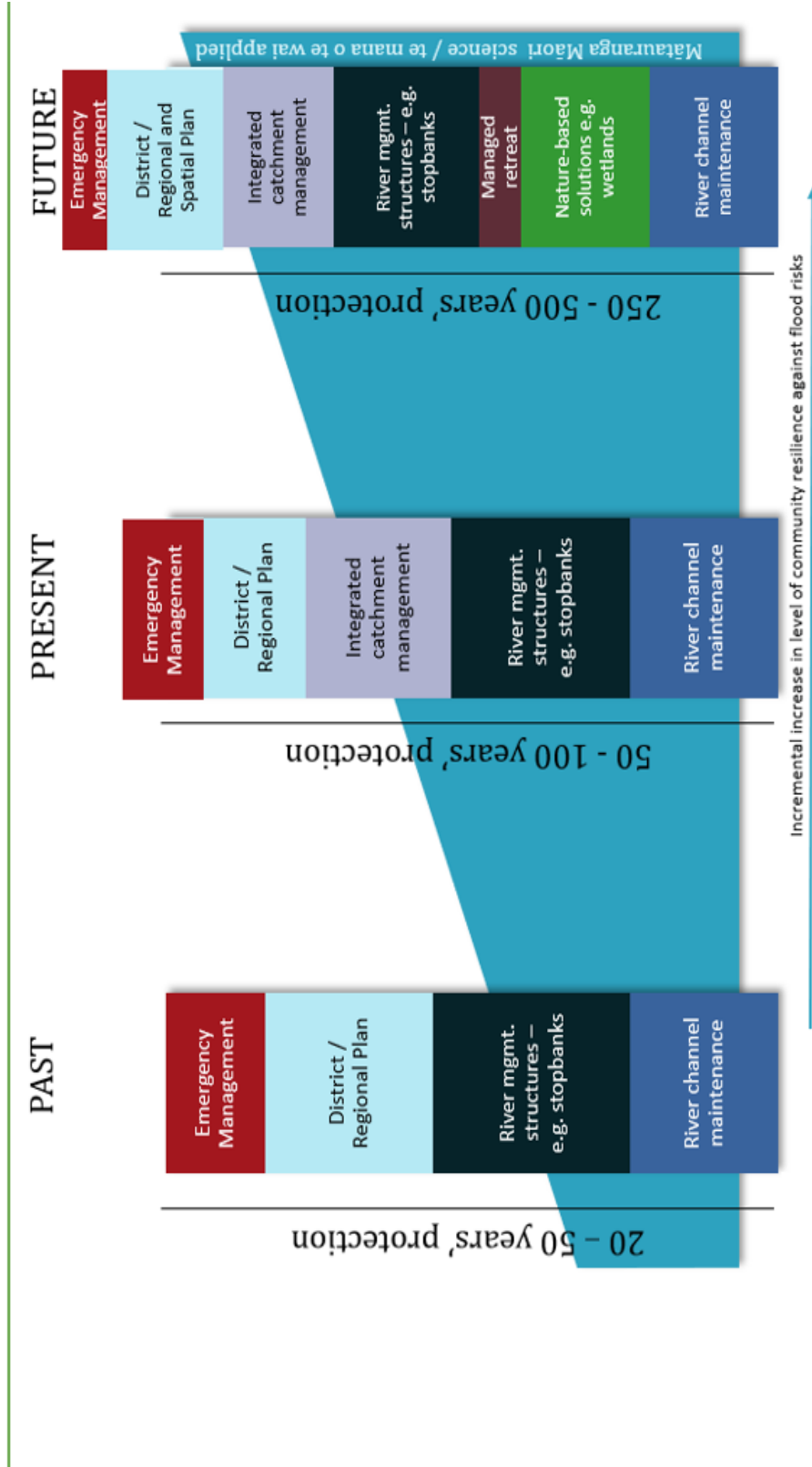


Figure six: Evolution of regional council approaches to flood protection

Companion objectives affecting the design of future flood protection schemes include the degree to which they may:

- Support well-functioning ecosystems.
- Improve water quality.
- Satisfy the expectations of our communities and Māori / iwi partners that our rivers will be managed as national treasures.
- Achieve integrated land use.
- Better reflect iwi / Māori / te Mana o te Wai and community aspirations about the management of natural systems.

Higher levels of resilience against the risks of extreme floods will also contribute to a full suite of other Government objectives, including investment certainty and social cohesion. These benefits will be expressed in all regions, not just the 'richer' regions.

One of the effects of central government's current narrow 'response-focused' role is that, for three decades, Crown owners or Crown infrastructure agency owners, have been able to enjoy the benefits of the asset protection provided to them by flood protection schemes at the cost of regional and targeted local ratepayers. Using local authority property-based rates to fund the protection of Crown assets is plainly unfair.

These protected assets include rail and road infrastructure, lifeline infrastructure such as power lines, some airports,⁶² communication services, schools, hospitals, universities, and public conservation land. The Crown also has substantial contingent liabilities in respect of non-Government owned assets such as local roads where it has funding responsibilities. In addition, if adequate protection is not provided to public and private assets, when major disasters occur, the Crown becomes the funder of last resort to restore community functionality.

Estimates⁶³ show that for floods in Nelson and New Plymouth in 1970 and 1971, losses associated with central government works and services (roading, railways, bulk power supply, flood control and drainage works) amounted to 49 per cent of the total value of all direct losses.

A further example is provided by the 2006 Dunedin flood. The Leith Flood Protection Scheme plays a large role in protecting the Dunedin CBD from flooding. This includes the protection of education facilities (University of Otago and Otago Polytech) and the protection of the new Dunedin hospital, public reserves, residential and commercial areas. The capital value of the Crown properties and non-relatable University land and assets in the area protected by the Scheme is 35 per cent of the total assets in the area.

Further examples of the direct benefits provided to central government may be drawn from Ashburton, Blenheim / Marlborough District and Westport. These three areas were all subjected to extreme flooding in 2021. Details about these case studies follow.

Live examples of the importance of the Crown being at the 'top of the cliff'

Ashburton flood event – June 2021

Across the Canterbury region, there are 110,000 houses located in flood hazard areas. These houses have an estimated replacement value of \$34 billion. The region has 112 km² of land at risk from

⁶² Airports such as those at Christchurch are located on flood plains. Many New Zealand airports are 50% owned by the Crown.

⁶³ Ericksen (1986) cited by the NZIER (2004).

flooding. The region also has 3,900km of roading, 800km of national grid lines, 2,204 of drinking water supplies, and nearly 3000 km² of dairy and pastoral land.⁶⁴

Over the three days from 31 May to 2 June 2021, the Canterbury region experienced 551mm of rain, with the greatest intensity experienced in the Canterbury foothills. The event was characterized as a 1:200-year flood event in the foothills and a 1:50-year event towards the coast (see figure seven).

Met Service’s ‘Ensemble Forecast System’ found that compared to a climate system unaffected by human activities, between 10 and 15 per cent more rain fell in this period than usual. Using a large collection of global climate model simulations, they also found that these events are at least 20 per cent more likely to occur today than in preindustrial times when the atmosphere was about one degree colder.⁶⁵

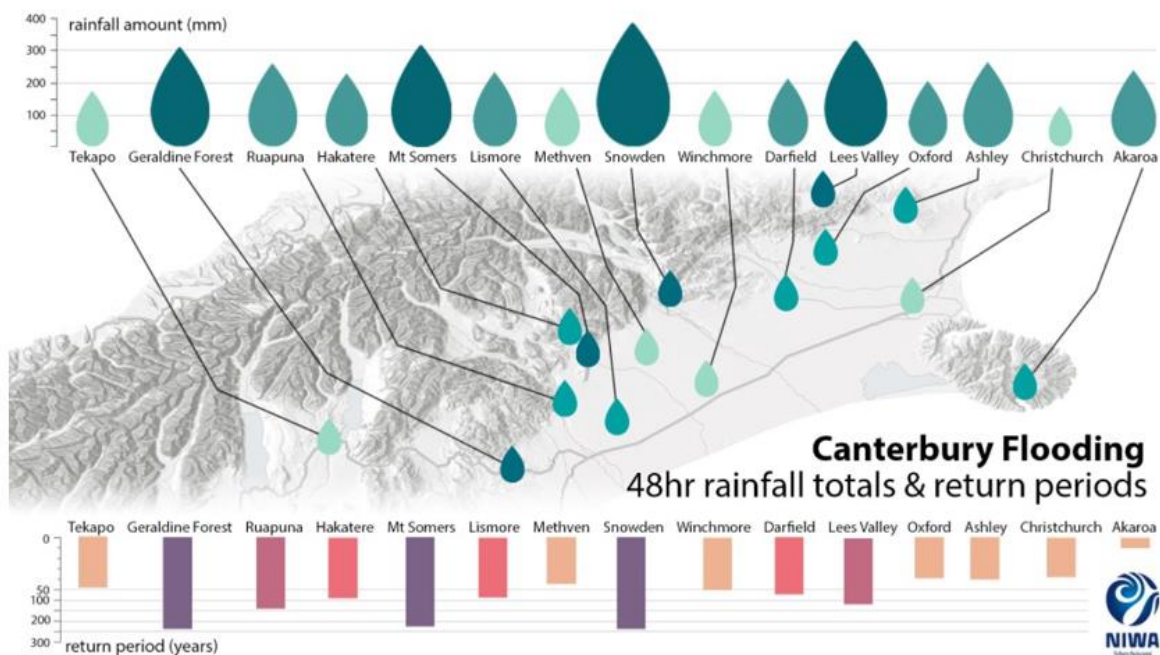


Figure seven: Canterbury rainfall event, 31 May to 2 June 2021, NIWA

River flow data showed a peak flow of 1,794m³/s in the Ashburton / Hakatere River at the State Highway One gauge. This is the highest flow recorded at that site since the gauge was installed. A total of 558 response ‘needs assessments’ were carried out by local authority and civil defence personnel and over 200 households / 300 persons were evacuated from five main locations around the district. All but 18 persons were able to return to their homes. A total of 32 houses were damaged by flood inundation. \$5m of damage was done to local roads.

The town of Ashburton was saved from greater damage by a well-designed urban flood protection scheme. Further damage was averted by timely community leadership. The \$2.5m spent a decade ago on upgrading the stop banks on either side of Ashburton town proved their value. There was little damage to residential properties in the town and no loss of life.

The focus of the flood event impacts was in rural areas, particularly in the Canterbury foothills around Mt Somers and on intensively farmed land between the two branches of the Ashburton / Hakatere

⁶⁴ The information provided in this case study was drawn from a report prepared by Pam Johnson from DIA.

⁶⁵ <https://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/climate-news/127210511/climate-change-made-the-may-flooding-in-canterbury-more-severe--researchers>

River. The two branches of the Ashburton / Hakatere River both suffered over-topping of stop-banks. This caused significant flooding because the event was “over design”. This means there was more water than the flood protection scheme was ever designed to handle.

Farmland and rural infrastructure were damaged. This included damage to fences, bridges, irrigation equipment and stock feed etc. The safety of animals was placed at significant risk. Some evacuations were required in small rural communities including at Springfield in the Selwyn district. Other rural areas, such as Hinds, were also cut off.

State Highway One, the primary transport route for southbound travellers and freight, typically has around 24,000 vehicles per day going over it, including 2,000 trucks. Over 30,000 vehicles cross in weekends. The bridge was closed because of concerns about bridge damage and structural stability. Alternative routes south (including the rail line) were also closed by the flooding. This impacted supply chains to the whole of the lower South Island⁶⁶ with significant but difficult to accurately quantify impacts on the economy.

Nevertheless, the event gave rise to 3,800 insurance claims from the Ashburton district requesting \$46.4m. The main claims may be broken down as follows:

	<i>Number of claims</i>	<i>Cost of claims \$</i>
<i>Domestic</i>	2,446	\$22,218,746
<i>Commercial/material damage</i>	889	\$18,625,320
<i>Business interruption / loss of profits</i>	57	\$1,050,779
<i>Motor vehicle</i>	302	\$1,816,351
<i>Other</i>	82	\$2,717,521
Total	3,776	\$46,428,717

Crown-owned assets located in the Ashburton district total over one billion dollars in value. These may be categorised as follows⁶⁷:

- Urban land and buildings \$36m
- Rural land and buildings \$10m
- Roads \$685m
- Rail tracks \$258m
- Transpower lines \$28m
- **Total** **\$1,100 million**

The total value of land and buildings on the floodplain in the Ashburton district is \$4,867m.

The Ashburton / Hakatere river’s control works consists of 76km of stop banks valued at \$17.6m and other tree, rock, culvert, and flood gates valued at \$62m.

⁶⁶ This was the second time that state highway one had closed due to flooding in recent times. In addition, the Rangitata bridge closed for three days in the December 2019 flood event.

⁶⁷ The dollar value of ‘damage to assets avoided’ has been calculated using 2020 dollars by applying level of service and scheme rating multipliers at a catchment level. This method of calculation was developed by economist Julian Williams using methods initially applied by Tonkin & Taylor - as included in their 2017 report “Hiding in Plain Sight”. The method uses the capital value (rating data) of government owned property such as schools and hospitals and lineal distance in km times per km rate of national infrastructure networks (road, rail, and national power lines). For example, the current cost estimate to build 1 km of state highway is approximately \$50 million.

These protection works generally provide benefits of protection to central government assets that vastly exceed their costs. The works are usually designed to provide a one in 50-year return frequency level of protection to rural areas inland from Ashburton and a one in 200-year return frequency level of protection around the township of Ashburton. As noted previously, the storm exceeded the design limit of the protection works located in rural areas but provided good protection to Ashburton town.

Other expenses will be incurred by both Environment Canterbury and NEMA⁶⁸ to restore flood protection scheme infrastructure and related vegetation (figure eight). The ratepayers of Canterbury will be required to meet unbudgeted flood recovery expenditure of around \$12m.

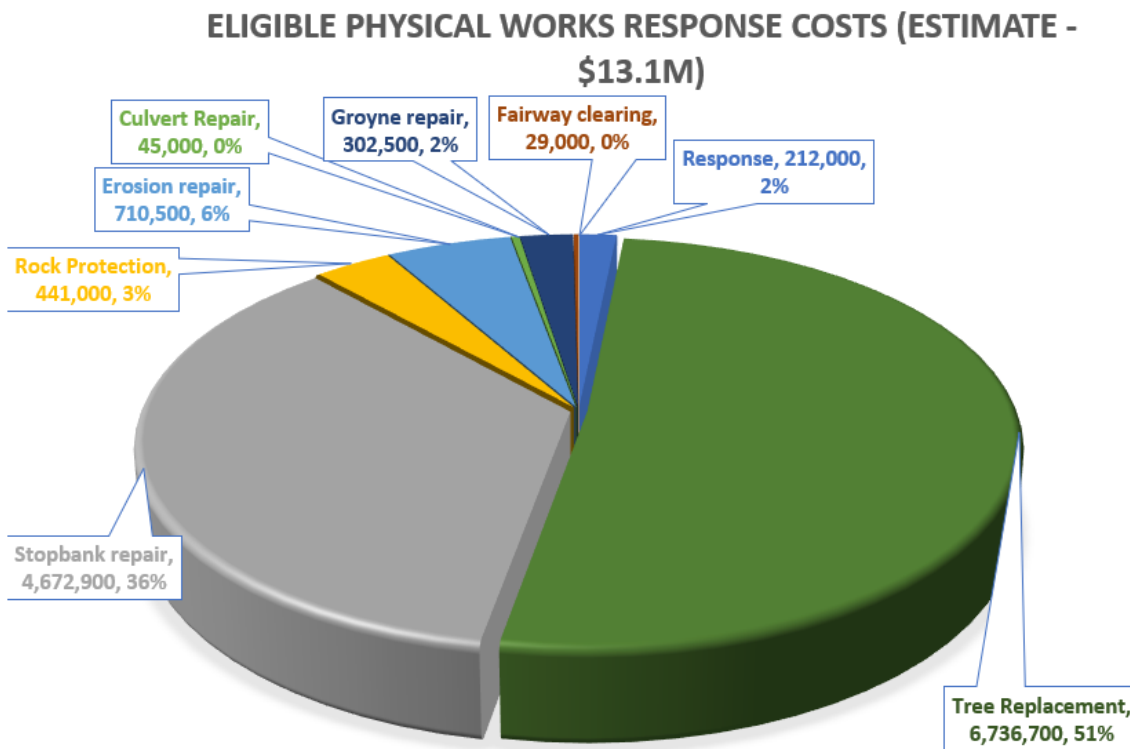


Figure eight: Environment Canterbury physical works ‘response’ cost estimates.

Similar, but not quite as intense flood impacts were felt in Selwyn, Waimakarere, Mackenzie, and Timaru districts.

The future state of affected Canterbury braided rivers may well be quite different to that existing prior to the June 2021 flood. This is not just because of the effects of the flood but also because of a need for Environment Canterbury and affected communities to consider the balance to be found in rural areas between:

- Providing for the tangible and intangible benefits of giving a stronger focus to river ecosystem and Te Mana o te Wai principles.
- Allowing the river more room to be a river.
- Affording the ratepayer cost of the capital works required for flood protection schemes capable of providing more than a 50-year level of protection.
- Meeting land use and ownership expectations, noting these include desires to have the opportunity for extending farming operations near river flood channels

⁶⁸ NEMA contributions are made at an average of 60% via their emergency response and recovery funding.

- Providing a fair and reasonable transition pathway, if it is agreed that intensive farming at these locations cannot continue.

Allowing the 'river to move' is a key challenge in some parts of the Ashburton catchment and elsewhere. The North Ashburton / Hakatere River narrows from around 300m between stop banks at Thompson's Track to 100m between stop banks at Shearers Road. Similarly, the Orari River narrows from around 650m between stop banks at Geraldine to around 250m near the coast.

These challenges are not matters upon which relief is sought with the assistance of central government co-investment. They are challenges, nevertheless, with farmer expectations about bedload gravel management being a salient sub-set of these issues. Regional councils are prepared to meet these challenges by encouraging managed retreat and other land use / spatial planning, where that is appropriate. In other instances, it may be the case that local landowners will increase their funding toward the achievement of a higher-level flood protection.



