



Whakatāne-Tauranga Rivers Scheme Advisory Group

**Wednesday 21 September 2022
10:00am**

Whakaari Room
Eastbay REAP
21 Pyne Street
Whakatāne

Whakatāne-Tauranga Rivers Scheme Advisory Group Meeting

Wednesday 21 September 2022 at 10am

Agenda

- 1 **Welcome**
- 2 **Apologies**
- 3 **Notes of previous meeting held 2 May 2022**
- 4 **Matters arising from previous meeting**
- 5 **Scheme annual report 2021-2022**
- 6 **Capital programme 2022-2023**
- 7 **Maintenance programme 2022-2023**
- 8 **Safeguarding Our Stopbanks project**
- 9 **Asset management planning**
- 10 **General business**
 - a. Gravel management report
 - b. General business report
 - c. Communications update - webpages demonstration
- 11 **Public forum**
- 12 **Meeting closure**

Notes of the Whakatāne-Tauranga Rivers Scheme Advisory Group meeting held at Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Whakatāne, on Monday 2 May 2022, commencing at 10am

Chair:	Councillor Bill Clark
Advisory Group:	Bernie Clark, Boots McNaught, Fraser McGougan, Geoff Mercer, Scottie McLeod, Patrick McGarvey, Andrew Iles (Whakatāne District Council)
BOPRC Councillors:	Councillor Toi Iiti
BOPRC Staff:	Chris Ingle (General Manager Integrated Catchments), Kirsty Brown (Rivers and Drainage Assets Manager), Karen Scheffer (acting Rivers and Drainage Asset Management Coordinator), Bruce Crabbe (Rivers and Drainage Operations Manager), Geoff Stone (Area Engineer), Paula Chapman (Contract Project Manager), Charley Harley (Team Leader Eastern Catchments), Kelly Sarjeant (Executive Assistant), Andy Dixon (Tax and Treasury Specialist)
Public:	Phil Wardale (Project Manager Whakatāne Boat Harbour), Lesley Immink (Whakatāne District Council Councillor), Paki Nikora (Rūātoki landowner)
Apologies:	Chairman Leeder, Brian Power, Mark Townsend (Engineering Manager)

1 Welcome

Councillor Clark welcomed everyone to the meeting. Paki Nikora opened with a karakia.

Councillor Clark reminded attendees of the purpose of the advisory group, noting that any concerns outside of the agenda could be covered at the end of the meeting.

2 Apologies

Apologies received as recorded above.

3 Notes of previous meeting held 15 September 2021

Resolved

That the Whakatāne-Tauranga Rivers Scheme Advisory Group:

Confirm the notes of the meeting held 15 September 2021 as a true and correct record.

**Clark/Iles
CARRIED**

4 Matters arising from previous meeting

Paula Chapman provided an update on both the risk assessment for the Waikirikiri Marae and the outstanding April 2017 flood damage repairs in the Rūātoki area. Paula advised that draft reports have been prepared on both matters and that feedback is currently being sought from Te Uru Taumatua. Once finalised these will be shared with the members.

Paki Nikora firstly gave an apology on behalf of Henare Rogers who was mandated by the Marae to attend this meeting but was unable to due to a bereavement. Mr Nikora then raised concerns of the flood impacts for landowners who have been losing their land to the river and asking for BOPRC plans to alleviate this since 2013. Paki queried what timeframes the council is working to.

Paula responded that a risk assessment for the Marae suggested a way forward, highlighting that it was important that all parties were onboard. In terms of implementation, works would commence with high priority sites (the Marae) and working through the outstanding sites, as time and resources allowed.

Patrick McGarvey commented that historically there has not been a whole river approach, noting that collaboration between landowners, hapū and Council is needed. He commented that he was confident they could work with Waikirikiri Marae.

Councillor Iti commented that iwi need to find a way to work together and with the wider community collectively, looking at the whole river catchment and the challenges like climate change.

5 Capital work programme

Paula Chapman spoke to the agenda report on behalf of Mark Townsend and delivered a presentation.

Key points:

- The two main components of Project Futureproof is the installation of seepage control and the upgrading of the floodwall foundations.
- Work will take place in four areas – Kakahoroa Drive (east), Quay Street (west), Quay Street (east) and the boat ramp carpark. Work is underway with design.
- The cost of work is \$10.3m over two years.
- Construction is programmed for February 2023 to June 2024.

The Chair sought the members endorsement for the Regional Council's decision to provide additional funding in the draft Annual Plan for this project. Motion of support passed by majority – contrary recorded for Boots McNaught.

Discussion:

Fraser McGougan commented that historically the river floods every four years and sheet piling is imperative due to this timing, noting that the project has been well socialised by Council and the importance to continue progress.

Councillor Clark queried the rates impact. Staff advised it would be 1.5% increase in rates.

Discussion followed on the fishing club area, with staff clarifying there is no floodwall raising or other works at the fishing club at this time, with seepage work being completed in the four areas mentioned above.

Lesley Immink introduced herself and commented on the mixed messaging from the recent meeting at the Whakatāne Fishing Club. Staff responded that work is only taking place at the four sites in bullet 2 above and the seepage control sites of Project Futureproof do not include the fishing club location.

ACTION: Boots McNaught queried seepage at WDC's McAlister Street Stormwater Pump Station and the flood protection bylaw requirements – Mark Townsend to contact Boots directly to discuss.