Rural parts of the Ashburton / Hakatere River, 31 May 2021. (Photo courtesy of Stuff).

Westport flood event – 20 July 2021

A West Coast Regional Council catchment weather station recorded 730mm of rain in the 48 hours extending through 19 / 20 July flood period. NIWA records show the last time the Buller River reached the heights experienced in the July 2021 flood was in 1926. The 7,640 cubic metres per second recorded on 20 July 2021 was the largest direct measurement of flow ever recorded in New Zealand.⁶⁹

The cost of recovering from the effects of the Westport flood have been estimated at close to \$100m. The flooding left 23 per cent of Westport's housing stock in need of repair. A total of 71 homes were severely damaged and deemed unsafe, while a further 388 homes will require significant repairs.⁷⁰ Over 1000 insurance claims were lodged.⁷¹ A total of 2,000 Buller district flood damaged properties were assessed by the Council's Emergency Management team (figure nine).

⁶⁹ An article authored by scientists D. A Stone et al, as included in the journal 'Weather and Climate Extremes,' March 2022 (as quoted by Auckland Herald reporter Jamie Morton on 10 March 2022) found the planet's warming made the July 2021 West Coast weather event 10% more intense than would have occurred without climate warming.

⁷⁰ 'Development West Coast' Chair Renee Rooney described the flood as 'a devastating blow to Buller, damaging homes and farms, and causing much disruption to the region'.

⁷¹ CEO Tim Grafton, Radio New Zealand, 20 July 2021.

Investment of between \$10m and \$20m in a flood protection scheme would likely have prevented this damage and avoided these recovery costs being incurred (figure ten).

Crown-owned assets in the Westport area, at risk of damage by flooding from the Buller River, may be categorised and valued (\$2020) as follows:

- Urban land and buildings \$15m
- Roads \$730m
- Rail tracks \$235m
- Transpower lines \$13m
- **Total** **\$1,000 million**



Figure nine: proposed flood protection structures for Westport. Source: West Coast Regional Council.

Additional protection to Westport communities may be provided by applying adaptation, ‘working with nature’ systems, relocation options, raised building floor level heights and other approaches. The relocation option involves shifting further development away from the potential flood zone to the area south-west of the current Westport township. This may be described as a multi-tool approach (figure

eleven). Adaptation options include improving the efficiency of the Orowaiti River as an overflow channel (and potentially creating an ecologically rich wetland), reducing the flow-constraining effects posted by State Highway 67 and Kiwi Rail structures in some areas.

Considering the extensive damage that occurred to Westport in July 2021, what is now taking place is a multi-party process to reach agreement on a carefully phased and central government ‘co-funded’ approach to the rebuild of community resilience against flood risks at Westport. Flood protection structures must be at the centre of this process. Work undertaken by West Coast Regional Council recommends immediate expenditure of \$10.2 million on these structures.

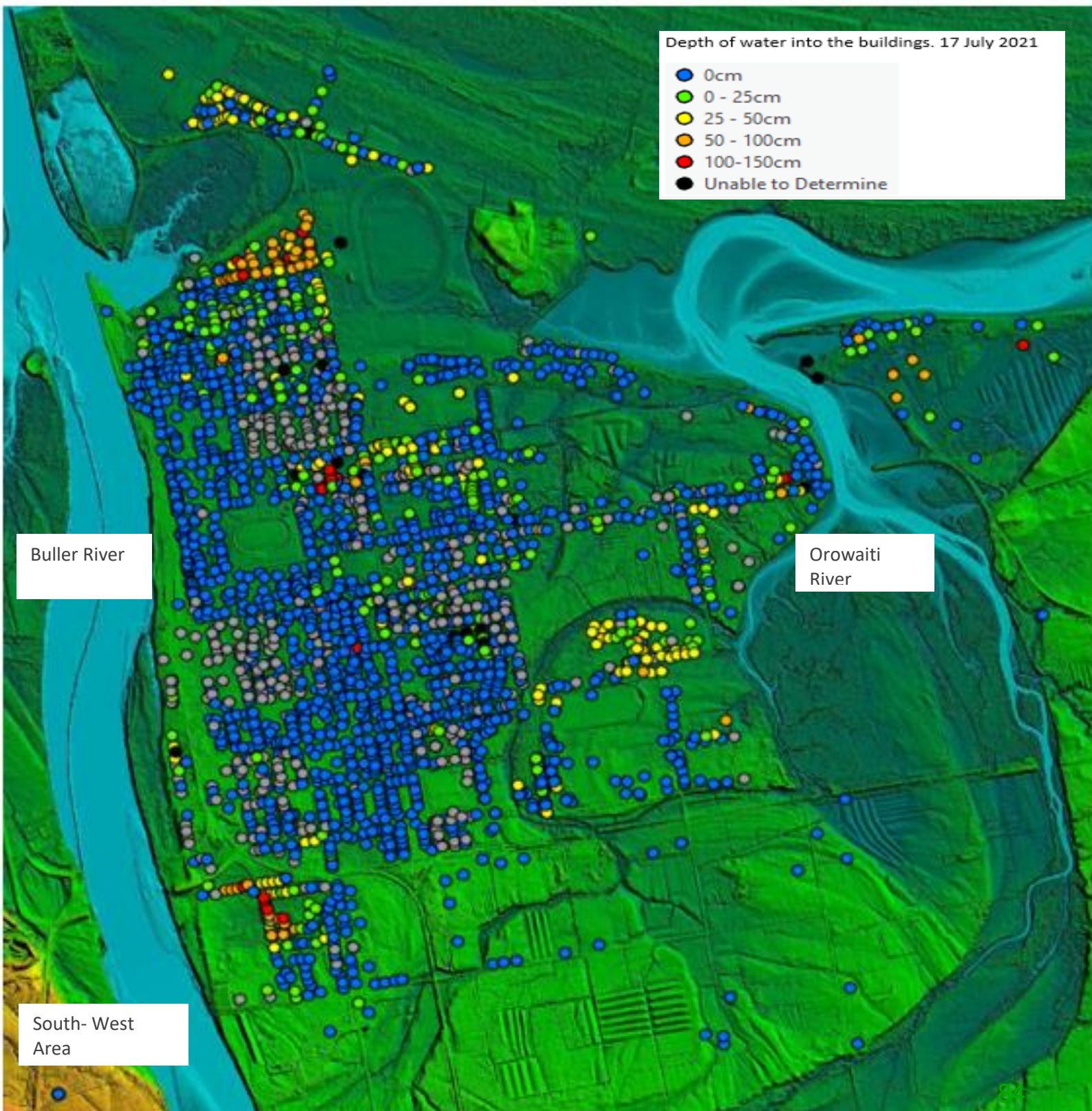


Figure ten: Inundation depth of buildings affected by Westport flood 17 July 2021: Source – West Coast Regional Council

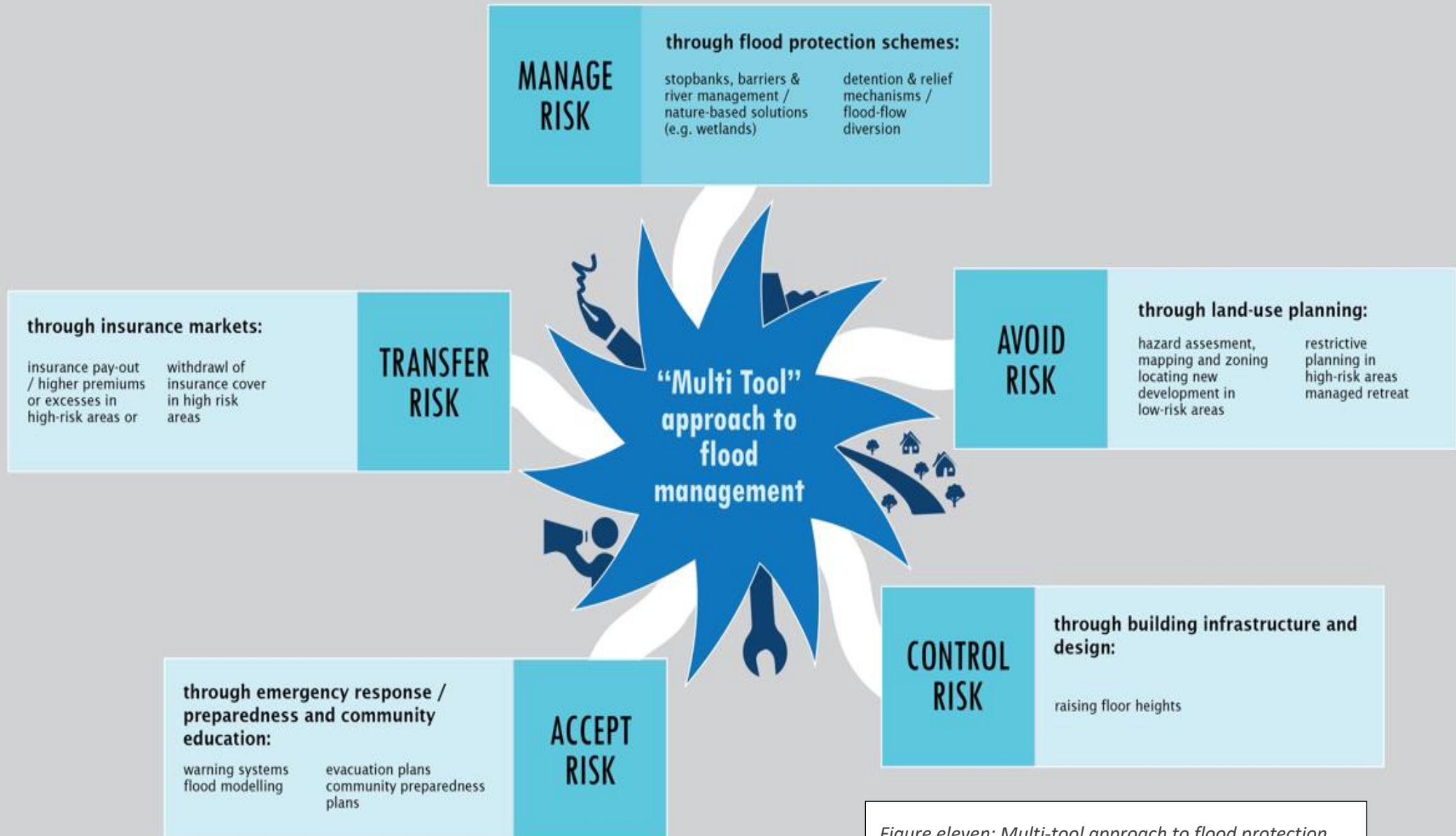


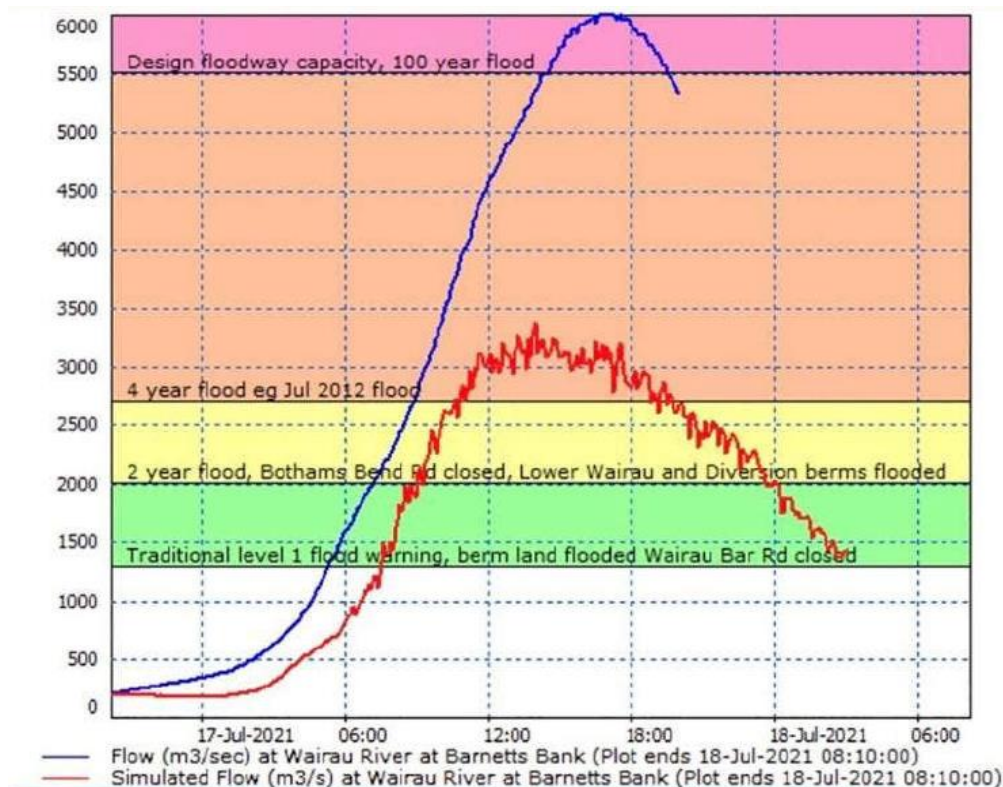
Figure eleven: Multi-tool approach to flood protection

Blenheim / Marlborough District

Almost 1000 people were evacuated from 500 properties and five people were rescued from parts of Marlborough town cut off by the worst flood ever recorded in the region. Evacuations at Spring Creek and Tuamarina were prompted by overtopping or breaching of stop banks on the Wairau River.

The effect of the flood event was exacerbated because of the flow constraining effect of the State Highway One bridge. Repairs amounting to \$12m to scheme structures are now underway. Blenheim was largely protected because of flood protection scheme works constructed after the devastating 1983 flood event. This scheme was constructed with 75% funding from central government.⁷² Hydrological analysis records the peak flow of the Wairau at Blenheim at 5200-5300 m³/sec, almost exactly a 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) event but slightly below the target scheme capacity of 5500m³/sec. (figure twelve).

The District’s engineer recommends a new flood protection scheme peak flood capacity design is required for Marlborough’s growing population, intensified land use patters - particularly viticulture, and to better manage the storm flow effects caused by climate change. The engineer suggests that such a step change will require a significant Crown involvement, both as a major infrastructure owner (including two key bridges) and as a funding partner. Excluding the cost of the replacement bridges (State Highway Six, State Highway One and the railway bridge), investment in the order of \$50 - \$100m may be required to make this step change.



⁷² This scheme is currently being enhanced with the assistance of a \$3m ‘shovel ready’ central government grant.

Figure twelve: Wairau River flow 17 / 18 July 2021 (Source – Marlborough District Council).

Crown-owned assets in the Blenheim, at risk of damage by flooding from the Wairau River, may be categorised and valued (\$2020) as follows:

- Urban land and buildings \$68m
- Rural land and buildings \$51m
- Roads \$556m
- Rail tracks \$121m
- Transpower lines \$12m
- **Total \$808 million**

Implications that may be drawn from recent flood events

The main insight from the above three cases is that the Crown is substantially exposed to flood risk damage. The Crown assets with the biggest vulnerabilities are the extensive network of road and rail assets present in these and all areas subject to flooding throughout New Zealand.

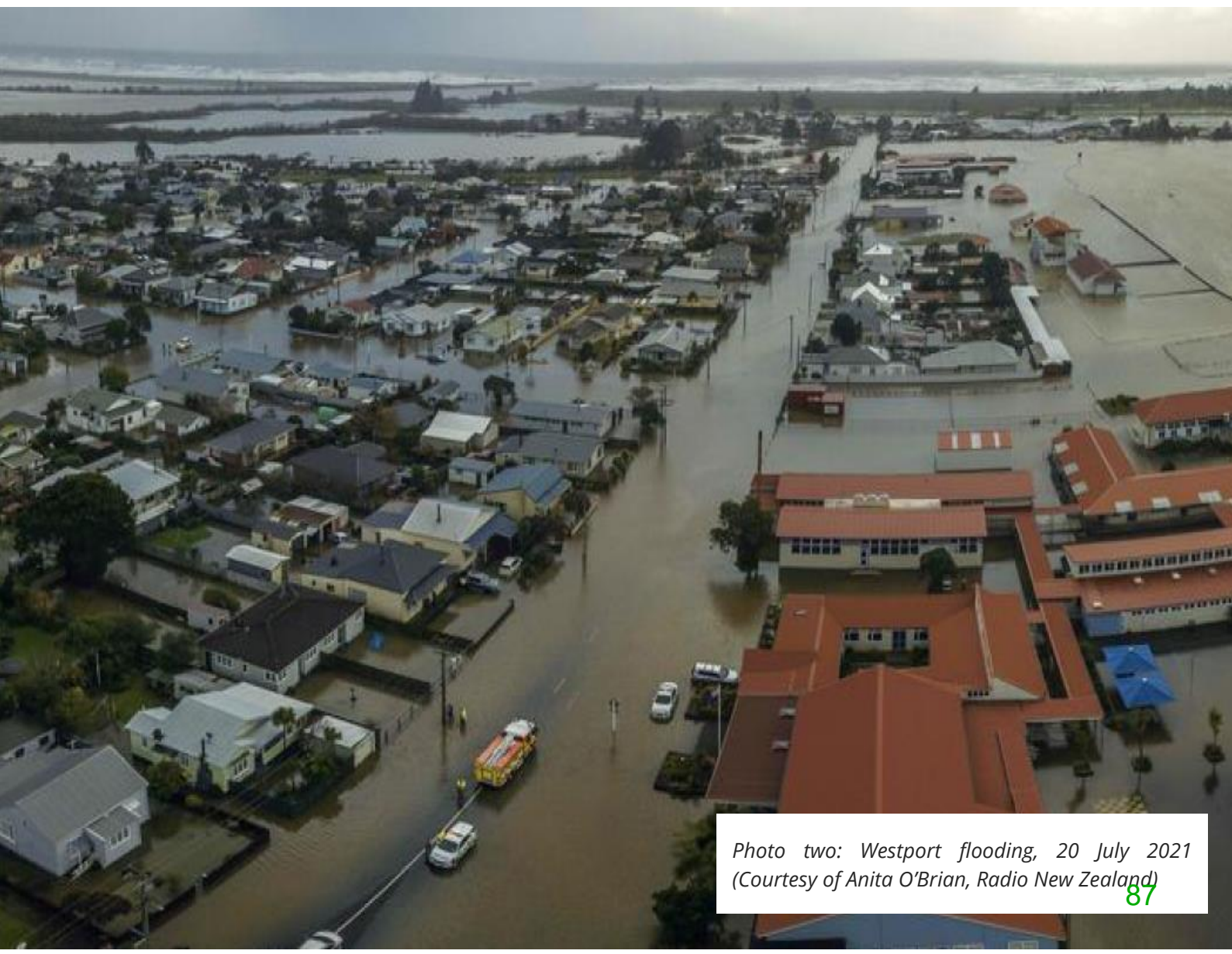


Photo two: Westport flooding, 20 July 2021 (Courtesy of Anita O'Brian, Radio New Zealand)

In addition, damage to Crown land and buildings such as schools may cause on-going disruptions (indirect costs) to community functionality. Other indirect Crown benefits arising from flood protection schemes include the following:

- Fiscal revenue (taxes and excise duties) is maintained.
- Regional economic activity is sustained because infrastructure networks (road, rail, power, and communications) keep operating.
- Expenditure by central government departments (e.g., MBIE, MPI), to rehabilitate industries, is avoided (refer Ashburton Flood Recovery Plan 2021).
- Expenditure by central government departments (e.g., MSD, MoH, FENZ, NZ Police) on community welfare and safety, is avoided (refer Ashburton Flood Recovery Plan 2021).
- Investments made by central government as part of the Provincial Growth Fund are protected.
- Resilience and increased levels of safety and security is provided to existing and future businesses, individuals, families, and communities.