6 Maintenance work programme

Paula Chapman, Bruce Crabbe and Geoff Stone spoke to the report in the agenda pack and delivered a presentation.

Key points:

- Safeguarding our Stopbanks update:
 - Work is taking place where land use over time has encroached over legal boundaries onto public land, impacting on the integrity of the stopbank.
 - Work for the 17 properties within the first stage of the project now complete.
 - Examples of the nature and extent of encroachments were covered with before and after photos.
 - Letters and bylaws pamphlets have been sent out to additional landowners and has generated further interest.
 - Regional Council has been working alongside District Council.
 - Costs to date are within original estimates (efficiencies in working on properties in sequence as a tranche of work).
- Land use change - Ferry Road to Awatapu:
 - This area will be changed from grazing to 'cut and carry'.
 - Safety and access improvements have been made to the area.
 - Work is taking place to extend whitebait ponds and enhance areas for Inanga spawning and fish habitat. A recent survey showed many native fish species in the area.
- Kopeopeo-Orini Canal and Floodgate:
 - Increase in flushing to control weed and additional rock armour added for vulnerable spots.
 - The tidal inflow/outflow maintains good water quality and provides habitat and spawning opportunities for native fish.

Discussion:

Discussion followed on the stopbank remediation work and grass being the best cover for stopbanks; the future potential to develop more Inanga spawning habitat; standard water safety precautions near the river bank and whitebait ponds and potential uses for the mowed area of land for the community.

7 Changes to the way BOPRC collects its rates

Kirsty Brown spoke to the agenda report, with Andy Dixon providing a presentation on the topic.

Key points:

- From August 2022 the BOPRC will start collecting its own rates.
- It has been estimated that there will be a saving of \$6 million over 10 years by moving to self-collection.
- This will also enable Council to control remission and postponements available to ratepayers, penalty schedules and payments plans/direct debits to spread payments.

8 Finance report

Kirsty Brown spoke to the Finance Report and provided an overview of the scheme's revenue and expenditure for the six months ending 31 December 2021.

Key points:

- Operating expenditure was \$221,000 higher.
- Total capital revenue was \$278,000 lower.
- Capital expenditure was \$648,000 lower.
- Total reserves funds available as at 31 December 2021 was \$732,000.
- The loans closing balance was \$7,483m.
- The scheme's asset valuation as at 31 December 2021 was \$87 million.

9 Community group updates

Charles Harley advised that a funded position with Landcare Trust for three years has been approved. The position would be a catchment coordinator role, bringing together people to work on environmental projects.

10 Online survey feedback and current terms of reference review

Kirsty Brown spoke to her report and presentation.

Key points:

- 18 out of 34 members across forums responded to the survey. Five of the seven members of this group completed the survey.
- Improvements are being made based on survey results including:
 - Information sharing e.g. website notifications.
 - Addressing other concerns e.g. barriers to meeting attendance.
- A Council endorsed review of the advisory groups Terms of Reference (TOR) is underway. The purpose of the review is to ensure the groups remain appropriate and to consider how they might assist with achieving LTP strategic impacts areas of Partnership with Māori, Climate Change and Community Participation.
- A draft TOR will be circulated to advisory group members for comment.

11 General business**11.1 Gravel management report**

Paula Chapman took the report as read on behalf of Mark Townsend and commented that there has not been much change from previous report.

Questions/Discussion:

Fraser McGougan commented that the riverbeds are moving well, and that spraying of weeds is working to get shingle moving. He acknowledged the good management in his area.

11.2 General business report

Kirsty Brown spoke to the report provided in the agenda pack.

Key points:**Infrastructure Insurance**

Overview of the recent Aon and Tonkin & Taylor Ltd flood risk assessment. Findings confirmed that infrastructure insurance is currently the most cost-effective method for financing flood losses.

Grazing Licence Renewal

Staff are working towards renewing the currently 32 grazing licences which are due to expire June 2022. This scheme has 19 licences in place covering 135 hectares. These will be renewed for a further 9 years.

Review of the April 2017 Flood Repair Project

Christensen Consulting was engaged by Council to review the programme of flood repair work completed following the April 2017 flood event. Recommendations from this report suggest adopting 'room for the river' principles and using more nature based flood & erosion management measures.

ACTION: A copy of the final report to be circulated to advisory group members.

Questions/Discussion:

Fraser McGougan queried timeliness of repairs. Paula advised that doing repairs quickly was not necessarily a good thing with some of the low to medium priority sites eventually self-repairing. Paula noted that many positives and lessons had come out of the report.

Discussion continued around moving away from channelising rivers in the future, allowing the river more room to move naturally, and using soft engineering repairs where possible.

Andrew Iles commented on a previous presentation Mark Townsend made to the Whakatāne District Council some years ago. Mr Iles requested an update on the raising of stopbanks and suggested some clarification in next report of where this work is at.

ACTION: Mark Townsend to prepare update for next meeting.

11.3 Te Rāhui Herenga Waka (Whakatāne Harbour Project) Update

Phil Wardale spoke to his report and provided a presentation.

Key points:

- Overview of the consenting process including the use of the Covid-19 (Fast Tracking Consenting) Act, which allowed the project's consent application to be considered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- Detailed design now underway.
- Working with Department of Conservation to obtain concession to cross DOC land to enable connection with the river.

- Consent conditions will soon be available on EPA website.
- Keepa Road upgrade which includes widening and raising of various areas.

Questions/Discussion:

- Future dredging, channel depth, sedimentation and low tide manoeuvrability. It was noted that dredging does not work well in areas outside of the main flow. Ongoing dredging costs will be paid for by the entity.
- Members queried whether there would be an impact upstream. Phil responded that this had been taken into consideration and had little impact.
- Brian Power sought reassurance on the channel capacity of the Kopeopeo Canal.
ACTION: Response from staff required.

12 Public forum

Paki Nikora raised concerns about “allowing the river room to move” noting that this should not be at the cost of land loss.

Discussion followed around forming a committee together in the interests of Ōhinemataroa and that the owners and hapū of the upper reaches of the Whakatāne River being open to collaborating with other parties.

Councillor Clark thanked everyone for their input. Paki Nikora closed the meeting with a karakia.

Meeting closed at 1:00pm.

Action Sheet

Whakatāne-Tauranga Advisory Group Meeting

2 May 2022

Action	Person Responsible	Completed	Comment
1. Boots McNaught queried seepage at Whakatāne District Council's McAllister Street Stormwater Pump Station and the flood protection bylaw requirements. Mark Townsend to contact Boots directly.	Mark Townsend	✓	Mark spoke with Boots 29 July 2022
2. Circulate to members website link to Whakatāne Boat Harbour potential consent conditions from the Environmental Protection Agency.	Kirsty Brown	✓	Circulated 02/05/22 (refer A4089791)
3. Circulate to members a copy of the Christensen Consulting Ltd final report on the April 2017 Flood Repair programme.	Kirsty Brown	✓	Circulated 02/05/22 (refer A4089791)
4. Update on raising of Whakatāne stopbanks to be provided at September meeting.	Mark Townsend		Included in September meeting agenda
5. Brian Power sought reassurance on the channel capacity of the Kopeopeo Canal. Response from staff required.	Mark Townsend		Included in September meeting agenda

Whakatāne-Tauranga Rivers Scheme

Annual Report 2021-2022

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the Whakatāne-Tauranga Rivers Scheme operational and capital programmes and finances for 2021-2022

Maintenance programme

Maintenance works comprise activities that ensure the drainage and river flood protection networks are operational and providing the agreed level of service. These activities are programmed through the Rivers and Drainage Asset Management Plan considering asset lifecycle, and maintenance and inspection schedules.

The 2021-2022 Whakatāne-Tauranga maintenance programme was delivered generally on budget and to programme, except for the Safeguarding our Stopbanks project works that created over-budget expenditure. The attached status report summarises programme achievements to 30 June 2022.

Capital programme

The larger multi-year capital works projects are largely on track with some programme slippage in the Flood Repair Project and the Whakatāne Future Proof Project. The attached status report summarises programme achievements to 30 June 2022.

Financial overview 2021-2022

Attached is the Draft Statement of Revenue and Expense for the Whakatāne-Tauranga Rivers Scheme for the 12 months ended 30 June 2022 (draft until adopted by Council).

Key points:

- **Operating revenue** was on budget, with lower interest rates being off-set by higher revenue generated from grazing licenses.
- **Operating expenditure** was \$326,000 higher than budget, due to the Safeguarding our Stopbanks project work and higher than budgeted overheads.
- This resulted in an **operating deficit** of \$326,000
- **Capital revenue** was \$652,000 - \$1,026,000 lower than the budget of \$1,678,000, due to delays in receiving CIP funding for the Quay Street/Kakaharoa Drive seepage work
- **Capital expenditure** was \$1,522,000 - \$755,000 lower than budget of \$2,277,000, with the Flood Repair Project significantly under budget due to ongoing engagement with iwi and hapū.
- Total **reserve fund** opening balance of \$818,000 and closing balance of \$587,000 (decreased by \$231,000), with funds from both the asset replacement and works reserves being utilised
- **Loan** opening balance of \$8,141,000 and closing balance of \$8,502,000 (increased by \$361,000)
- **Asset valuation** as at 1 July 2021 of \$82.5 million

Whakatane-Tauranga Rivers Scheme

Status Report to June 2022

Key Highlights

Status Key

Completed first stage of Safeguarding our Stopbanks Project (50 Henderson Street to Ferry Road)
 Converted river berm lease area from grazing to 'cut and carry' hay to retire stock from the area - Awatapu to Ferry Road
 Completed Inanga spawning habitat enhancement work at Awatapu Lagoon outlet
 Completed flood modelling for the Eastern Drain stopbank upgrade project

Project is on track = Green
 Project has some issues = Amber
 Project has serious issues = Red