The wine industry in Marlborough, the dairy industry in Ashburton and the fruit and vegetable processing industry in Marlborough are examples of the ‘value-add’ economic contributions, of national importance, from each of these regions.⁷³ Existing flood protection schemes in Marlborough and Ashburton enabled the national importance of these industries to be protected from the full effect of the July 2021 floods. Westport industries were not so fortunate. Seafood processing is one of Westport’s main employers (120 employees in 2020). In addition, new initiatives, some of them established with the support of PGF-funded, were placed at risk. These included the high value tourism services provided by the Riverbank project and the Kawatiri Coast Trail. The PGF also supported the EPIC innovation hub and the development of a commercial fishing precinct.⁷⁴



Photo three: Marlborough / Blenheim Flood 20 July 2021 (Photo courtesy of Stuff)

Canterbury accounted for 26% of total NZ dairy cattle. Ashburton accounted for 7% of total NZ employment in dairy cattle farming. Of total employment in the fruit and vegetable processing, Marlborough accounts for 12% and Ashburton accounts for 11%. Marlborough accounts for 33% of total New Zealand employment in aquaculture.

⁷⁴ This precinct and the Westport Deepsea Fishing School are envisaged as providing further opportunity to take advantage of Westport’s competitive position in the commercial fishing industry.

Other reasons for co-investment by central government

Withdrawal of the insurance sector from flood protection

The other main implication that may be drawn from recent events is that the increasing frequency of severe floods is not on the horizon – it is with us now.⁷⁵ The examples clearly demonstrate the scale of central government expenditure on responding and recovering from these events. The scale of this expenditure would be significantly reduced with investment in proactive risk mitigation and resilience improvement.

Some insurance companies have now provided notice of their intention to raise their cost of providing insurance cover over properties subject to flood risk. Tower Insurance was the first to act.⁷⁶ They have now given notice to their New Zealand home insurance customers⁷⁷ about increases to the flood risk portion of their premiums. Other companies such as AIG will more than likely follow suit. There is also the possibility that some insurers may decline cover for those properties subject to higher levels of risk.

Tower Insurance’s proposed increases reflect a pricing model based on the individual risk faced by the property subject to damage by flooding⁷⁸. Properties are to be allocated a risk rating of low, medium, or high. One in ten properties will be subjected to higher premiums of about \$50 per year. Some property owners could see increases of several hundreds of dollars, upwards to \$1000, depending on the risk level, size, and location of their property. Crown properties and assets will be placed in the same position as private property owners.

Tower have said they had made these policy changes because they wanted to make sure people were aware of the options, they, councils, and government had at their fingertips to reduce risk, including elevating / raising the floor levels of homes. They noted available options for reducing flood insurance premiums clearly included constructing flood protection scheme infrastructure.

Tower also said that flooding events in the last 18 months in Northland, Napier, central Otago and big storms in Canterbury, Westport, West Auckland and more recently in Gisborne and the East Coast had all influenced their decision to increase premiums (figure thirteen).⁷⁹



Figure thirteen: The cost incurred by Tower Insurance in assisting insured property owners to recover from recent flood events.

⁷⁵ Climate change deniers may argue that several swallows do not make a spring – in this case several flood events are not a cause for alarm because they do not have statistical validity. This could not be further from the truth – as indicated by the Tower Insurance data provided below.

⁷⁶ Tower hold 10% of the New Zealand house insurance market.

⁷⁷ November 2021

⁷⁸ Tower Insurance have used a New Zealand inland flooding model based on simulations and probabilities of difference scenarios using data obtained from NIWA, LINZ, regional councils, and the Insurance Council of New Zealand.

⁷⁹ Auckland Herald, 10 November 2021.

In addition, Tower referred to data gathered by the Insurance Council of New Zealand dating back to the 1960s to justify their decision to increase premiums (figures thirteen and fourteen). This shows an increasing trend-line in terms of natural disasters, with almost half based around floods.⁸⁰

Of concern to Tower was not just the frequency of the floods but the severity of them. They noted, *‘in the last 10 years the cost of flood damage was equivalent to the previous 45 years’*. They also noted that in the past 50 years, nearly half (45%) of all natural disasters – despite the effect of the Christchurch / Kaikoura earthquakes, were from floods.

The Insurance Council's CEO Tim Grafton telescoped the likely increase in insurance premiums in a radio interview immediately after the July 2021 Westport floods. He said, *‘some flood-vulnerable communities would face difficulty getting insurance as risks of flooding increased’*. He advised *‘the best path as being not just transferring risk to insurance but rather to control, adapt, avoid and be more aware (rather than be blindsided through lack of information) of the level of risk that was comfortable for each property owner to endure.’*⁸¹

Tower Insurance explicitly addressed this point in their recent announcements. They said that people who choose to raise the elevation of their house or be protected by flood schemes would be offered a reduced flood risk premium.

Despite awareness of the risks, some property owners will choose to not insure. The pressure and cost for local government to take preventative action will therefor increase. All ‘response’ actions will need to be considered by regional councils when considering their reactions to this pressure. This may include building relocation / managed retreat, requiring house floor levels to be lifted above minimum flood heights, and preventing further urban intensification in those areas subject to flooding.

The implications arising from Tower’s decisions are large. Other insurance companies will inevitably follow their lead. The cost of property ownership will go up. This will remove discretionary income from other potentially more productive parts of the economy. Mitigation of flood risk by improving the integrity of existing flood protection schemes is a ‘smart option’ for central government and regional councils. This is better than passively accepting the obligation on the Crown and private property owners to pay insurance increases or in some cases to have to essentially act as default insurer.

In areas of existing concentrated urban development, the best option will, in almost all cases be enhancements to the level of protection provided by existing flood protection schemes. The integrity and the resilience provided by these schemes can be increased at modest cost when compared to the cumulative social, infrastructure, personal identity / security and crown-asset protection costs associated with managed retreat or raising the floor levels of potentially hundreds of buildings.

⁸⁰ Lyod’s Global Underinsurance Report (2012) notes that New Zealand’s local authorities operate in an environment that is highly vulnerable to natural hazard risks. New Zealand is rated as one of the most vulnerable economies in the world in terms of the impact of natural disasters, as a percentage of GDP.

⁸¹ Radio New Zealand, 20 July 2021

Inflation Adjusted Costs (\$m) for Flood & Storm Events

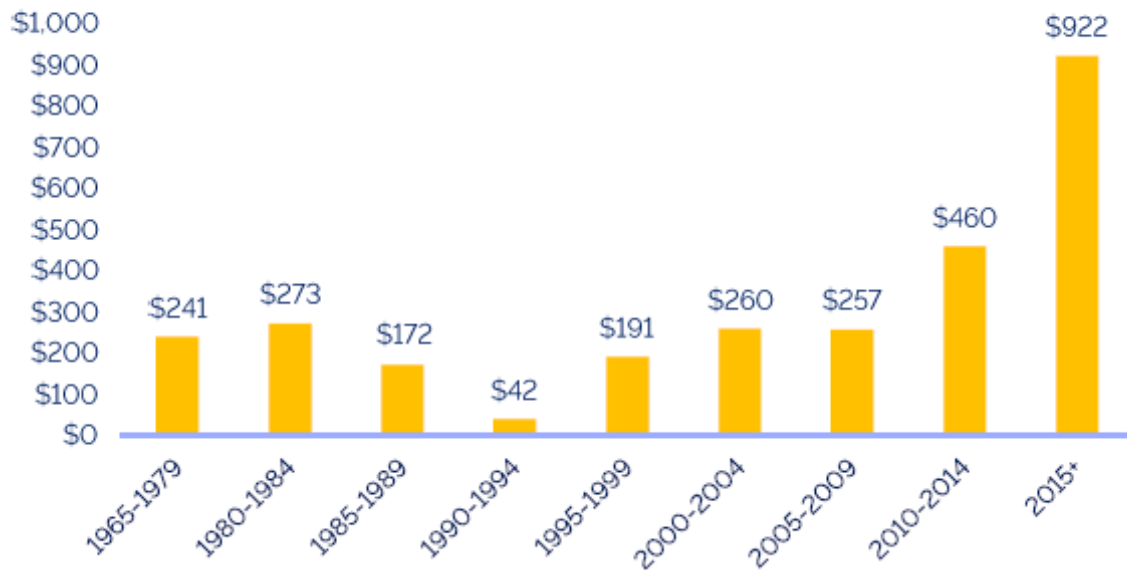


Figure fourteen: Data from Insurance Council of New Zealand about flood event costs incurred by the insurance sector

In this context, a NZIER (2020)⁸² report notes that mitigation can remove hazards whereas insurance cannot. They state *‘the case for mitigation depends on finding incremental reduction in exposure or vulnerability of human activities and infrastructure that avoids future hazard losses at low cost and with limited unintended effects. While insurance provides compensation for losses through risk transfer and is an important long-term element of risk management for New Zealand, it does not reduce the likelihood of such events or the risk of them happening again.* This NZIER report also noted that flooding hazards (when compared to other natural hazards) have the most scope for cost-beneficial mitigation.

Unfunded crown liability – responding after a flood event

The government’s ‘Thirty Year Infrastructure Plan’⁸³ records that the average annual costs of responding to flood events now exceeds \$50 million. While necessary, this is sub-optimal expenditure compared to preventative investment. As such, it does not minimise future risk to the community or central government and Crown assets. This ‘after event’ focus also means government bears an excessive unfunded future liability in its fiscal accounts.

The severity of the consequences of not securing and enhancing the integrity and service levels of existing flood protection structures, and the community resilience role they play, increases every day. The fiscal consequences for government of not proactively investing at the top of the cliff are growing at a similar rate.

It is fortunate that the 2021 floods in Ashburton, Westport and Marlborough district did not result in a loss of life. It is only a matter of time before lives are lost. This is an even bigger liability and responsibility for the Crown to carry.

⁸² NZIER, 2020. ‘Investment in Natural Hazards Mitigation – forecasts and findings about mitigation investment’, a report to DIA

⁸³ Treasury, Thirty Year Infrastructure Plan, 2015.

Treasury's Living Standards Framework

Treasury's Living Standards Framework has moved towards a 'four capitals' approach. These 'capitals' include:

- Natural capital, with reference to all parts of the environment needed to support life and human activity.
- Financial / physical capital, with a direct role in supporting incomes and material living conditions.
- Human capital, with reference to the things which enable people to participate fully in work, study, recreation, and society.
- Social capital, with reference to the norms and values that underpin society.

All elements of the new Living Standards Framework imply a need for more active investment by central government in the management of flood risks.

The Sendai Protocol

The Sendai Risk Management Protocols of the United Nations, to which New Zealand is a signatory, recognise the importance of investing in risk mitigation activities. The National Resilience Strategy developed by the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management aligns with the Sendai Protocols.

The Sendai Protocols reflect four priorities:

- Priority 1: Understanding disaster risk.
- Priority 2: Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk.
- Priority 3: Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience.
- Priority 4: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and a commitment to "Build Back Better" as part of recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction.

As a signatory to the Sendai Protocol, these priorities clearly imply a need for central government to play a more active role in risk mitigation.

Productivity Commission – local government funding and financing

The Productivity Commission enquiry into local government funding and financing⁸⁴ selected flood protection schemes as an example of a function for a stepped-up co-investment-focused-arrangement between central and local government. The terms of reference for the enquiry, as issued by the Ministers of Finance and Local government, noted that:

- Local authority debt has grown steadily since 2006 to the point where some councils are now coming close to their covenanted debt limits.
- One of the major factors influencing local authority debt is the cost of adapting communities and infrastructure to mitigate risks and hazards associated with climate change.

The Commission favours the "benefit principle" as the primary basis for deciding who should pay for local government services. In this regard, the Commission noted *'some local assets and*

⁸⁴ Productivity Commission, Local Government Funding and Financing, 30 November 2019.

their associated services could benefit... national interests. In these cases, the benefit principle points to shared funding with a contribution from central government.

In addition, the Commission identified four key areas where the existing funding model is insufficient to address cost pressures:

- Supplying enough infrastructure to support rapid urban growth.
- Adapting to climate change.
- Coping with the growth of tourism.
- The accumulation of responsibilities placed on local government by central government.

All four of these identified areas support the need for co-investment by central government in flood protection schemes. In addition, the Commission suggested the Government should extend the role of the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) in co-funding local roads. This should be to assist councils facing significant threats to the viability of local roads and bridges from climate change and / or to overcome the exacerbation of flood risks because of the narrowing of river channels because of these structures.

International precedent

President Jo Biden has introduced a \$1.76 trillion-dollar (NZ dollar equivalent) bipartisan infrastructure Bill to the US Senate calling for roads and power infrastructure to be made more resilient to storms.⁸⁵

In the United Kingdom, more than 1,000 flood protection schemes will benefit from a record investment of more than \$10 billion (NZ dollar equivalent) of investment over the next six years.⁸⁶

The Australian Productivity Commission has called for the Australian government to increase annual flood mitigation funding contributions to state and territory governments by \$100 million in the first year, then to \$150 million in the second year and \$200 million in the third year.⁸⁷

These important precedents present a model for New Zealand to follow.

Summary – reasons for central government co-investment

In summary, the reasons for a return to active central government co-investment in flood protection schemes are that it:

1. Is more fiscally responsible than focussing on post-event response and recovery.
2. Reflects Treasury's new performance measurement and Living Standards Frameworks.
3. Is supportive of wellbeing and social inclusion.
4. Has the potential to better reflect equity / ability to pay considerations at the heart of this government's election promises.
5. Is supportive of job creation and the potential to lift the productive potential of the regions.
6. Contributes to the security of the vital access routes (rail and road) for commerce.
7. Directly protects Crown assets.
8. Contributes to investment 'opportunity costs.'

⁸⁵ CNN, 2 December 2021

⁸⁶ UK government press release, 2 December 2021.

⁸⁷ This recommended 'federal' commitment is on top of commitments already made at the state and local levels.

9. Works against escalating insurance premiums and the risk of insurance companies failing to provide insurance cover in flood risk areas – with the long-term consequence of Government inevitably being required to step-up and stump-up to fill the gap occurring because of the absence of private insurance.
10. Contributes to the environmental and water quality expectations of our communities and iwi partners.
11. Provides for resilience and adaptation against the effects of climate change-induced ‘above-design’ storm events.
12. Above all else, provides resilience and increased levels of safety and security to existing and future individuals, communities, and businesses.

Moving forward

The options for the future funding of flood protection range from a ‘business as usual’ approach, to application of all the other options displayed in figures five and ten. These include better spatial planning to avoid flood hazards, managing the retreat of some communities from certain areas, to the construction of enhanced flood protection schemes, in association with whole-of-catchment solutions.

For all situations, options need consideration within the context of present-day reality and the circumstances applying at any one location. In most instances it is likely that the full range of risk reduction methods should be applied in tandem although as noted earlier, improving the integrity and capability of existing flood protection structures is in most instances, likely to be the most cost-beneficial and therefore priority intervention.

Do-nothing approach

Maintaining existing scheme service levels⁸⁸ is not tenable, nor practical, primarily because the influence of climate change is such that current levels of resilience will continue to be eroded. This, in turn, will result in:

- Increased risk to public and private local, regional, and national assets.
- Increased demands on emergency and recovery funding.
- Increased insurance premiums.
- Increased risks to public safety and a risk to life.
- Increased numbers of communities unable to get insurance and / or decreased insurance coverage.
- Increased community and personal hardship and distress.
- Increasingly negative impacts on local, regional, and national economies and the environment / ecological and iwi values.

⁸⁸ A ‘Service Level’ is calculated using one of three methods: a scope of physical works agreed with the affected community; or a scope of physical works with a target capacity e.g., a maximum channel flow and or a scope of physical works with a level of performance defined in terms of a target return period e.g., a one in one-hundred-year event.

Business as usual and do-nothing approaches are therefore not tenable. Regional councils know this. They have already committed to increase their level of future investment by \$25m per annum. They are also grateful for the ‘one-off’ \$217m investment made by central government into the 55 flood protection projects that were ‘shovel ready’ in 2020. However, there are many more scheme upgrade projects also requiring increased investment to meet future needs – with an estimated cost of \$150m each year. Central government should co-invest this sum by making provision for a line-item in their annual budgets. Responding to location-specific requests on an ad-hoc basis is not an appropriate way to address this challenge.⁸⁹

Community / managed retreat / planned withdrawal approaches

This option proposes to reduce risk by asking residents and businesses to withdraw from locations at risk of being flooded. As noted previously in this report, this relocation / managed retreat is extremely difficult - particularly when this involves established and well-developed urban communities. The sunk costs of existing investments are very large. Stranded assets will have zero value. The impact on landowners of moving, to allow rivers to flow more freely, will extend both upstream and downstream of the ‘run free’ location.

The social and political disruption and ‘stranded asset’ effects associated with this option are likely to make it unpalatable in most cases. Nevertheless, there will be some locations within catchment schemes where this solution may be considered an acceptable part of a more holistic approach.

Whole of catchment approaches

The desires of iwi / Māori, ecological considerations and the broader interests of regional and national communities are such that regional councils must apply their river management intentions in an environmentally benign / ecologically sensitive and whole catchment manner.

Integrated and sustainable land management or ‘whole-of-catchment’ approaches have always been a core part of regional council business. More substantial investment in whole-of-catchment solutions will be required in the future. Applying this option reduces the level of sedimentation, bed load deposition and erosion occurring within catchments. It also improves the water quality in rivers, estuaries and coastal waters and contributes to biodiversity values.

To successfully adopt and achieve a ‘whole-of-catchment’ approach requires extensive outreach work, including one-on-one collaboration with landowners. This is to help them become aware of how they may alter land use practices, adjust internal property infrastructure, and change the nature of the enterprises they apply to their land to achieve more holistic long-term water quality, soil, flood management and environmental outcomes.

Part of this work will involve planting trees. The one billion trees programme and carbon sequestration planting have played an important role in contributing to the outcomes sought from these ‘whole-of-catchment’ solutions. Other initiatives contributing to whole of catchment solutions include:

- Accelerating application of sustainable land use practices.
- Promoting the conversion of some areas from pastoral uses into indigenous forest.
- Promoting and co-funding more extensive riparian planting.

⁸⁹ The preparation of a business case and the provision of central government funding for a multi-tool assistance package for Westport will provide a useful pilot to guide the development of a comprehensive national / central government approach to co-investment.

- Accelerating careful consideration of the use of some areas for Mānuka planting and honey production.
- Promoting expanded plantation forestry in suitable locations.

The net effect of the above initiatives is that they will help to forestall the risk of transferring this generation's flood management 'challenges' into compounded problems for the next generation. Whole catchment approaches are therefore an essential element in the 'multi tool' approach to be applied to enhanced flood protection.

The new spatial planning and national planning tools, proposed as part of the resource management legislative reform programme, are also essential. Regional councils look forward to being active leaders and participants in the development and application of these tools, but they will not be enough on their own.

Enhanced flood protection schemes, in association with whole-of-catchment and spatial planning approaches

Sustainable land use is an essential ingredient of flood risk management. Investment in sustainable land use needs to be increased. However, no matter how successful sustainable land use tools may be, they cannot and will not be enough on their own to manage the impact of significant flood events. This is because more sustainable land uses will have only a minor effect on the increasing amount of rainfall occurring from the inevitable and more intense, climate change-induced storms transported by our rivers and streams. Enhanced flood protection schemes must remain a central part of the solution.

Potential unintended consequences of Crown co-investment in flood protection schemes

The 'counterfactual' or unintended consequences of central government co-investment in flood protection schemes is a matter that has been considered by regional councils. Two primary risks have been identified, both of which are highly unlikely to be displayed:

1. Regional councils place too much reliance on flood protection schemes and fail to sufficiently invest in other flood risk management tools: Regional councils fully understand and are fully committed to the application of a multi-tool approach to flood risk management.⁹⁰
2. Regional councils invest less in flood protection schemes because rate payer sourced funding is substituted by tax-payer sourced funding: Regional councils have committed to spend an extra \$25m per year on flood protection schemes, over and above their current \$175m per year commitment.

Request to central government

Regional councils seek central government commitment to co-invest in the improvement of the integrity and resilience of flood protection schemes. This should be alongside the regional council-focused wide-spread and comprehensive adoption of whole-of-catchment and planning / resource management solutions⁹¹.

⁹⁰ Regional council involvement in discussions about the flood risk management at Westport provide a case example of this commitment.

⁹¹ The co-investment propositions outlined in this paper do not include provision for soil conservation planting and or steep land retirement. Budgets for these complimentary activities should be combined with flood protection scheme investments and the planning solutions outlined in this paper.

Collectively, such a joined-up approach will better achieve integrated land use, enhanced ecological values, improved water quantity and quality outcomes, decarbonisation benefits and, generally a better reflection of iwi and wider community aspirations about how natural systems should be managed.

Regional communities and directly-benefiting private property owners cannot fund the necessary step-change needed to manage increased flood risks, in the more sophisticated manner set out above, on their own. Central government, regional councils and territorial local authorities must equitably share the task of addressing this challenge. This is not about failure or blame about the efficacy of current systems. Rather, it's about the overwhelming need to cement a new co-investment and funding partnership approach with central government.⁹²

Regional council river engineers have engaged in an active 'foresight' process to estimate spending of \$350m / year is required to ensure river management and flood protection schemes are 'fit for the future'. Regional council Long-Term Plans (2018-2028) currently indicate necessary operational and capital expenditure of approximately \$200m / year. The shortfall required to make the necessary step-change in the level of protection provided by flood protection schemes is therefore estimated at \$150m / year. Central government co-investment of \$150m per annum is viewed as a pragmatic contribution to this necessary expenditure.

Source of revenue and possible funding formula

Regional councils have extended their congratulations to the government⁹³ on its decision to establish a new \$1 Billion per annum 'Climate Emergency Response Fund' (CERF). The purpose of this fund is to mitigate the effects of climate change by applying adaptation interventions.

Investment in flood protection schemes should be a priority matter for attention in considering CERF expenditure options. Flood protection schemes are the intervention measure with likely greatest effect in helping communities to adapt to the effects of climate change. Adaptation actions are required immediately, regardless of the success or otherwise of international mitigation / decarbonisation measures.

The proposed 2022 National Adaptation Plan⁹⁴ may be the instrument to guide expenditure of the CERF. Regional councils are participating in an MfE 'Local Government Adaptation Advisory Group.' One of the objectives of this participation is to ensure appropriate flood protection scheme investment provisions are considered by this Group and thereby included in the National Adaptation Plan.

Regional Councils fear the Local Government Adaptation Advisory Group deliberations will not be enough on their own to guide the necessary decisions. Councils therefore also urge establishment of a working group with Treasury, DIA, and other officials (for example officials from MBIE's Kānoa Group). Their task would be to develop the principals, priorities, and a project funding allocation framework to guide central government co-investment expenditure decisions on flood protection schemes. This group should be requested to provide its recommendations to core ministers and regional council Chairs and Mayors within three months from initiation.

Back-work to achieve this objective needs to be underway now. Without necessary co-investment decisions being made in the very near future, then the flooding risk to our

⁹² Regional authorities acknowledge that, alongside a government decision to co-invest in river management and flood protection schemes, there is a need to establish related funding-accountability measures.

⁹³ Correspondence to Ministers 23 December 2021

⁹⁴ This Plan is currently being developed by MfE.

communities will continue to incrementally increase. The consequences of not acting do not bear thinking about.

The actual co-investment share of the CERF at any single location should reflect a range of considerations.⁹⁵ The principles outlined in the July 2020 Cabinet paper provide a starter for considering how apportionment of this increased investment may be guided. From a regional council perspective, proposed central government co-investment starter thoughts were outlined earlier in this report. In essence, what is sought is:

- Co-investment of up to 75% toward the cost of **whole catchment climate change adaptation** approaches.
- Co-investment of up to 50% toward the cost of **upgrading existing** river management and flood protection works.
- Co-investment of 33% toward the **maintenance** of existing scheme works to recognise the role they play in protecting Crown assets / related infrastructure and their role in sustaining the operation of national and regional economies and communities.
- Co-investment of 75% for **emergency repair** works to schemes where substantial damage occurs from major storm events.

Although variable, indications are that for any year, approximately half of the total annual spend would comprise works in the maintenance category, with the balance being split approximately evenly between the first two categories of expenditure.

The above cost-share formula is believed to be realistically and fairly determined. It needs to be applied urgently. It clearly recognises the need for a step-change in investment to improve the 'design capacity' of existing flood protection schemes. It will result in much needed improvements to community resilience against the effects of climate change.

⁹⁵ A precedent for this is the financial assistance rate (FAR) applied to central / local co-investment in road transport solutions.

Conclusion - national leadership and urgent action required

The Government has an important and urgent role to play in leading, resourcing and focusing purposeful, timely and meaningful actions that result in practical improvements to flood protection schemes. These improvements are fundamental to the task of greatly increasing community resilience against flooding.

Regional councils have successfully delivered flood protection to New Zealanders for more than half a century. They cannot continue to be expected to do this on their own. There is a strong case for central government co-investing in flood protection schemes. The Crown owns flood-protected assets and shares in the benefits provided by these schemes. The Crown currently make close to zero funding contribution to their maintenance and improvement.

The central governments of the United States and the United Kingdom have both recently committed to substantial increased expenditure on flood protection schemes. They have seen the writing on the wall. The government of New Zealand should join them by taking similar action.

The essential request to New Zealand's central government is for it to 'return to the table' to share financially in the task of providing fit-for-purpose protection against New Zealand's primary natural hazard – 'flooding.' Flood protection schemes are the first line of defence.

Now is the time when schemes need to be re-purposed, modified, upgraded, or renewed to meet increased climate change-induced flood frequency and magnitude changes, alongside other contemporary challenges. These other challenges include meeting a wider spectrum of community, environmental, cultural, iwi / Māori and economic needs.

In some cases, planning solutions and raised building-floor heights will meet these needs. However, in most cases these initiatives will be expensive and will take a long time to be effective. Flood protection schemes need to be improved immediately to enable them to help New Zealanders to go about their businesses and carry out their lives without the fear and disruption caused by floods.

The central government co-investment of \$150m per annum from the CERF – as proposed in this report, reflects the national interest in protecting public safety, providing community resilience, mitigating risks to the national economy, and protecting nationally-significant publicly-owned infrastructure.

Flood risks are real, they are trending upwards and the effects of flooding on the communities who live and work on flood plains are significant and growing. A committed central government / regional council response is required so that necessary changes can be implemented in an orderly, timely, community-focused, and adaptive manner.

To achieve this objective, regional councils urge central government to work with them to reach agreement about the location-specific, principled, prioritised, short, and long-term combined flood protection scheme investments that can be made to address increasing flood risks.

The sought-after urgent action is central government agreeing to co-invest in flood protection schemes. The subsequent next step is to form a central government / region council group to reach speedy agreement about the quantum, timing, principles, framework, criteria, and priority projects for central government co-investment into flood protection schemes.

Appendix one: Correspondence from Environment Canterbury to Hon Nanaia Mahuta



27 September 2021

Customer Services
P. 03 353 9007 or 0800 324 636
 200 Tuam Street
 PO Box 345
 Christchurch 8140
www.ecan.govt.nz/contact

Hon Nanaia Mahuta
 Minister of Local Government
 Email: Nanaia.Mahuta@parliament.govt.nz

Hon David Parker
 Minister for the Environment
 Email: david.parker@parliament.govt.nz

Hon Grant Robertson
 Minister of Finance
 Email: Grant.Robertson@parliament.govt.nz

Hon James Shaw
 Minister for Climate Change
 Email: James.Shaw@parliament.govt.nz

Hon Kris Faafoi
 Acting Minister of Emergency Management
 Email: Kris.Faafoi@parliament.govt.nz

Hon Stuart Nash
 Minister for Economic and Regional
 Development
 Email: Stuart.Nash@parliament.govt.nz

Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan
 Minister for Community and Voluntary Sector
 Email: Priyanca.Radhakrishnan@parliament.govt.nz

Dear Ministers,

Co-investment in river management and flood protection schemes

Flooding is New Zealand's most common natural hazard estimated to cost the country \$160 million per year. The 31 May – 2 June Canterbury regionwide flood event (and the flooding that followed in Buller and Marlborough) highlights the bias of our current system toward recovery and response action, rather than coordinated investment in early risk reduction and preparedness.

A new case study based on recent flood events in the South Island is now being prepared for your review as an update to the 2018 business case *Central Government Co-investment in River Management for Flood Protection* to further support the recommendation for permanent central government investment. We expect this to be completed by November 2021.

The Canterbury flood event was extreme, with Ashburton particularly hard hit. Concerns about structural stability temporarily closed the Ashburton River bridge on State Highway One, cutting off lifeline services reminiscent of the Rangitata floods of December 2019.

The limits of Canterbury’s flood protection schemes were tested and flooding in rural areas left many landowners to deal with significant erosion and gravel deposition.

This event alone will take us at least two years to reinstate schemes to pre-flood levels of protection at an estimated cost of \$15 to \$20 million just for infrastructure replacement on a like-for-like basis.

Current funding inadequate for the challenges of climate change

Furthermore, the recent flooding is a stark reminder of our changing climate, placing flood resilience front and centre for a concerned public. The community experienced significant flow-on effects and many areas remain vulnerable to future rainfall events with landowners on high alert. We will be working alongside key stakeholders with affected communities whose lives and livelihoods have been significantly affected for some time, even as we continue to manage the impacts of the 2019 Rangitata flood.

Together with other regional councils in the River Managers Special Interest Group, we acknowledge that meeting future flood resilience objectives is beyond the reasonable capacity of ratepayers alone, particularly when flood risks are magnified by climate change. Communities are struggling to pay for the maintenance of current infrastructure, let alone additional works required to meet the challenges of more frequent and higher magnitude weather events.

Ratepayers currently bear a disproportionate share of scheme costs when compared to who benefits. We have also noted considerable post-flood community concern regarding how current schemes are funded and how works out of scheme are not.

Increasing complexity of river management

River management has evolved significantly in recent years. Multiple values prioritised at the national level must also now be supported as part of river management and flood resilience.

We work alongside iwi as tangata whenua and Treaty partners, acknowledging the special status of our relationship to ensure that Māori values and interests are protected and enhanced.

The emphasis by government, Māori, and the public on the importance of ecological, environmental, and whole of catchment considerations has resulted in an increasingly complex environment requiring community engagement, co-design of solutions with iwi, consideration of ecological and environmental issues and development of strategies for adaptive responses that must in turn be coordinated with other agency partners.

Successful co-investment for future resilience

Crown co-investment with regional communities and directly benefiting property owners in river management and flood protection is required on an urgent basis.

We are confident that our \$24.2 million climate resilience programme of flood protection projects, part-funded by the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment’s *Kānoa – Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit (REDIU)*, will prove the case for ongoing central government co-investment. These ambitious projects are currently supporting transformative initiatives that improve the resilience of our communities and support multiple values.

To consider the details of crown co-investment in flood protection, we reference the recent Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) Regional Sector meeting with Ministers Mahuta and Shaw on climate resilience. Council fully supports the LGNZ request to establish, as a priority, a joint working group of officers who would report to Resilience Ministers in time for appropriate provisions to be included in the 2022 budget.

Investment at this critical time will pay dividends in the future to secure the intergenerational health and wellbeing of all New Zealanders and ensure that we have a resilient economic network ready to adapt to the changes we know are coming. We look forward to your response.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jenny Hughey".

Yours sincerely
Jenny Hughey
Council Chairperson

This report has been compiled by John Hutchings
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Partner, HenleyHutchings
Phone 021679654

Contributions to the report have been made by:

- Basil Chamberlain, Consultant Advisor.
- Julian Williams, Economist.
- Flood Protection Managers from Environment Canterbury, West Coast Regional Council, Marlborough District Council, Otago Regional Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council.



**Te Uru
Kahika**

Regional and
Unitary Councils
Aotearoa

Report to: Council	Meeting Date: 12 April 2022
Title of Item: Rating District Meeting Minutes	
Report by: James Bell – Engineering Officer, Brendon Russ – Engineer, Lillian Crozier – BSO, Paulette Birchfield - Engineer	
Reviewed by: Randal Beal – Director of Operations	
Public excluded? No	

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the minutes from the Rating District meetings held in November 2021 – February 2022.

Report Summary

Rating District meetings were held for Taramakau, Inchbonnie, Kowhitirangi, Vine Creek, Wanganui, Karamea, Kongahu, Mokihinui, Red Jacks, Coal Creek, Nelson Creek and Punakaiki.

Draft Recommendations

It is recommended that council resolve to:

1. *Receive this report; and*
2. *Adopt the minutes and recommended rate strikes.*

Issues and Discussion

Current Situation:

Meetings to be held 22/23;

- Franz Josef
- Hokitika
- Greymouth
- Hokitika South side
- Whataroa
- Matanui
- Okuru
- Neils Beach
- Rapahoe

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Rating District Meetings - minutes

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
INCHBONNIE RATING DISTRICT
HELD AT the Rotomanu Hall
ON 6th December 2021, COMMENCING AT 1:00pm.

PRESENT (Rating District Members)

D.Shaffrey, R.Shaffrey, W.Gault, N.Johnson, J.Keeney

IN ATTENDANCE (Staff)

J.Bell, R.Beal, (Staff)
B.Cummings, P.Ewen (Councillors)

APOLOGIES

D.Winter, M & R Adams, A.Birchfield (Chairman), B.Russ

Movers - W. Gault/ D. Shaffrey - *Carried*

Welcome and Minutes of the Last Meeting

Cr Ewen opened the meeting and welcomed those present.
He introduced himself and council staff

Moved: *"That the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting held on 23rd November 2020, be adopted as a true and correct record of that meeting."*

Movers – W.Gault/D,Shaffrey - *Carried*

MATTERS ARISING

No matters arising

FINANCIAL REPORT

R. Beal spoke on the financial report for the period of 1st July 2020 to 30th June 2021. He advised that the Inchbonnie Rating District had an opening balance of \$39,665.78, with a total revenue of \$69,685.23, less expenses of \$32,280.11 for a closing balance of \$77,070.90

Movers – D.Shaffrey/W.Gault – *Carried*

WORKS REPORT

Details of works and any discussion around the works.

Movers – D.Shaffrey/J. Keeney- *Carried*

RATES 2021 / 2022

R. Beal advised that the balance of the rating district account at the beginning of the 2022 -2023 financial year was likely to be \$70,000.00

He proposed a rates strike of \$34,782.00 which included \$27,000.00 of rates, \$4,032.00 of infrastructure insurance and \$3,750.00 of Engineering Cost Recovery.