	Project	2021-2022 Milestones	Comments	Status
Maintenance Programme	<p>River Scheme Management and Maintenance - maintenance works comprise of activities that ensure the drainage and river flood protection networks are operational and providing the agreed level of service.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repairs to high priority defects identified through asset condition assessments. Inanga spawning area enhancement at Awatapu Lagoon outlet channel confluence with the Whakatane River. Repairs to nine annual flood damage sites (three on the Whakatane river and six on the Tauranga river). Safeguarding our Stopbanks project works within the Whakatane urban area to remove landowner encroachments and improve stopbank integrity. 	<p>The maintenance programme was delivered generally on budget and to programme, with the exception of Safeguarding our Stopbanks project works resulting in over-budget expenditure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stage 1 of the Safeguarding our Stopbanks project (SOS), 50 Henderson Street to Ferry Road, has been successfully completed. Various priority asset defect repairs have been carried out. Annual flood damage repairs completed at two Whakatane River sites and eight Tauranga River sites. The river berm lease area from Awatapu to Ferry Road has been converted to a 'cut and carry' hay operation to retire stock from that area. Inanga spawning habitat enhancement work completed at Awatapu Lagoon outlet Additional Inanga spawning ponds created at Ferry Road site as a result of fill material being needed for the SOS project. 	Green
	<p>April 2017 Flood Repair Project - 15 repair sites remain on the Whakatane River and these will be reassessed and completed by 30 June 2022.</p>	<p>Whakatane River flood repair sites completed by 30 June 2022.</p>	<p>At the request of iwi, no repair work was undertaken in 2021-2022. A drone survey, undertaken in January, informed which sites still require work and which sites have self healed. The survey was also useful in considering current river maintenance needs.</p> <p>Staff continue to work with local iwi, hapu and landowners to agree an approach to both flood repair and maintenance work.</p> <p><i>The April 2017 Flood Repair Project has been closed off and any remaining work (and funding) is being incorporated into the Rivers and Drainage Operations work programme.</i></p> <p>Revised Budget \$717,000 Actual Expenditure \$21,000</p>	Red

	Project	2021-2022 Milestones	Comments	Status
Capital Programme	Project Future Proof: Whakatāne Town Centre Flood Defence Upgrade (incorporating Whakatāne River Stopbanks (Stage 2) and Whakatāne Floodwalls) - programme of work to ensure river scheme assets within the Whakatāne town centre (from Kakaharoa Drive to the boat ramp) will continue to protect the community from flooding in coming decades.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation with iwi, stakeholders and the community on preferred options • Resource consent application • Detailed design 	Consultation is ongoing with key stakeholders. Concept design is underway by Beca Group Limited and is scheduled for completion in October 2022. <u>McAlister Stormwater pump station to Yacht Club section</u> - geotechnical investigations complete with analysis currently being undertaken. <u>Commercial Wharf section</u> - topographical survey completed in April 2022. Revised Budget \$1,509,000 Actual Expenditure \$1,083,000	Amber
	Whakatāne-Tauranga Culvert Renewals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete health and safety upgrade of the Kope-Orini floodgate • Complete replacement of the Fortune's Road pump station outlet floodgate • Undertake any culvert repairs as a result of tree removals associated with the Safeguarding our Stopbanks Project 	Health and safety upgrade at the Kope-Orini floodgate structure is in progress. Design is completed, however Contractor experiencing supply chain issues procuring winches needed from overseas. Fortune's Road pump station outlet floodgate replacement complete. Various culvert camera investigations undertaken in conjunction with tree removals as part of the Safeguarding our Stopbanks Project. No repairs or replacements have been required at this stage. In addition to listed milestones the following work has also been completed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ferry Road culvert upgraded and extended • Replacement of culvert through stopbank adjacent to Paroa Road (5.65km) Revised Budget \$51,000 Actual Expenditure \$84,000	Amber
	Eastern Drain Stopbank Upgrade - stopbanks have been identified as being of high risk of failure. Investigations in will determine the optimum stopbank location and design.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geotechnical investigations • Upgrade options • Concept design 	Flood modelling completed and geotechnical requirements are now being assessed.	Amber

Bay of Plenty Regional Council Toi Moana Statement of Revenue and Expense: Whakatane-Tauranga Rivers Scheme (Draft until adopted by Council)

For the 12 months ended 30 June 2022

Line	2021/22		Variance		Variance comments	2022/23
	Revised Budget	Actual	\$	Variance indicator		Budget
	\$000					\$000
Operating revenue by class						
1	General rates	189	189	0	-	208
2	Targeted rates	1,912	1,912	0	-	2,106
3	External interest income	22	3	(19)	Lower	33
4	Other revenue	61	80	19	Higher	65
6	Investment income	322	322	0	-	318
7	Total revenue	2,506	2,506	(0)	-	2,730
Operating expenditure by class						
8	Administration expenses	8	11	3	Higher	8
9	Other expenses	406	396	(10)	Lower	455
11	Contract work	542	721	179	Higher	518
12	Finance costs	171	161	(10)	Lower	293
13	Depreciation and asset disposal	272	276	4	Higher	275
	Subtotal - expenditure	1,399	1,565	166	Higher	1,549
14	Net overhead charges and recoveries	835	995	160	Higher	914
15	Total operating expenditure	2,234	2,560	326	Higher	2,464
16	Total operating surplus (deficit)	272	(54)	(326)	Unfavourable	267
Capital revenue by class						
17	Capital funding	1,678	652	(1,026)	Lower	0
	Total capital revenue	1,678	652	(1,026)	Lower	0
18	Total surplus (deficit)	1,950	598	(1,352)	Unfavourable	267

Bay of Plenty Regional Council Toi Moana Statement of Revenue and Expense: Whakatane-Tauranga Rivers Scheme (Draft until adopted by Council)