Moved: *"That rate strike for Inchbonnie is \$34,782.00 Excl GST for the 2022 -2023 financial year."*

Movers – D.Shafrey/J.Keeney - *Carried*

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

All rating district members are on the committee, it was agreed that the status quo would remain. Council Staff thanked W. Gault for his work as spokesman for the rating district.

Moved: *"That W.Gault is re-elected as Spokesperson for the 2022 – 2023 financial year."*

Movers – D.Shaffrey/R.Shaffrey -

Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

Any General Business discussed with some details

Action Points for follow up

Confirm Prudent reserve of Inchbonnie Rating District (\$550,000.00)

Identify level of protection stopbank gives (1 in 400 year event)

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
RED JACKS RATING DISTRICT
HELD AT WCRC CHAMBERS
ON 3RD DECEMBER 2021, COMMENCING AT 1PM.

PRESENT (Rating District Members)

R. Norris S. Norris T. Donaldson C. Levy P. Donaldson T. Neevell R. McLaughlin C. Taylor C. Mattewson

IN ATTENDANCE (West Coast Regional Council)

P. Ewen B. Cummings A Birchfield (Councillors)
H. Mabin (CEO)
R. Beal P. Birchfield (late) J. Bell (Staff)

APOLOGIES

Movers - C. Levy / S. Norris- *Carried*

Welcome and Minutes of the Last Meeting

Cr Birchfield opened the meeting and welcomed those present.
He introduced himself and council staff.

P. Donaldson Discussed conflict of interest and works that went ahead,

Moved: *"That the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting held on 15th October 2018, be adopted as a true and correct record of that meeting."*

Movers –C. Levy/ S. Norris - *Carried*

MATTERS ARISING

No matters arising

FINANCIAL REPORT

R. Beal spoke on the financial report for the period of 1st July 2020 to 30th June 2021. He advised that the Red Jacks Rating District had an opening balance of \$50,166.04 with a total revenue of \$13,225.88 less expenses of \$55.00 resource consents, for a closing balance of \$63,336.92.

Amend financial statements to account for GDC money, 2020/2021-2019/2020, (explained by James why it was the case).

Movers – P. Donaldson/R. Norris – *Carried*

WORKS REPORT

Randal spoke to this report, there were no works undertaken during the 1 July 2020-June 2021 period. Future works to be carried out from 1 July 2021 to 30th June 2022. Following an inspection in October 2021 with the spokesperson, the areas that had been monitored since being noted in the 2016-2017 financial year inspection as potentially requiring maintenance works are now at the stage where repairs must be undertaken. The erosion repair works are estimated to require 180-200 tonnes of rock, at a cost of approximately \$7,000. These works will be carried out by GH Foster Contracting Ltd.

An annual maintenance programme for weed spraying and mowing of the stopbank is included in the future works.

Following an inspection in October 2021 with the spokesperson, the areas that had been monitored since being noted in the 2016-2017 financial year inspection as potentially requiring maintenance works are now at the stage where repairs must be undertaken. The erosion repair works are estimated to require 180-200 tonnes of rock, at a cost of approximately \$7,000. These works will be carried out by GH Foster Contracting Ltd.

An annual maintenance programme for weed spraying and mowing of the stopbank is included in the future works.

Modelling one off cost, surveying every 3.5 years. Include works C. Levy mentioned around Rose McLaughlin house, site visit, cost analysis, and brought ... to lesion group for approval. Mr Deleny gets protection from stopbank on the southside.

Movers – R. Norris/P. Donaldson- Carried

RATES 2021 / 2022

R. Beal advised that the balance of the rating district account at the beginning of the 2022-2023 financial year was likely to be \$36,000.00

He proposed a rates strike of \$10,229.00 which included \$8,000.00 of rates \$979.00 of infrastructure and \$1,250.00 of Engineering Cost Recovery.

After committee discussion it was amended that the Rates Strike to be \$8,000.00

Moved: *"That rate strike for Red Jacks is \$8,000.00 Excl GST for the 2022-2023 financial year."*

Movers – R. Norris/P. Donaldson - Carried

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Moved: *That the present committee remain, and Peter Donaldson was nominated as spokesperson for the 2022/2023 financial year.*

Mover P. Donaldson/R. McLaughlin -

Carried

Moved: *"That Peter Donaldson is elected as Spokesperson for the 2022-2023 financial year."*

Movers P. Donaldson/R. McLaughlin-

Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

Individual rates do not reflect the current benefits to property – review of rates classification, send out copy of Paulette's report. Circulation of meeting minutes and have them online draft. Grey agreement for \$2,000 each year (need to sign). Better system of communication, send out minutes in draft. Draft asset management plan needs a read over.

Action Points for follow up

Amend financial statements to account for GDC money, 2020/2021-2019/2020, (explained by James why it was the case).

Send out copy of Paulette's report

Circulation of meeting minutes and have them online

Grey agreement for \$2,000 each year (need to sign)

Better system of communications, send out minutes in draft

Group agrees, point number 7, for future works to be carried out, the engineer will get a rock weldment cost and bring it back to the group for approval.

Will review rates classification

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
TARAMAKAU RATING DISTRICT
HELD AT S. LANDRIDGE'S RESIDENCE
ON 6th DECEMBER 2021, COMMENCING AT 10:30AM.

PRESENT (Rating District Members)

P. Stevenson, D. Groot, S. Langridge, J. Stewart, R. Langridge

IN ATTENDANCE (West Coast Regional Council)

(Councillors) B.Cummings P.Ewen
(Staff) Randal Beal, James Bell

APOLOGIES

Murray and Andrew Stewart
Dymac Farms
Brendon (Staff, away on council business)

Movers - D. Groot / S.Langridge- *Carried*

Welcome and Minutes of the Last Meeting

Cr Cummings opened the meeting and welcomed those present.
He introduced himself and council staff.

Moved: *"That the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting held on 23rd November 2020, be adopted as a true and correct record of that meeting."*

Movers – S. Langridge/D. Groot - *Carried*

MATTERS ARISING

LiDar update - LiDar still needs to QA.
Drone flying - Bathymetric model would be able to be done, in the near future.
 - Fly stopbank could be done.

Movers –P. Stevenson/D. Groot – carried

FINANCIAL REPORT

R. Beal spoke on the financial report for the period of 1st July 2020 to 30th June 2021. He advised that the Taramakau Rating District had an opening balance of \$33,033.39 with a total revenue of \$61,182.24 less expenses of \$70,919.98 for a closing balance of \$23,295.65

Movers –S. Langridge/P. Stevenson– Carried

WORKS REPORT

Randal spoke to this report

Henry Adams under the maintenance contract did some repairs to the stopbank, 4040T of rock @\$17.50 which is the current maintenance contract price, there is no future works anticipated as a result of the walk over inspection, we have got unforeseen maintenance \$30,000 which is the standard amount we allow for to do work as it arises, we anticipate the balance at the beginning of July 2022 to be \$41,000.00.

General discussions had during works report

Discussion around engineering cost recovery 7.5k
Insurance doesn't cover farms, only stopbank.
Formal policy on the catastrophe fund
Bund behind scheme as added protection.
Dymac Spurs.
Can Taramakau be removed from insurance entirely.

Maintenance rock contract

Council recommended re-tender with a programme of works with a budget for upgrading the scheme

130k scope of work with any left over into proposed works.

Walk over with Ryan to discuss raising of bank

Repairs to stopbank after jobs (fences, races)

Movers – S. Langridge/D. Groot- Carried

RATES 2021 / 2022

R. Beal advised that the balance of the rating district account at the beginning of the 2022-2023 financial year was likely to be \$41,000.00

He proposed a rates strike of \$83,064.00 which included \$65,000.00 of rates \$10,546.00 of infrastructure and \$7,500.00 of Engineering Cost Recovery.

After discussion it was agreed that the rate strike for 2022-2023 be increased to 100,000.00 Excl GST

Moved: *"That rate strike for Taramakau District is \$100,000 Excl GST for the 2022-2023 financial year."*

Movers –P. Stevenson/S.Langridge - Carried

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Moved: *That the present committee be retained as the committee for the 2022/2033 financial year.*

Moved: *"That (R. Langridge) is re-elected as Spokesperson for the 2022-2023 financial year."*

GENERAL BUSINESS

No general business as this was discussed during the works report

Action Points for follow up

Overlay old RD classes on GIS

Clear Creek Dairy to be changed on RD agreement

Use 2008 Good Earth Matters report as a baseline for stopbank heights

Meeting closed 12:02

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
VINE CREEK RATING DISTRICT
HELD AT KOWHITIRANGI HALL
ON 8TH DECEMBER 2021, COMMENCING AT 10:30.

PRESENT (Rating District Members)

A.R. Gatly
M. Hyde
N. Monk
T. Burden

IN ATTENDANCE (West Coast Regional Council)

Randal Beal, James Bell (Staff)
Cr Stuart Challenger, Cr Magner

APOLOGIES

Brendon Russ (Staff)

Movers - M. Hyde/ A. Gatly - *Carried*

Welcome and Minutes of the Last Meeting

Cr Challenger opened the meeting and welcomed those present.
He introduced himself and council staff.

Moved: *"That the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting held on 2018, be adopted as a true and correct record of that meeting."*

Movers –M. Hyde/A. Gatly - *Carried*

MATTERS ARISING

FINANCIAL REPORT

R. Beal spoke on the financial report for the period of 1st July 2021. He advised that the Vine Creek Rating District had an opening balance of \$84,706.70 with a total revenue of \$27,911.83 less expenses of \$ 23,156.45 for a closing balance of \$89,462.08

Movers –T. Burdon/M. Hyde – *Carried*

WORKS REPORT

Gorse spraying, drive over of creek, check if need clearing, good channel at the moment.

Movers – M. Hyde/M. Monk- *Carried*

RATES 2021 / 2022

R. Beal advised that the balance of the rating district account at the beginning of the 2022-2023 financial year was likely to be \$100,000.00

He proposed a rates strike of \$31,353.00 which included \$25,000.00 of rates \$2,603.00 of infrastructure and \$3,750.00 of Engineering Cost Recovery.

After discussion it was agreed that the rate increase to the historic \$45,000.00 rate

Moved: *"That rate strike for Vine Creek District is \$51,353.00 Excl GST for the 2022/2023 financial year."*

Movers – M. Hyde/M. Monk - *Carried*

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Moved: *That the present committee, namely:*

*M. Hyde
T. Burden
N. Monk
T. Little*

*Be retained as the committee for the 2022/2023 financial year.
Remove B. Wilmshurst as has sold farm.*

Mover M. Monk/T Burden -

Carried

Moved: *"That M. Hyde is elected as Spokesperson for the 2022-2033 financial year."*

Movers M. Monk/T Burden -

Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

Vine creek happy enough with combining RD's but don't think Kowhitirangi would be keen, financial benefits need to be found out.

Action Points for follow up

Walk over of creek to see if it needs to be cleaned out

Meeting closed 11:06

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
KOWHITIRANGI RATING DISTRICT
HELD AT KOWHITIRANGI HALL
ON 8TH DECEMBER 2021, COMMENCING AT 11:30.

PRESENT (Rating District Members)

W. Jones, G. Burden, P. Cook, N. Monk, S. Keenan, T. Burden, M. Wylde

IN ATTENDANCE (West Coast Regional Council)

Cr D. Magner, Cr S. Challenger,
R. Beal (Staff) J. Bell (Staff)

APOLOGIES

S. Taft, B. Russ (Staff)

Movers - N Monk / P. Cook - *Carried*

Welcome and Minutes of the Last Meeting

Cr Magner opened the meeting and welcomed those present.
She introduced herself and council staff.

Moved: *"That the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting held on 28th October 2018, be adopted as a true and correct record of that meeting."*
(subject to corrections)

Movers – N. Monk/A. Sulley - *Carried*

MATTERS ARISING

Date and timing of meeting
Cross sectioning of river to access its risk.
Three lots of financial accounts to be sent out.

Neville M and Phil, works need to be measured and taken into account, added to the rating district.
Brendon back in March to have a look and determine if taken into scheme.

FINANCIAL REPORT

R. Beal spoke on the financial report for the period 1st July 2020 to 30th June 2021. He advised that the Kowhitirangi Rating District had an opening balance of \$150,579.21 with a total revenue of \$16,856.38 less expenses of \$0.00 for a closing balance of \$167,435.59

Movers – M Monk/G Burden – *Carried*

WORKS REPORT

Randal spoke on the Works Report and prudent reserve.

No works carried out, Engineer Brendon back in March to look at future works.

This target balance for the 'prudent reserve' for this rating district is suggested to be \$100,000. This prudent reserve is immediately available for urgent emergency works that may be required following a major flood event. It is therefore likely the current reserve will only cover a portion of the actual cost of the potential damage that could occur.

Movers – S Keenan/N Monk- Carried

RATES 2021 / 2022

R. Beal advised that the balance of the rating district account at the beginning of the 2022-2023 financial year was likely to be \$160,000.00

He proposed a rates strike of \$19,183.00 which included \$10,000.00 of rates, \$5,433.00 of infrastructure insurance and \$3,750.00 of Engineering Cost Recovery.

Moved: *"That rate strike for Kowhitirangi is 19,183.00 Excl GST for the 2022-2023 financial year."*

Movers – N Monk/G Burden - Carried

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Moved: *That the present committee, namely:*

*N. Monk
T. Taft
M Nicholls
R. Burden
S. Keenan
P. Cook*

Be retained as the committee for the 2022/2023 financial year.

Mover N Monk/G Burden- Carried

Moved: *"That S. Keenan is re-elected/elected as Spokesperson for the 2022/2023 financial year."*

Movers N Monk/G Burden- Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

Discussion next meeting around 20th October 2022

Action Points for follow up

20th October next meeting.

Cross sections

Date and timing of meetings

N. Monk and P. Cook works to be assessed, determining if taken into protection scheme

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
WANGANUI RATING DISTRICT
HELD AT HARI HARI HALL
ON 17 JANUARY 2022, COMMENCING AT 10:00am.

PRESENT (Rating District Members)

W. Spencer, A. Campbell, J. Stewart, M. Molloy, M. Stewart, R. Hodgkinson, L. Toulger, M. Aynsley, B. Manera, J. Sullivan, B. Adamson, A. McKenzie, B. Thomson.

IN ATTENDANCE

West Coast Regional Council
Cr Magner, Cr Challenger
Randal Beal, Brendon Russ, James Bell (Staff)

APOLOGIES

Robert McKenzie, Lindsay Molloy, Gordon and Kirsty Robinson, Heather Mabin (Councillor)

Movers – J. Stewart / A. Campbell - *Carried*

Welcome and Minutes of the Last Meeting

Cr Challenger opened the meeting and welcomed those present.
He introduced himself and council staff.

Moved: *"That the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting held on 2nd Dec 2020, be adopted as a true and correct record of that meeting."*

Movers – A. Campbell/J. Stewart - *Carried*

MATTERS ARISING

No matters arising.

FINANCIAL REPORT

R. Beal spoke on the financial report for the period of 1st July to 30th June 2021. He advised that the Wanganui Rating District had an opening balance of \$457,849.98 with a total revenue of \$189,026.38 less expenses of \$213,666.43 for a closing balance of \$421,245.43. An opening balance transfer of \$11,964.50 was also incorporated into the 2020/2021 financial statement as this amount was incorrectly coded to another rating district.

Brendon spoke in depth.

Movers – W. Spencer/B. Thomson – *Carried*

WORKS REPORT

Brendon spoke on the works report, discussed LiDar and cross sections to find return period for stopbank.

Movers – A. Campbell/J. Stewart- *Carried*

RATES 2021 / 2022

R. Beal advised that the balance of the rating district account at the beginning of the 2022-2033 financial year was likely to be \$420,000.00

He proposed a rates strike of \$133,492.00 which included \$100,000.00 of rates \$18,492.00 of infrastructure and \$15,000.00 of Engineering Cost Recovery.

Note: J. Sullivan was against rate strike

Moved: *"That rate strike for Wanganui District 133,492.00 Excl GST for the 2022/2023 financial year."*

Movers –M. Molloy/A. Campbell - *Carried*

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Moved: *That the present committee, namely:*

A. Campbell

R. Hodgkinson

G. Robertson

M. Aynsley (represents ratepayers in the township)

J. Arnold

J. Stewart

N. Blackburn

L. Foulger

Be retained as the committee for the 2022/2023 financial year.

Moved: *"That (A. Campbell) is re-elected as Spokesperson for the 2022-2023 financial year."*

Movers J. Sullivan/M. Molloy-

Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS and ACTION POINTS

Do not include option one from long term plan consultation in annual plan.

Work for Flood modelling and stopbank heights to be defined.

Costings of capital works near large retard and look at the alignment of retard. Define who will contribute to the new capital works upstream of the retard towards the bridge.

NZTA potentially join scheme and pay % of works. Talk to Moira if NZTA would do this.

No addition of spraying into Maintenance scheme, farmers are encouraged to spray their own boundary.

Meeting closed 12:00pm

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
KONGAHU RATING DISTRICT
HELD AT KARAMEA RSA
ON 28TH JANUARY 2022, COMMENCING AT 11am.

PRESENT

B Bjerring F Volkman G Vokkman L Kees B Jones R Anderson

IN ATTENDANCE

West Coast Regional Council
L Coll McLaughlin (Councillor) R Beal P Birchfield (Late) J Bell L Crozier (Late) (Staff)

APOLOGIES

John Hall, Frank Bjerring, Caroline Jones

Movers - Brian / Geoff- *Carried*

Welcome and Minutes of the Last Meeting

Cr Coll McLaughlin opened the meeting and welcomed those present.
She introduced herself and council staff.

Moved: *"That the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting held on 26TH November 2020, be adopted as a true and correct record of that meeting."*

Movers –Brian/Geoff - *Carried*

MATTERS ARISING

Blackwater creek culvert may need replacing in future.
Waders were purchased and Brian thanked for purchase.

FINANCIAL REPORT

R. Beal spoke on the financial report for the period of 1st July 2020 to 30th June 2021. He advised that the Kongahu Rating District had an opening balance of \$969.59 with a total revenue of \$20,271.66 less expenses of \$11,853.63 for a closing balance of \$9,387.62

Movers –Frank/Leigh– *Carried*

WORKS REPORT

Randal spoke to LTP report, thanked Brian on submissions. Council has decided to remove Kongahu infrastructure insurance as it has no value to the scheme. WCRC consulted on cost recovery on rating districts, council has decided based on submissions received to recover 70% of costs, the rating district benefits far more than just the people paying those costs.

Eradication Parrots Feather - Taylor spoke on NIWA, faster report, 3 monthly walk overs, three sprays of Garlon, physical or mechanical removal of plants moving down stream, regular monitoring, and hygiene Measures for machinery. Exclusion of livestock from drains (almost impossible).

Eradication is not possible, progressive control is the best way forward.
Control – three sprays a year, **work downstream**, a lot of ground-based control, (jobs for nature), MDC funding.

Movers –G. Vokkman/L. Kees - Carried

RATES 2021 / 2022

R. Beal advised that the balance of the rating district account at the beginning of the 2022-2023 financial year was likely to be \$12,000.00

He proposed rates strike of \$21,250.00 which included \$20,000 of rates and \$1,250.00 of Engineering Cost Recovery.

Moved: *"That rate strike for Kongahu is \$21,250.00 Excl GST for the 2022/2023 financial year."*

Movers –G. Vokkman/L. Kees - Carried

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Moved: *That the present liaison committee, namely:*

R. Anderson, C&B Jones, K. Kees, F. Volkman, G. Volkman, L. Kees, K. Gavigon, B. Bjerring and R. Hedgman be retained as the committee for the 2022/2023 financial year.

Mover G Vokkman/L. Kees - Carried

Moved: *"That B. Jones is re-elected/elected as Spokesperson for the 2022-2023 year."*

Movers L Kees/ - B. Jones- Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

Cam Anderson (pilot) says there is less parrots feather this year than previous.

Action Points for follow up

Cr Coll McLaughlin to find what funding is available through district council BDC is aware of parrot's feather but not sure of priority (jobs for nature).

Make access for drains that are unable to be sprayed from the air, cleanout with digger where Helicopter can't get.

Brian to contact Ruth about cutting down trees.

Cleanout 300m of parrot's feathers with digger and make access.

Check current stock of spray (Taylor)

Little Wanganui for next meeting.

Movers Geoff/Leigh - Carried

Meeting closed 12:00pm.

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
MOKIHINUI RATING DISTRICT
HELD AT MOKIHINUI HALL
ON 28TH JANUARY 2022, COMMENCING AT 2PM.

PRESENT

J. Climo, J. Woodward, R. Bennett, H. Bennett, C. Ward, A. Coleman, F. Intra, T. McNabb

IN ATTENDANCE

West Coast Regional Council

L. Coll-McLaughlin (Councillor) R. Beal P. Birchfield J. Bell L. Crozier (Staff)

APOLOGIES

Movers – J. Climo / J Woodward - *Carried*

Welcome and Minutes of the Last Meeting

Cr Coll McLaughlin opened the meeting and welcomed those present.
She introduced herself and council staff.

Moved: *"That the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting held on 24th September 2019, be adopted as a true and correct record of that meeting."*

Movers – J. Climo/J Woodward - *Carried*

MATTERS ARISING

No matters arising

FINANCIAL REPORT

R. Beal spoke on the financial report for the period of 1st July 2020 to 30th June 2021. He advised that the Mokihinui Rating District had an opening balance of \$38,222.09 with a total revenue of \$12,151.15 less expenses of \$1,765.50 for a closing balance of \$48,607.67

Movers – C. Ward/– R. Bennett

WORKS REPORT

P. Birchfield spoke to this report, she advised that SM Lowe contracting Ltd repaired the Sacrificial Seawall October 2020 and that the total works carried out since 1st July 2020 were \$2,830.00.

An inspection was undertaken in September 2021. The coastal spurs placed in August 2018 are still in place and have collected a small fillet of cobbles. Council recommends that the Rating District defer placing more spurs until the account balance increases to allow for the cost of the works,

whilst leaving a sufficient prudent reserve in place. The cost of the August 2018 works was \$42,015.

Allow for unforeseen maintenance \$5,000.00, periodic repair of sacrificial seawall \$5,000.00

The balance in the rating district account at the beginning of the 2022 / 2023 financial year is likely to be approximately \$49,000.00, this target balance for the `prudent reserve for this rating district is suggested to be \$35,000.00.

Movers – J. Climo/R. Bennett- Carried

RATES 2021 / 2022

R. Beal advised that the balance of the rating district account at the beginning of the 20220-2023 financial year was likely to be \$49,000.00

He proposed a rates strike of \$16,193.14 which included \$12,880.14 of rates \$2,063.00 of infrastructure and \$1,250.00 of Engineering Cost Recovery.

Moved: *"That rate strike for Mokihinui \$16,193.14 Excl GST for the 2022-2023 financial year."*

Movers – C. Ward /Bennet H - Carried

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Moved: *P. Clarkson has left the district, Brian Morgan, Niki Adams, Bill & Erika Lynch, and J. Lauder be added to the present committee, namely:*

*P. Clarkson, B. Morgan, J. Woodward, F. Spillane, and J. Climo
Be retained as the committee for the 2022/2023 financial year.*

Movers R. Bennett/H. Bennett - Carried

Moved: *"That B. Morgan & J. Woodward elected as Co-Spokespersons for the 2022/2023 financial year."*

Carried

Movers C. Ward/J. Woodward -

GENERAL BUSINESS

Discussion about MBC and environment ground was government funded but have done nothing about bamboo. Cr Coll McLaughlin offered to talk to BDC about removal of broom etc (jobs for nature).

Randal read email from Marie Cook, she has several issues shared with BDC and WCRC, discussed run off going into Mokihinui River. Chair (Cr L. Coll-McLaughlin) read out email from Bill and Erika Lynch regarding flood, surface flooding, frequent events, and drains.

Discussion around young family struck by a motor cross rider, committee wanted to contact bank owner but were not sure to ask BDC or WCRC. Can committee contact Police, or can we slow access during peak times with rocks, (they might stop the people fishing from getting through), Paulette suggested maybe an unlocked gate to just slow them down?

Paulette discussed the flooding mitigation option information for 2022 as per printout distributed before and during the meeting, 1. Pumps 2. Diversion 3. Drainage. Discussion around just having an emergency pump, once Paulette can get a price this will be emailed to the committee.

Action Points for follow up

Cr Coll McLaughlin – has a couple, talk to BDC about removal of broom, bamboo etc that are on our assets plus talk to BDC about safety during the bush holiday period, bylaws LINZ & BDC.

Brian – to discuss the culvert at 1 Louis Street 25 with the BDC.

Paulette – Quote for submersible pump.

Potential of rock protection of culvert. (Rawson Street).

Meeting Closed 4:30pm.

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
COAL CREEK RATING DISTRICT
HELD AT WCRC CHAMBERS
ON 25TH FEBRUARY 2022, COMMENCING AT 11AM.

PRESENT (Rating District Members)

B. Jones, R. McConnochie

IN ATTENDANCE (Staff)

P. Ewen (Councillor) (Chair), A. Birchfield (Councillor)
R. Beal (Staff), P. Birchfield (Staff), J. Bell (Staff), L. Crozier (Staff)

APOLOGIES

O. Norton
F. Rioardan
B. Cummings (Councillor)

Movers - P Ewen / A Birchfield - *Carried*

Welcome and Minutes of the Last Meeting

Cr Ewen opened the meeting and welcomed those present. He introduced himself and council staff.

Moved: *"That the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting held on 15th October 2018, be adopted as a true and correct record of that meeting."*

Movers – B. Jones/R. McConnochie - *Carried*

MATTERS ARISING

No matters arising

FINANCIAL REPORT

R. Beal spoke on the financial report for the period of 1st July 2020 to 30th June 2021. He advised that the Coal Creek Rating District had an opening balance of \$86,881.81 with a total revenue of \$34,700.76 less expenses of \$22,254.58 for a closing balance of \$99,327.99

Movers – B. Jones/R McConnochie – *Carried*

WORKS REPORT

Paulette spoke to the works report – Total maintenance works carried out by GH Foster Contracting Ltd from 1st July 2020 to 30th June 2021 was \$20,181.44. Total identified works for the 2021/2022 period \$16,000.

Movers – R. McConnochie/B. Jones *Carried*

RATES 2021 / 2022

Recommended rates strike, no rate is required as the Coal Creek rating district will be disbanded and merged with the Greymouth rating district.

Randal discussed a cash repayment to rating members.

Moved: *"That rate strike for Coal Creek is Nil Excl GST for the 2022/2023 financial year."*

Movers –Robin/Bruce - *Carried*

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

When the Coal Creek Rating District is disbanded and merged with the Greymouth Rating District there will be a Joint Committee.

Moved: *"That there will be a joint committee rather than a Spokesperson for the 2022/2023 financial year."*

R. McConnochie/B. Jones -

Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

Bruce asked by repairs went ahead with no discussion, Paulette said hydro monitoring showed no impact, so consents went ahead.

Randal said that there would be a joint committee rather than a spokesperson once the Coal Creek Rating District is disbanded and merged with the Greymouth Rating District. Paulette and James will still put-up works reports. Cr Ewen said that communication would stay open with engineers etc. WCRC has overall responsibility for funds.

Cr Ewen thanked the Coal Creek Rating District Committee, said functionality was good and thank you from the West Coast Regional Council to the rating district.

Action Points for follow up

- Enquire why peer modelling for Omoto did not go ahead.
- Paulette said she would be able to print off some flood modelling copies for Bruce, Robin, and other committee members.

Meeting closed at 1:00pm.

**THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
NELSON CREEK RATING DISTRICT
HELD AT WCRC CHAMBERS
ON 25TH FEBRUARY 2022, COMMENCING AT 12PM.**

PRESENT (Rating District Members)

T. Hill, B. Jones

IN ATTENDANCE (Staff)

A. Birchfield (Councillor), R. Beal (Staff), P. Birchfield (Staff), J. Bell (Staff), L. Crozier (Staff)

APOLOGIES

Cr B. Cummings, Cr P. Ewen

Movers - T. Hill / B. Jones - *Carried*

Welcome and Minutes of the Last Meeting

Cr A. Birchfield opened the meeting and welcomed those present. He introduced himself and council staff.

Moved: *"That the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting held on 15th October 2018, be adopted as a true and correct record of that meeting."*

Movers – T. Hill/B. Jones - *Carried*

MATTERS ARISING

No matters arising.

FINANCIAL REPORT

R. Beal spoke on the financial report for the period of 1st July 2020 to 30th June 2021. He advised that the Nelson Creek Rating District had an opening balance of \$257,839.85 with a total revenue of \$36,866.89 less expenses of \$38,464.59 for a closing balance of \$256,242.15

Movers – B. Jones/T. Hill – *Carried*

WORKS REPORT

Paulette spoke to this report – Maintenance works carried out from 1 July 2020 to 30th June 2021 by Paul Smith Earthmoving Ltd, total of \$34,917.82. There was a contribution from Kiwi Rail of \$8,127,24 and \$6,532.17 from NZTA. Total maintenance works for the 2020/2021 Financial Year was \$20,258.41.

On radar to do Nelson Creek and Redjacks at the same time.

Total proposed works for the 2021/2022 period \$40,000.

Movers – B. Jones/ T. Hill- Carried

RATES 2021 / 2022

As the balance in the rating district account is above the prudent reserve the Council (Paulette) recommends a nil rate strike for the 2022/ 2023 financial year. *Will look to reinstate in the next financial year.*

Moved: *"That rate strike for Nelson Creek Rating District is NIL Excl GST for the 2022/2023 financial year."*

Movers – T.Hill/B. Jones - Carried

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

It was agreed, B. Jones was nominated as spokesperson.

Moved: *"That B. Jones is elected as Spokesperson for the 2022/2023 financial year."*

Movers T. Hill/A. Birchfield-Carried

GENERAL BUSINES

Discussion around having a one-year relief for rates or adapt 30% contribution to administration and insurance costs. *(Moved staff recommendation for a nil rates strike).*

Randal explained if we had back-to-back weather events, the insurance excess would be treated as one event.

Cross section data proves to Government audits that the WCRC are meeting levels of service and it also gives Paulette and James better technical information, also helps with Kiwi Rail and NZTA maintaining assets to a good standard.

Bruce asked which option we chose (which was option 2, 30% contribution) why different rate strikes for different areas, Paulette said there may be some information around this in archive boxes, was revised in 2002. May have been done to affordability rather than capital or about hazards/risks. A boundary classification review was requested by Rating District Members. Randal suggested starting with cross section data and that the Engineering Team are under a lot of work and wouldn't be able to do this until later.

Action Points for follow up

- A request to review boundary classification

Meeting Closed 12:30pm.

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
PUNAKAIKI RATING DISTRICT
HELD AT WCRC Chambers
ON 25th FEBRUARY 2022, COMMENCING AT 1pm.

PRESENT (Rating District Members)

H. & P. Haddock, S. Burrow , S. Gasson, N. Smith, C. Findlay

IN ATTENDANCE (Staff)

J. Hill (Buller Regional Councillor & Chair), L. Coll-McLaughlin (Buller Regional Councillor), R. Beal (Staff), P. Birchfield (Staff) J. Bell (Staff),

APOLOGIES

Les (last name unknown)

Movers - P. Haddock / C. Findlay-Carried

Welcome and Minutes of the Last Meeting

Cr J. Hill opened the meeting and welcomed those present. He introduced himself and Randal introduced Rating District Members and Staff in chambers.

Moved: *"That the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting held on 24th September 2019, be adopted as a true and correct record of that meeting."*

Movers – P. Haddock/C. Findlay - Carried

MATTERS ARISING

Peter Haddock asked about the loan rate, Randal advised that the loan is the lowest available.

FINANCIAL REPORT

R. Beal spoke on the financial report for the period of 1st July 2020 to 30th June 2021. He advised that the Punakaiki Rating District had an opening balance of \$89,830.75 with a total revenue of \$77,851.80 less expenses of \$27,024.66 for a closing balance of \$140,657.89

Movers – P. Haddock/C. Findlay – Carried

WORKS REPORT

Paulette spoke to this report-Maintenance work carried out by MBD in September 2020, they used up the last of the Fox River Quarry Rock that was stored in the Punakaiki Valley \$21,567.60. Annual beach profile survey work was carried out by CJ Coll Survey Ltd.

In June 2021, Rosco Contracting Ltd won the contract to place concrete sections from footpath, they carted 1,552.55 tons of armour rock from the Ant Black Charleston quarry, they allowed for unforeseen maintenance over the 2021-2022 period, total proposed maintenance works for the 2021/2022 period \$110,942.95.

Cross section survey 2021 showed a decrease in beach level in front of full length of seawall.

Cr Hill (Chair) asked about what would happen over time, Paulette explained this will take around 20 years and that without the sand barrier there is more pressure from high energy waves.

Susanna had concerns over more erosion at northern end, but all money had been spent down southern end, Cr Hill (Chair) asked if WCRC could get someone to see Susanna on site as she said she was unable to talk to the engineers. Randal said that at this current time the Asset Management Plan is about the Sea Wall which was identified by committee spokesman and rating engineer.

Peter said he supports continued expenditure on the sea wall as the whole community/district benefits from it.

Cr Hill (Chair) asked if we could have something in writing for Susanna, Randal advised that Susanna needs to get a "owner solution" with support from council engineer.

Movers – P. Haddock/C. Findlay- Carried

RATES 2021 / 2022

Paulette advised that the balance of the Punakaiki Rating District account at the beginning of the 2022-2033 financial year was likely to be \$88,000.00, she proposed a rate strike of \$94,091.00 which included \$75,000.00 of rates \$4,09.00 of Infrastructure Insurance and \$15,000.00 of Engineering Cost Recovery.

Moved: *"That rate strike for Punakaiki Rating District is \$94,091.00 Excl GST for the 2022/2023 financial year."*

Movers – P. Haddock/C. Findlay - Carried

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

R. Beal read out the names of the current rating district committee. It was noted that M. Keating is no longer a property owner and G Beynon is stepping down as spokesperson. P&H Haddock were nominated to join the rating district committee.

Moved: *"That the committee for the 2022/2023 financial year now consists of:"*

*C. Findlay
P&H Haddock
S. Casey
T. Sullivan
T. Wilkins
A. Beynon
I. Rder*

S. Lyle

Mover – C. Findlay/S. Glasson - Carried

"That C. Findlay is elected as Spokesperson for the 2022/2023 financial year"

Mover – P. Haddock/S. Glasson- Carried

'That P. Haddock is elected as Deputy Spokesperson for the 2022/2023 financial year"

Mover – C. Findlay/H. Haddock - Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

Randal thanked Craig for his spokespersonship.
Susanne thanked Cr John Hill.
Peter asked staff to look at a bit of erosion.
Paulette to phone Craig about survey.

Action Points for follow up

- Staff/Engineer to meet with Peter Haddock on site to look at a bit of erosion.
- Paulette to phone Craig about survey.

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
KARAMEA RATING DISTRICT
HELD AT KARAMEA RSA
ON 28TH JANUARY 2022 COMMENCING AT 12PM

PRESENT (Rating District Members)

A. Hamson H. Guienrrvnrner A. Brunning R. Sampson M. Aitken D. Simlyn B. Langford P. Gibson P. McClintock G. and F Volckman

IN ATTENDANCE (Staff)

West Coast Regional Council
L. Coll-McLaughlin (Councillor)
R. Beal P. Birchfield J. Bell L. Crozier (Staff)

APOLOGIES

John Hall

Movers - D Simlyn /Langford B- *carried*

Welcome and Minutes of the Last Meeting

Cr Coll McLaughlin opened the meeting and welcomed those present.
She introduced herself and council staff.

Moved: *"That the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting held on 26th November 2020, be adopted as a true and correct record of that meeting."*

Movers – B Langford/D. Simlyn- *Carried*

MATTERS ARISING

Loan clarification.