For the 12 months ended 30 June 2022

		2021/22		Variance		Variance comments	2022/23
	Revised Budget	Actual	\$	Variance indicator	Budget		
		\$000					\$000
Capital expenditure by project							
19	Whakatane Tauranga Flood Damage Repairs	717	21	(696)	Lower		595
20	Whakatane Tauranga culvert renewals	51	84	33	Higher	Patuwai Road culvert replacement completed	0
21	Whakatane River (modelling)	0	28	28	Higher		55
22	Whakatane River stopbanks (Stage 2)	1,024	327	(697)	Lower	Detailed design underway. Sheet piles procured. Engagement with WDC and Ngāti Awa continues.	5,489
23	Stopbank seepage	0	292	292	Higher		0
24	Canal modelling	0	0	0	-		55
25		0	0	0	-		656
26	Te Rahu Pumpstation	0	14	14	Higher	Works completed	0
27	Whakatane Floodwalls	485	756	271	Higher	Sheet pile material procurement	0
28	Total capital expenditure	2,277	1,522	755	Lower		6,850

		Opening Balance \$000	Movement \$000	Closing Balance \$000	
Reserves					
	Flood Damage Reserve	392	227	619	
	Asset Replacement Reserve	(506)	(234)	(740)	
	Works Reserve	932	(224)	708	
29	Total Reserves	818	(231)	587	Funds available
30	Internal Loans	8,141	361	8,502	
		1/07/2020 \$000	Movement \$000	1/07/2021 \$000	
31	Asset Revaluation	78,685	3,832	82,517	

Whakatāne-Tauranga Rivers Scheme Capital Programme 2022-2023

The following table outlines the Whakatāne-Tauranga Rivers Scheme capital programme for 2022-2023

Budget figures are from the Annual Plan 2022-2023.

Whakatāne-Tauranga Rivers Scheme Capital Budget for 2022-2023 is \$6,850,000

Project name and background	Budget Annual Plan 2022-2023	Milestones 2022-2023
<p>Whakatāne-Tauranga Flood Damage Repairs</p> <p>Several areas remain on the Whakatāne River where flood damage was identified in 2017. Some damaged areas have self-healed, and other areas may still require work to be undertaken.</p> <p>Staff continue to work with local iwi, hapū and landowners to agree on an approach to flood repair and maintenance work.</p>	\$595,000	Agree a plan with iwi/hapū for the management and maintenance of the Whakatāne River Scheme in Reach 4 (Ohotū Bridge to Rūātoki Valley Road deflector bank) by 30 June 2023
<p>Whakatāne Capacity Review – modelling</p> <p>The purpose of the capacity review is to assess current flood protection and determine whether upgrades are required to meet and maintain the agreed level of service.</p> <p>In 2019 the hydraulic modelling component of this work was put on hold while we worked with NIWA on a revised river rating. This has now been resolved and has seen a change in the peak flow rates for several floods.</p> <p>The focus in 2022-2023 is on hydraulic modelling of the Whakatāne River and canals (Te Rahu, Waioho, Kopeopeo and Orini)</p> <p><i>There is also budget for this project for further modelling in 2023-2024 and for construction in 2024-2025</i></p>	\$110,000	Complete hydraulic modelling by June 2023
<p>Eastern Drain Stopbank Upgrade</p> <p>The Eastern Drain stopbanks have been identified as being of high risk of failure. Flood modelling was completed in 2021-2022 and this year the focus is on geotechnical investigations to determine the optimum location and design of the stopbanks.</p>	\$656,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geotechnical investigations in September-October 2022 • Upgrade options in October-November 2022 • Concept design by March 2023

Project name and background	Budget Annual Plan 2022-2023	Milestones 2022-2023
<p>Project Future Proof - Whakatāne Town Centre flood defence upgrade</p> <p>Programme of work to ensure river scheme assets within Whakatāne town will continue to protect the community from flooding in coming decades. The work involves upgrades to stopbanks, floodwalls and stop-logs, and includes geotechnical seepage control measures. This project is being undertaken alongside Whakatāne District Council’s Town Revitalisation Project.</p> <p>The current focus of the project is on upgrading floodwalls, and remediating seepage issues, within Whakatāne town centre (from the Yacht Club, along Kakahoroa Drive and Quay Street, to the Muriwai Drive boat ramp carpark area).</p> <p><i>There is also budget for this project in 2023-2024</i></p> <p><i>The Quay Street/Kakahoroa Drive seepage remediation component of this work has attracted Central Government Climate Resilience Funding.</i></p> <p>For information and updates visit the Project Page or www.boprc.govt.nz/our-projects/whakatane-town-centre-flood-defence-upgrade</p>	<p>\$5,489,000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete concept design October 2022 • Ongoing consultation with iwi, stakeholders, and the community on preferred options to October 2022 • Detailed design scheduled for completion November 2022



Legend: Stopbank (yellow line) Floodwall (pink line)

Whakatāne-Tauranga Rivers Scheme

Maintenance Programme 2022-2023

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the Whakatāne-Tauranga Rivers Scheme maintenance work programme for 2022-2023

Maintenance programme

Maintenance works comprise activities that ensure the drainage and river flood protection networks are operational and providing the agreed level of service. These activities are programmed through the Rivers and Drainage Asset Management Plan, considering asset lifecycles, maintenance, and inspection schedules. Maintenance programme budgets are set during the Long Term Plan and Annual Plan processes.