FINANCIAL REPORT

R. Beal spoke on the financial report for the period of 1st July 2020 to 30th June 2021. He advised that the Karamea Rating District had an opening balance of \$93,776.42 with a total revenue of \$77,834.67 less expenses of \$13,550.00 for a closing balance of \$158,061.09.

Movers – R Sampson/B Langford– *Carried*

WORKS REPORT

P. Birchfield spoke to this report.

August 2020 300 tons of rock carted, land river sea initial set up, Matt got information from NIWA which didn't align well, waiting for more accurate model from Matt rather than NIWA. Quality control due in next few months. (James) with LiDar.

More works to be done as explained by Paulette in her print- out, emergency repair works Little Wanganui erosion, discussion around what is capital works and what is maintenance. Staff recommendation moved to treat as maintenance to prevent further damage to rating district assets.

Movers – B. Langford/R Sampson- Carried

RATES 2021 / 2022

R. Beal advised that the balance of the rating district account at the beginning of the 2022-2023 financial year was likely to be \$160,000.00.

He proposed rates strike of \$66,300.00 which included \$50,000 of rates \$8,800.00 of infrastructure and \$7,500.00 of Engineering Cost Recovery.

Moved: *"That rate strike for Karamea is \$66,300.00 Excl GST for the 2022-2023 financial year."*

Movers – D. Aitken/Person B - Carried

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Moved: *That Angela Hamson be added to the present committee for the 2022/2023 financial year.*

Mover person a/person b -

Carried

Moved: *"That B. Langford is re-elected/elected as Spokesperson for the 2022/2023 financial year."*

Movers D Aitken/ R Sampson-

Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

West Reef needing to mow they haven't done anything, caretaker from campground been maintaining, public would like to suggest West Reef to get back and do a mow as it is not looking very flash, Paulette said she had asked them to get in touch when they were back, public wants this request formalized.

Discussion around assets register, Randal and James explained interactive map that should be available soon. James said something that is not in the assets map will still be on the assets register.

Action Points for follow up

Create process between council and committee member about maintenance and capital works
Waitangi bridge erosion

Walk over to find assets/James interactive map
Reclassification of assets
Annual Loan
West Reef Mowing

Meeting Closed 1:15pm.

Report to: Council	Meeting Date: 12 April 2022
Title of Item: Land River Sea Buller Model Peer Review Report	
Report by: Randal Beal – Director of Operations	
Reviewed by:	
Public excluded? No	

Report Purpose

To provide Council the independent peer review report of Land River Sea (LRS) Buller model.

Report Summary

Council engaged River Edge Consulting Ltd to undertake an independent peer review to ensure LRS Buller model was fit for purpose to provide informed advice and decisions.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Council resolve to:

1. *Receive the report; and*
2. *Adopt the LRS Buller model.*

Issues and Discussion

Background

Council is proceeding with a flood protection scheme for Westport as per the LTP deliberations in 2021. Staff have formed a Westport Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to investigate design height and alignment options and make informed recommendations to the Westport Joint Committee and Council. The TAG rely heavily on the LRS Buller model as part of this work.

Current situation

Council engaged River Edge Consulting Ltd to undertake an independent peer review to ensure LRS Buller model was fit for purpose to allow staff and the Buller TAG to provide informed advice to both the Joint Committee and Council.

The report has been received and the recommendation is that the model is fit for purpose and can be used with confidence.

Considerations

Significance and Engagement Policy Assessment

There are no issues within this report which trigger matters in this policy.

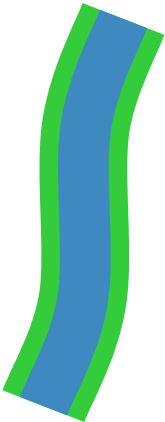
Financial implications

N/A

Attachments

Attachment 1 - River Edge Consulting Ltd report

Buller Hydraulic Model Review



Report prepared for
by

Philip Wallace
River Edge Consulting Limited

March 2022

Version: Final

Prepared for: West Coast Regional Council

Report prepared by: Philip Wallace
River Edge Consulting

Date: 29 March 2022

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1 Introduction

The Buller River is fed by a catchment of nearly 6400 km² extending up into the Southern Alps. In its lower 10 km, it passes through Westport, with the main township on the true right (east) bank. Flood flows are large and the largest observed flood flow in New Zealand was in the Buller River (in 1926). Westport has a history of significant flooding, exacerbated by the Orowaiti Stream that bounds the town on its eastern side and discharges to the sea a few kilometres east of the Buller River mouth. The Orowaiti now acts as an overflow channel of the Buller as well as being an opening for coastal flooding to threaten parts of Westport.

The West Coast Regional Council (WCRC) commissioned Land River Sea Consulting Ltd. (LRS) in 2014 to prepare a hydraulic model of the Buller River and floodplain around Westport, and again in 2021 to update the model.

WCRC has now commissioned River Edge Consulting Ltd. to carry out a peer review of the latest version of the model. Given that Westport experienced a severe flood in July 2021 and was again threatened in February 2022, it is imperative that WCRC has at its disposal a robust and defensible model with which to plan for future events and to investigate mitigation options.

The particular objectives of the most recent modelling have been to aid in:

- setting building floor levels
- designing flood protection infrastructure
- assessing flood mitigation options
- assessing the impacts of increased future flows and sea levels.

This report summarises the peer review process and findings, and makes recommendations for future improvements.

2 Review process

DHI Water and Environment Ltd. (DHI) undertook reviews of the original modelling during the period 2014-17. DHI summarised the review process in a 2017 report, concluding that:

“Overall, the modelling approach and schematisation for the Buller River model has been sound. Appropriate software has been used, the model extent is adequate and the model has been calibrated to an acceptable standard given the limitations of observed data”

The review for this latest modelling work has followed a similar process to the DHI review work, with draft model files being provided for review at intermediate stages and frequent discussions between River Edge Consulting and Land River Sea Consulting during the model development and testing phase. Table 1-1 of DHI (2017) has been updated in Table 2-1 below, summarising the review process.

Table 2-1 Review process and milestones

Date	Milestone
May 2014	LRS commissioned by WCRC and commences modelling
May – July 2014	LRS seeks occasional advice from DHI on model schematisation and build (via emails and phone conversations)
October 2014	DHI reviews model as it stood at that time and a draft report. Comments provided to LRS
July 2015	DHI reviews revised model and updated draft report. Comments provided to LRS
August 2015	Final report prepared by LRS
2017	WCRC seeks further confirmation regarding review of model. Further checks of final model. DHI issues a peer review report September 2017
2021	LRS commissioned to update model
December 2021	Regular discussions between LRS and REC on model revisions
22 December 2021	Initial review of updated model, findings summarised in memo to LRS
January-March 2022	Regular discussions between LRS and REC on model revisions. Updated model files (inputs and results) and draft modelling report supplied to REC February 2022
March 2022	Final findings of peer review issued

3 Model review

3.1 Overall schematisation

The model extent covers the Buller River downstream of the Te Kuha water level recorder station, to the sea. The model also covers the right bank floodplain downstream of Te Kuha, incorporating the Orowaiti River overflow and the Orowaiti mouth. On the left bank, the model captures the small area (150 ha) of floodplain opposite the Orowaiti overflow as well as low-lying areas in the lower reaches covering an estuary area and a coastal strip at Carters Beach. Higher ground well above possible flood levels has been removed from the model, saving model run time and reducing result file size. Figure 3-1 and Figure 3-2 show the extent of the model.

The model extent is appropriate considering the study objectives and the model boundaries are sufficient to capture all of the flow, i.e. flow is not held up by the boundaries.

Note that the model is designed to consider flooding from the Buller River and from the sea. It is not designed to consider flooding from local stormwater runoff. The stormwater network (pipes, manholes etc) would need to be added to the model and ideally a finer resolution used within the town, if that was required. While local stormwater flooding caused problems within the township in February 2022 for example, that is outside the scope of the study and beyond the remit of WCRC.

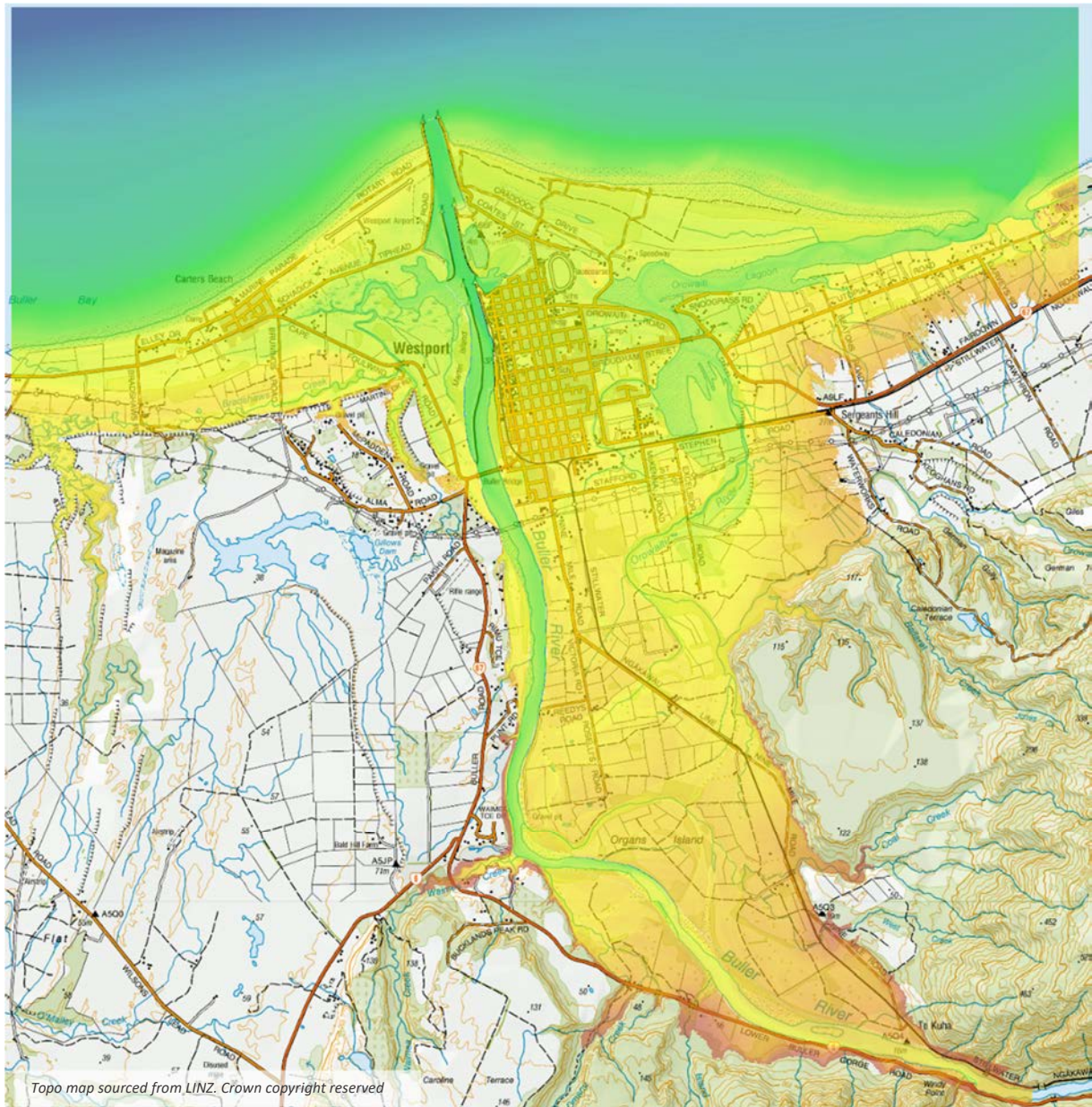


Figure 3-1 Model extent (NZ Topo Map background)

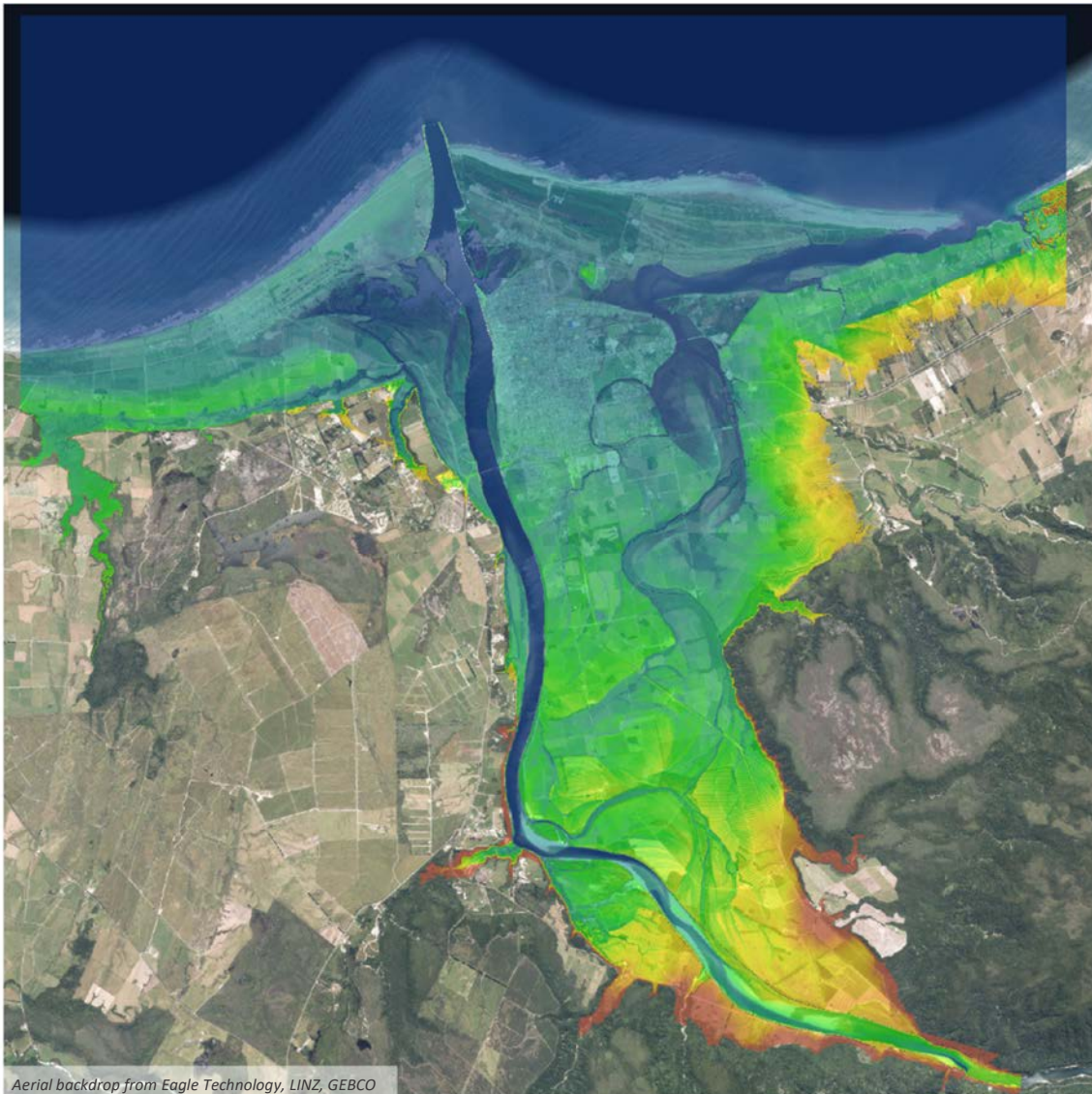


Figure 3-2 Model extent (aerial photo background)

3.2 Datum and coordinate system

The coordinate system used is New Zealand Transverse Mercator (NZTM).

The vertical datum of the model has been converted from Lyttleton Datum 1937 to New Zealand Vertical Datum 2016 (NZVD 2016). The latter is now the official vertical datum for New Zealand and is gradually being adopted throughout New Zealand when defining levels. Spot checks show that the conversion is correct (NZVD 2016 levels being approximately 0.36m lower than the equivalent Lyttleton Datum levels in the Westport area).

3.3 Model software

As with the 2017 model, MIKE FLOOD software has been used. This software is appropriate for this type of exercise, having wide-spread usage within New Zealand and worldwide.

In this modelling exercise, the MIKE FLOOD model incorporates MIKE 11 and MIKE 21 FM software. The MIKE 11 model uses depth-averaged one-dimensional (1D) flow equations and represents the river and miscellaneous culverts and bridges on the floodplain, while the MIKE 21 FM model uses depth-averaged two-dimensional (2D) flow equations and represents floodplain flow. MIKE FLOOD dynamically links these two components, so that flow can pass between the river and floodplain, and vice-versa, as conditions dictate.

The 2021 release of the software has been used. A “flexible-mesh” version of the 2D component (MIKE 21 FM) has been used, allowing much faster simulation times. Although a later version of the software (v2022) is now available, results would not be expected to change significantly with the latest version.

3.4 1D component

The 1D representation of the main Buller River extends from cross-section 25 (approximately 1 km downstream of the Te Kuha recorder) to the river mouth. As discussed in the 2017 DHI review, the typical spacing of cross-sections of around 700-800 m provides reasonable definition for the large and wide channel. The cross-sections were resurveyed in 2021 and the model has been updated with that resurvey. Additional sections around gravel islands in the lower river were surveyed in 2019 and have been included in the model; although these were not resurveyed in 2021, it is still appropriate to include these in the latest model.

A suggestion to increase the computational point spacing along the Buller River has been taken up, resulting in a noticeable decrease in simulation times without affecting the results.

The model contains three bridge structures in the 1D component: the main Buller River road bridge and two bridges on Stephens Road over the Orowaiti River (Figure 3-3, circled in yellow). The previous model represented two other bridges over the Orowaiti River (SH67 and the rail bridge at Nine Mile Road) within the 1D component of the model but after discussion these have been included in the 2D component instead, giving a better representation.

The model also contains representation of culvert structures at eleven locations (Figure 3-3). Comments made regarding these in the December 2022 review memorandum have been subsequently addressed.