Scheme maintenance work includes:

- pump stations - operation, inspections, and maintenance (Kope-Orini, Fortunes and Te Rahu pump stations)
- culverts and floodgates - inspections and maintenance
- stopbanks - inspections, maintenance, repairs, pest control
- river maintenance - pest plant control, vegetation maintenance, gravel beach shaping and overflow depressions, and habitat enhancement
- erosion control - rock refurbishment, edge planting, trenched willows, willow maintenance
- annual flood damage repairs
- repairs to defects identified through asset condition inspections and assessment

Key projects in 2022-2023:

- Safeguarding our Stopbanks Stage Two (20 properties from 48 Henderson Street to 80 Landing Road and 2-6 Mananui Crescent) – work includes remediation of structures, trees and vegetation on public land that could affect the integrity of community flood protection stopbanks and floodwalls.
- Repairing priority defects identified through asset condition assessments – three priority sites on the Whakatāne River currently identified.
- Repairs to 14 annual flood damage sites – eight on Whakatāne River and six on Tauranga River.
- Upgrade of the Kope-Orini floodgate opening gantry.
- Focus on pest plant control e.g. combating the proliferation of pampas in the river floodway.
- Gravel beach maintenance and overflow depressions to keep the gravel mobile and avoid constriction of the river floodway. Where possible using softer engineering options and applying a ‘room for the river’ corridor for decision making on repair priorities.
- Working collaboratively with iwi and hapū on maintenance work, flood repairs and enhancement projects.
- Orini Canal erosion repairs, upstream of the Kope-Orini floodgate. At one site edge planting with a sedge species (*Bolboschoenus*) is being trialled as an alternative to rock. The Kope-Orini floodgates are regularly held open to refresh water quality and control aquatic weed within the Orini and Kopeopeo waterways. The sedge species being trialled are salt-tolerant and will hopefully alleviate the need for rock edge protection works. Note the juvenile plants on the left side of the photo below.



Maintenance programme budget 2022-2023

A budget summary table for the Whakatāne-Tauranga Rivers Scheme maintenance programme is shown below, followed by a more detailed breakdown of the programme with estimated costs of proposed works. The annual budget figures include operational costs only and exclude non-operational costs (e.g. debt servicing and infrastructural asset insurance).

Whakatāne-Tauranga Rivers Scheme Maintenance Programme Budget 2022-2023	
Annual Maintenance	\$779,100
Annual Flood Damage	\$213,000
TOTAL	\$992,100

Winter 2022 – how wet is wet?

The Bay of Plenty has had a wet first two months of the winter season, but just how wet has it been and is it unusual?

At the start winter (June 2022) rainfall across the Bay of Plenty were near average for the year, now at the end of July rainfalls are between 10-50% above normal with both June and July showing above normal monthly rainfalls in response to the frequent bands of rain passing over the region.

July was notable for seeing more than double its normal recorded rainfall for the month across the region, with Edgecumbe being notable for have nearly three times its norm. Rainfall totals for the month are July are provided in Figure 1.

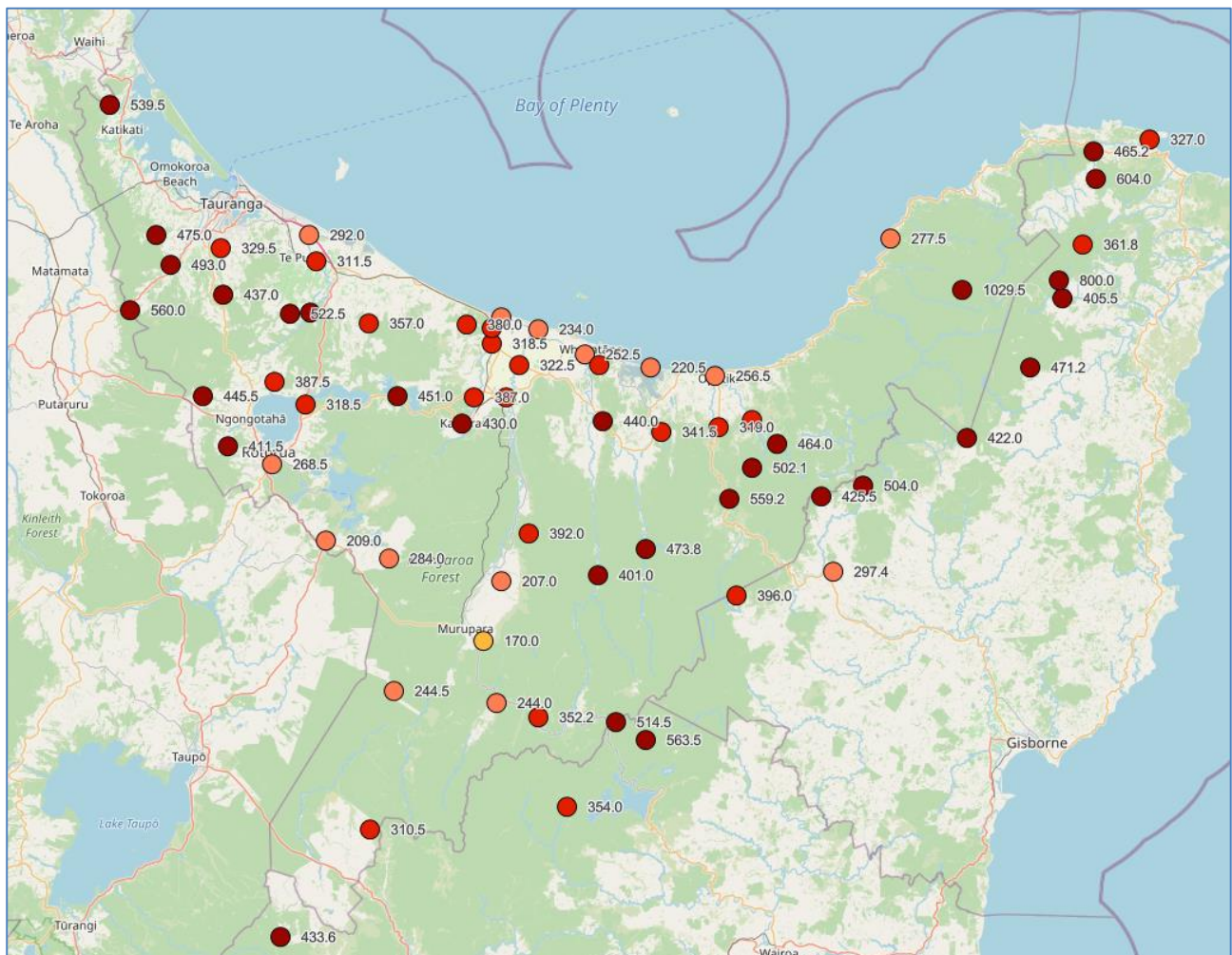


Figure 1: July 2022 rainfall totals (mm)

To provide context of how wet it has been we can compare the previous three-monthly rainfall totals against the last 30 years for the same period and measure its deviation from normal, Figure 2. The general observation is that it has been extremely wet for the region from the lower Rangitāiki Plains westward and very wet for the remainder of the region. The last time these sorts of levels were seen was in the winter of 2017, Figure 3.