The presence of several other culverts that had not been included in the model was also noted in that memo, with a suggestion that the reasons for inclusion or non-inclusion of particular culverts be provided. That has not yet been done. Several of the culverts not included are upstream of the railway and their inclusion probably would not be significant in design flood events. However, it appears that there is an additional culvert between “RailwayCulvert4” and “RailwayCulvert5” and another downstream of “McKenna_Rd” culvert that could be incorporated later for detailed design work where relevant.

The model uses the MIKE 11 “classic” engine for the computation. DHI now promotes a revised “MIKE 1D” engine although it remains possible to run MIKE FLOOD with either engine. The newer MIKE 1D engine can run faster in some model setups but results can sometimes be a little different. Eventually, DHI is likely to stop supporting the classic engine and so to future-proof the model, at

some point in time it will be worth updating the model to the new engine, even if that means checking the calibration and adjusting if necessary.



Figure 3-3 Bridge and culvert structures represented in the Buller model

3.5 2D component

A rectangular grid of 4.8 m cell size has been used for the 2D model area, as was the case with the previous model. This is an appropriate resolution considering the size of the modelled area and picks up a good level of detail.

Considerable amount of effort appears to have been made to represent the bed of the Orowaiti channel, much of which is below the water surface and hence has not been captured by LiDAR. Other than some minor discontinuities well below the water surface near the Orowaiti mouth, the results of that work appear to give a plausible bed and continuous thalweg.

Resistance assumptions are reasonable, with extra refinements having been made since the December memo, adding more detail and also adjusting values to improve the model calibration.

The computation uses a “low order” formulation. Although in theory, a “high order” formulation would give better results, in practice it makes little difference and results in longer simulation times.

An adaptive time step has been used, with a minimum of 0.01 s and a maximum of 0.25 s. These are reasonable values. Actual timesteps from the calibration run, for instance, average just under 0.125 s with a minimum value of 0.03 s.

“Flood” and “dry” values of 0.003 m and 0.01 m respectively are appropriate and allow a good resolution for mapping of shallow flooding.

The model uses a constant eddy viscosity of 0.5 m²/s. This is consistent with the recommendation made in the 2017 DHI review.

3.6 Coupling of components

The 1D and 2D components are linked via “standard links” at the ends of the modelled bridge and culvert branches on the floodplain, and via lateral links along the bank edges of the Buller River.

Checks of positions of the lateral links for the initial runs revealed only a few minor discrepancies, where the floodplain cells being connected were slightly offset from the river reaches. These have since been modified in the final version of the model. A few overlaps in the lateral links have also been removed.

With a few exceptions, default values have been used for the lateral and standard link “exponential smoothing factor” (ESF) and “momentum factor” values. As recommended, the momentum factor for the standard links on the StephensRoadMainBridge branch has been restored to one without any resulting instabilities, allowing a transfer of momentum between the 1D and 2D components (i.e. along the actual river channel at the link locations). However, the ESF has been lowered to 0.2 (from a default of 1) at the ends of that branch and also along a few of the Buller River lateral links, in order to reduce some instabilities. As the simulation time step is small, the impacts of the reduction on model accuracy are negligible. Confirmation of the changes is given in Appendix B.

Lateral links are controlled by the 2D terrain level (source = “M21”). This is appropriate, allowing high and low spots on the bank to be picked up in reaches without stopbanks. As the stopbank crests have been burned into the model 2D terrain, the “M21” control also provides a good representation of the spill levels along the stopbanked reaches.

Model log files (produced automatically after a simulation) reveal no error or warning messages of concern.

4 Calibration and verification

The model has been calibrated against the July 2021 flood event. A large number of peak flood levels were recorded over the floodplain and along the river, with which to calibrate the model. This event is also of sufficient size to give confidence in extrapolating to design events.

Model results as presented in the draft modelling report show a good match to the recorded values, with an average error of only 0.04 m and an average absolute error of 0.15 m. Considering the inherent inaccuracies in identifying peak debris levels as well as the model inaccuracies and assumptions, this is a very good result. This has been achieved after several iterations, and further attempts to improve the fit will likely provide only marginal benefits and are not justified.

NIWA has independently produced an automated map of the event flood extent, generated from the recorded peak levels and overlaid on the LiDAR surface. A comparison of the flood extent as predicted by the hydraulic model with the NIWA flood extent estimate again shows a reasonable match. There are some areas of discrepancy, but it must be appreciated that the NIWA predictions will have limited accuracy in areas where there are no data points.

A rerun of the July 2012 event with the model then shows a general underprediction (average error -0.14 m), not as good a fit as the previous model provided. Although the model does use cross-sections from around the event date (2014) it nonetheless uses 2021 LiDAR data for the floodplain. It is possible that berm changes, especially in the Orowaiti overflow area, may have occurred and be causing the discrepancy. However, in lieu of rebuilding the model with older LiDAR data and any other topographical information from around 2012, it is recommended that the underprediction for that event is accepted. A corollary of this may be that the model would underpredict peak flood levels in the Orowaiti overflow and the floodplain for smaller flood events. As the study focus is on large design events (1% and 2% AEP¹), that would be acceptable. If smaller events are of interest, the calibration could be tweaked in the future to better predict lesser events, perhaps with any data collected from the February 2022 event.

¹ Annual Exceedance Probability.

5 Design Scenarios

Design flows considered are the 1% and 2% AEP events, with and without climate change allowances, for flow in the Buller River. The model setup and results for the 1% AEP event, without climate change, have been assessed as part of the peer review.

The 1% and 2% AEP design flow hydrographs adopted for the Buller River upstream inflow are scaled versions of the 2021 event at Te Kuha. The peak of that event is actually a spike and rated flows perhaps represent some surging in the water level at the recorder for that event. For instance, either side of the peak, the flows vary by over 200 m³/s in the space of only 5 minutes (the interval at which records are saved). As a result, those variations have been reflected in the design hydrographs (Figure 5-1). A smoother profile through the peak is worth considering.

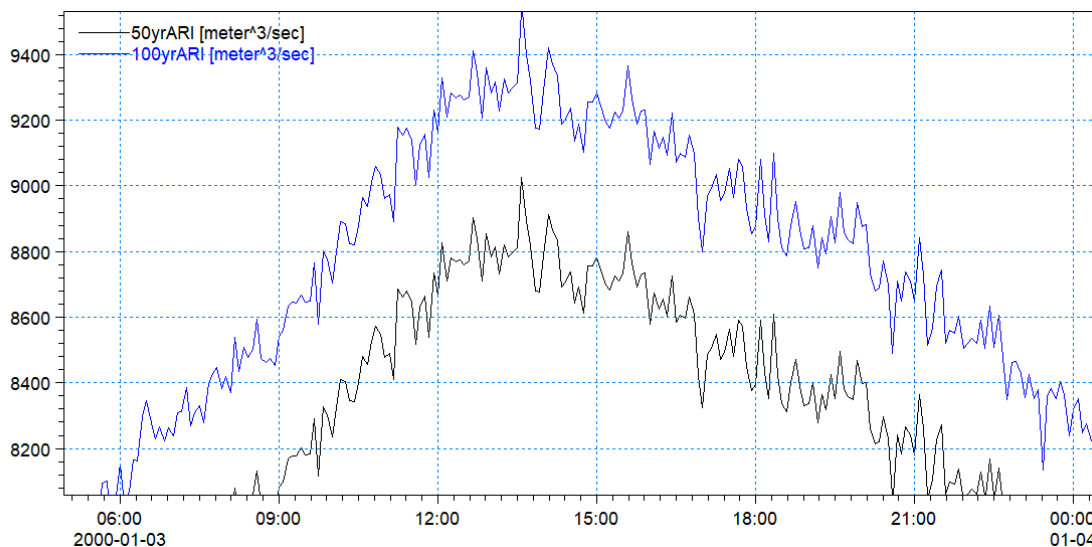


Figure 5-1 Design flows (m³/s) near peak of hydrograph (current climate 1% and 2% AEP events)

Downstream boundary conditions assume a sinusoidal tidal time series, with a peak sea level equal to mean high water spring tide (defined here to be the high tide exceeded by 7% of high tides) plus 0.4 m storm surge, giving a peak level of 1.89 m (NZVD2016). It is uncertain what the return period of that level is, but the assumptions are considered reasonable for design purposes.

Some areas of the floodplain would also be subject to a 1% AEP storm surge event and design stopbank levels in the lower reaches of the Buller River may be dictated by such an event. It is understood that this scenario has been considered in a separate exercise by LRS for NIWA and that results will also be presented in the final Buller River hydraulic modelling report.

Model files provided for the design event (and, to a lesser degree, the calibration events) started at a high flow at Te Kuha. There is a danger with that, that initial flows on the floodplain could ramp up too early. After some discussion, LRS has now started the events six hours earlier. The design 1% AEP event now starts at an upstream inflow of 1965 m³/s instead of 4050 m³/s in the earlier simulations, with only a minor effect on simulation time. As it turned out, this made little difference to peak water level results.

6 Reporting

The model report dated 10 February 2022 (LRS, 2022) has been reviewed. Although clearly the report is draft and some sections and figures need to be completed, it does provide a good summary of the modelling process, assumptions made and results (for calibration runs at least). Comments on the report were provided to LRS on 17 February 2022 and discussed in person with LRS on that date also. It is recommended that LRS considers these comments when the final version of the report is prepared.

It is also recommended that the final simulation files be identified in the report, possibly in an appendix.

7 Conclusions and Recommendations

Westport suffered a large flood event in July 2021, with other recent significant floods occurring in July 2012 and February 2022. Each event caused significant disruption to the Westport community. These events demonstrate the urgency and importance of having a robust hydraulic model to assist in emergency management, flood mapping and mitigation option assessment.

The current version of the model has built on what was already a sound model in 2017. The extent has been enlarged to better capture and represent flooding in the upper portion of river and floodplain and in the coastal floodplain near Carters Beach. The model has been updated to incorporate recently surveyed river cross-sections and recent LiDAR data. After recalibration, the model reproduces flood levels from the large flood event of 2021, giving confidence that the model can reliably predict flood levels in design 1% and 2% AEP flood scenarios (although it may overpredict levels in lesser flood events).

The particular objectives of the most recent modelling have been to aid in:

- setting building floor levels
- designing flood protection infrastructure
- assessing flood mitigation options
- assessing the impacts of increased future flows and sea levels.

After a review of the modelling, it is concluded that first two objectives will be met, with the inclusion of appropriate freeboard. (The appropriate freeboard has not been assessed during the modelling project, but can be guided by sensitivity analyses, the vulnerability of assets to be protected and by NZS 4404.) The latter two objectives will also be met with the current model. The model is thus fit-for-purpose and can be used with confidence to address those four objectives.

The model has been built and run with version 2021 (Update 1) of the MIKE FLOOD software. The model will need to be regularly updated to the later versions of the software (the current release is version 2022) if the model is to be continued to be used. (It is advisable nonetheless to not upgrade immediately after a new release is issued, but to wait for a period in case there are any bugs that need fixing by the developer.)

Although not immediately necessary, it is also recommended that at some point in the future the model is also upgraded to use the MIKE 1D engine, to future-proof the model against expected software changes. That will require the model calibration to be checked and adjusted as necessary to give similar results to those currently given by the model.

References

DHI (2017); *Review of Buller MIKE FLOOD model*. Report prepared by Philip Wallace to West Coast Regional Council, September 2017.

Land River Sea Ltd. (2022); *Buller River: Flood Model Upgrade*. Report prepared by Matthew Gardner for West Coast Regional Council, February 2022.

River Edge Consulting (2021); *Buller Flood Model – Peer Review*. Memorandum from Philip Wallace, River Edge Consulting to Matt Gardner, Land River Sea, 29 December 2021.

Appendix A Initial 2021 review, with LRS response

Appendix B Further correspondence between REC and LRS

Report to: West Coast Regional Council	Meeting Date: 12 April 2022
Title of Item: Local Elections 2022 – Timetable, Order of Candidate Names and Other Matters	
Report by: Nichola Costley – Manager Strategy and Communications	
Reviewed by:	
Public excluded? No	

Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is to highlight matters of significance in relation to the 2022 local triennial elections, which includes the elections timetable and the order of candidate names.

Report Summary

The 2022 triennial local government elections will occur on Saturday, 8 October 2022. An update on preliminary matters relating to the election is provided to Council via this report, including consideration of the order of candidate names to appear on the voting documents.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Council resolve to:

1. *Receive the report; and*
2. *For the 2022 triennial election, resolve to adopt either:*
 - a. *The alphabetical order of candidate names; or*
 - b. *The pseudo-random order of candidate names; or*
 - c. *The random order of candidate names;*

As permitted Under Regulation 31 of the Local Electoral Regulations 2001.

Issues and Discussion

Background

The 2022 triennial elections for local authorities are due to occur on Saturday, 8 October 2022, and are required to be undertaken according to the Local Electoral Act 2001 and the Local Electoral Regulations 2021 and, to a limited extent, the Local Government Act 2022. Certain pre-election information and tasks are outlined in this report for Council's information and attention.

The Local Electoral Regulations 2001 provide for Council to resolve the order of candidate names to appear on the voting documents (alphabetical, pseudo-random or random order). If no decision is made, the order of names defaults to alphabetical.

Current situation

As a result of Council's current representation arrangements, elections will be required for the following positions:

Councillors (7)

- Buller District (2)
- Grey District (3)
- Westland District (2)

Order of Candidate Names

Regulation 31 of the Local Electoral Regulations 2001 provides the opportunity for Council to choose the order of candidate names appearing on the voting documents from three options – alphabetical, pseudo-random (names drawn out of a hat in random with all voting documents printed in this order) or random order (names randomly allocated by computer programme at the time of printing with each voting document different).

Council may determine which order the names of candidates are to appear on the voting documents, but if no decisions is made, the order of names defaults to alphabetical.

For Council’s information, statistics gathered by our Elections provider shows that there is a change occurring across recent elections with more councils moving to a random order of candidate names. The table below shows the information gathered.

Election Year	Random	Alpha	Pseudo-Random
2016 – TAs	43%	48%	9%
2016 - Regional	45%	55%	0%
2019 - TAs	48%	33%	10%
2019 - Regional	55%	45%	0%

Below is an explanation of the options available:

Alphabetical order – this simply lists candidate surnames alphabetically and is the order that has been traditionally used in local and parliamentary elections. Comments regarding alphabetical order are:

- Voters are easily able to find names of candidates for whom they wish to vote.
- Some candidates and voters over the years have argued that alphabetical order may tend to favour candidates with names in the first part of the alphabet, but in practice this is generally not the case – most voters tend to look for name recognition, regardless of where in the alphabet the surname lies. However, the perception of that weakness remains;
- The order of candidate names on the voting document matches the order listed in the candidate directory (candidate profile statements).

Pseudo-Random order – is where candidate surnames are randomly selected, and the same order is used on all voting documents for that position. The names are randomly selected by a method such as drawing names out of a hat. Comments regarding pseudo-random order are:

- The candidate names appear in mixed order (not alphabetical) on the voting document;
- Possible voter criticism/confusion as specific candidate names are not easily found, particularly where there are many candidates;
- The order of candidate names on the voting document does not match the order in the candidate directory (candidate profile statements).

Random order – is where all candidate surnames are randomly selected and are listed in a different order on every voting document. The names are randomly selected by computer at the time the voting documents are printed so that the order is different. Random order enables names to be listed in a completely unique order on each voting document. Comments regarding random order are:

- The candidate names appear in mixed order (not alphabetical) on the voting document;
- Possible voter criticism/confusion as specific candidate names are not easily found, particularly where there are many candidates, however this has not been a reported problem with previous DHB elections which largely used this candidate order option;
- The order of candidate names on the voting document does not match the order listed in the candidate directory (candidate profile statements).

There is no price differential in printing costs between the three orders of candidate names.

The decision over which option to select is one for Council. The order of candidate names will be specified on the public notice calling for nominations.

2022 Election Update Information

With an election date of Saturday, 8 October 2022, the following key functions and dates will apply:

Nominations open / roll opens	Friday, 15 July 2022
Nominations close / roll closes	Friday, 12 August 2022 at noon
Public Notice of Candidates	Wednesday, 17 August 2022
Delivery of voting papers	Begins from 16 September 2022
Close of voting	Saturday, 8 October 2022 at noon

Duty to foster Representative and Elector Participation

A requirement of the legislation is the duty placed on the Chief Executive of the local authority to facilitate and foster representative and substantial elector participation. This necessitates staff promoting the election process, and particularly to encourage greater public participation.

Council will be kept informed as progress with this is made.

Pre-election report

Section 99A of the Local Government Act 2022 requires each local authority to prepare a pre-election report, to provide information to promote public discussion about the issues facing the local authority. The pre-election report is prepared by the Chief Executive, must contain financial and major project information, and must be completed by 29 July 2022 (two weeks before the close of nominations). This task will be commenced shortly.

Considerations

Significance and Engagement Policy Assessment

There are no issues within this report which trigger matters in this policy.

Financial implications

There are no additional financial or resource implications arising from decisions to be made on this report.

Legal implications

This report and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements placed upon the Council.

Attachments

None.

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

To: Chair, West Coast Regional Council

I move that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely, -

- Items 10.1 – 10.4 (inclusive)

Item No.	General Subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 7 of LGOIMA for the passing of this resolution
Item 10.1	Confirmation of Confidential Minutes – Council meeting 8 March 2022	The item contains information relating to commercial and security matters	To protect commercial information and to prevent disclosure of information for improper gain or advantage (s 7(2)(b) and s7(2)(j)).
Item 10.2	Confirmation of Confidential Minutes – Council Extraordinary meeting, 23 March 2022	The item contains information relating to commercial matters	To protect commercial information (s 7(2)(b)).
Item 10.3	Council quarries	The item contains information relating to commercial matters	To protect commercial information (s 7(2)(b)).
Item 10.4	West Coast Emergency Management update	The item contains information that is subject to an obligation of confidence	To protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence (s 7(2)(c)).

I also move that:

- Heather Mabin, Claire Brown and Randal Beal be permitted to remain at this meeting after the public has been excluded, because of their knowledge on these subjects. This knowledge will be of assistance in relation to the matter to be discussed; and
- The Minutes Clerk also be permitted to remain at the meeting.