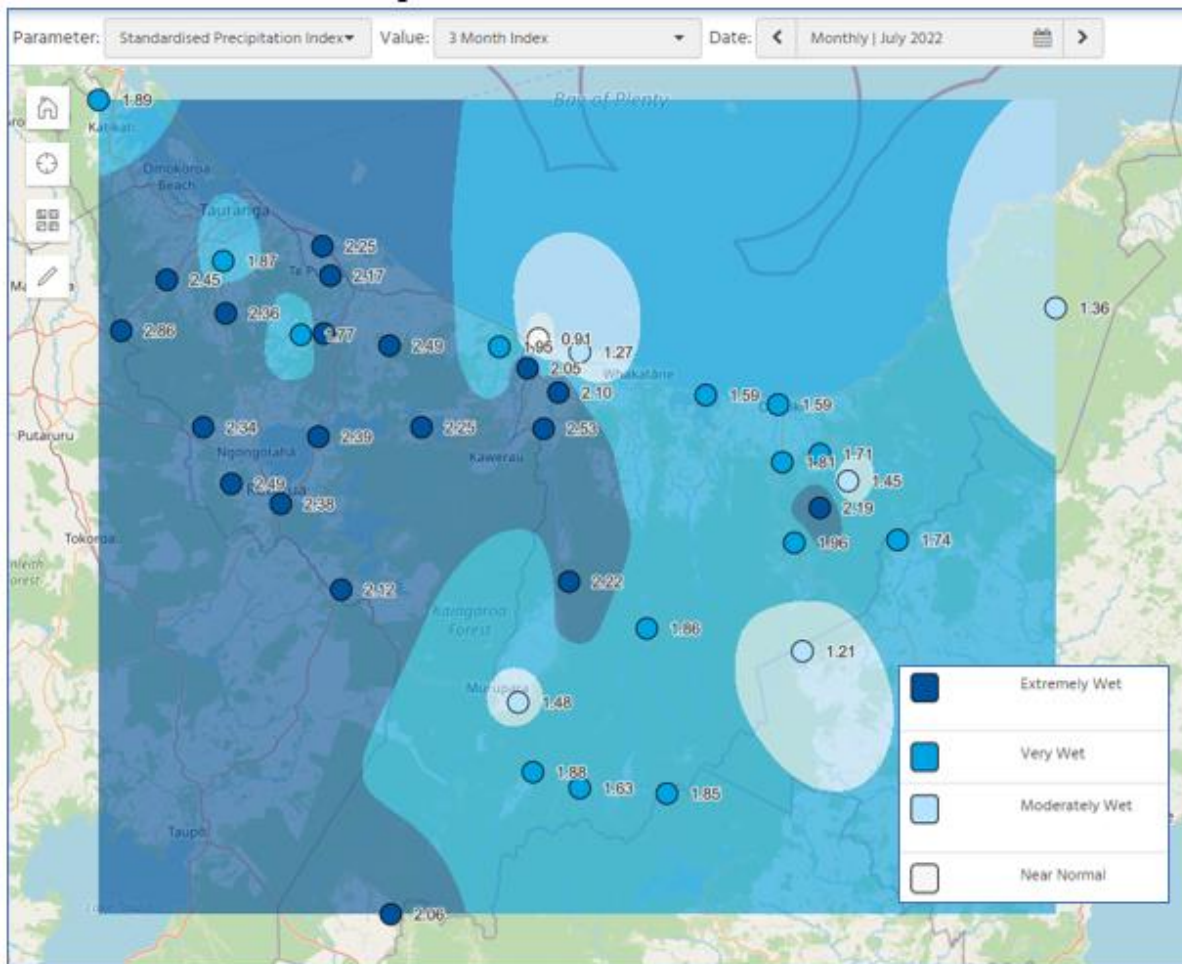


Figure 2: 3-month rainfall deviation from normal

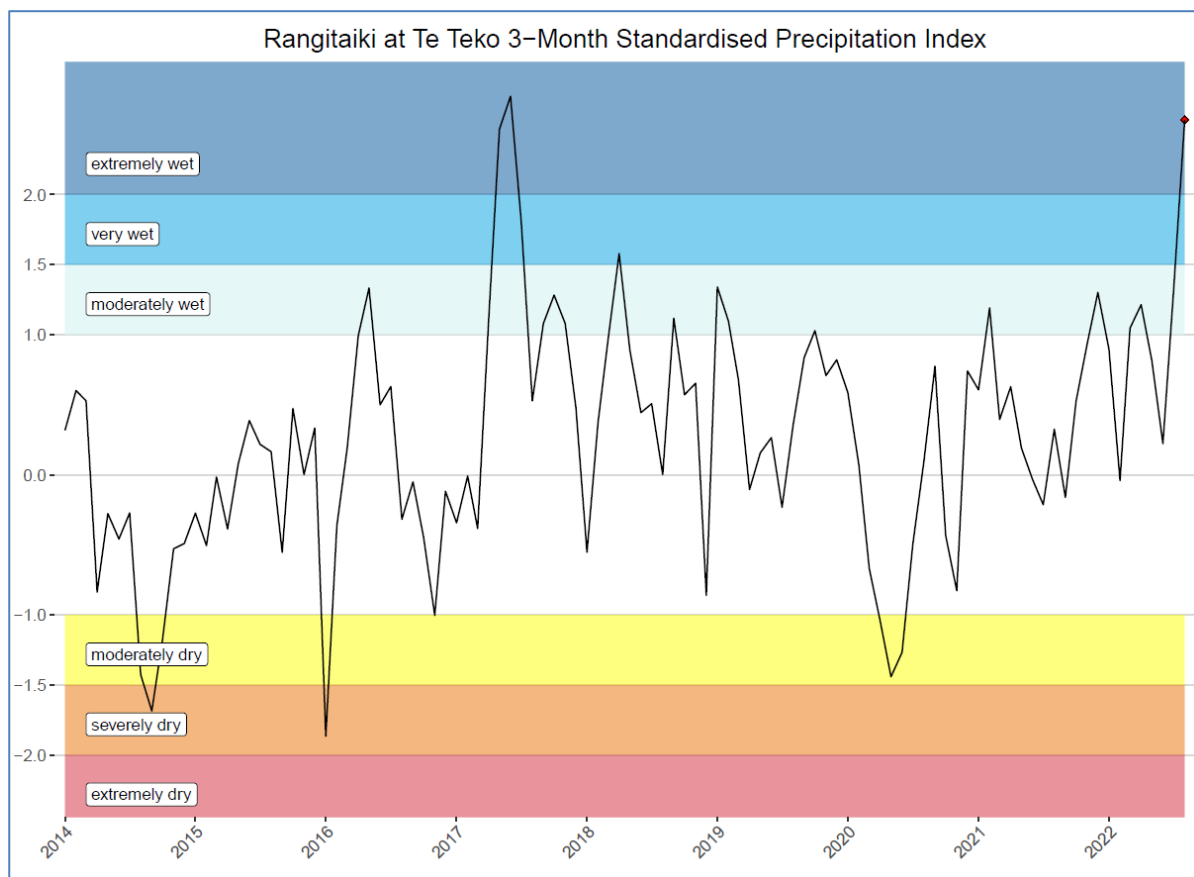


Figure 3: Rangitaiki at Te Teko historical rainfall deviations from normal

Suffice to say, teams within Bay of Plenty Regional Council have been flat out for weeks issuing flood management alerts and attending to drainage and pumping networks including running additional mobile pumps where extra is needed. There is also a lot of riverbank erosion becoming evident in many of the rivers we manage as the river levels have been elevated for weeks. Frequently, repair works are also not possible straight away as ground conditions are usually too wet and soft for heavy machinery to access sites.

We should all be aware that soil moisture levels are high and any significant rain in the coming months may result in an increased chance of resulting flooding in surface areas and rivers.

Whakatāne-Tauranga Rivers Scheme - Summary Maintenance Programme 2022-2023

30/08/2022

Objective ID: A4126816

	Work Type	Site	Location	Annual Budget	Job Estimate	Comment/Status
1	General					
2	Annual Flood Damage Repairs			\$213,000		
4	Tauranga River					
5	Bank erosion slumping repair	B Clark	RB 14.5km		\$20,000	Completed
6	Repair trenched willow	B Clark	RB 12.8km		\$10,000	Completed
7	Layering & trenched willow repairs	L Dunstan	LB 6.2km		\$12,000	Completed
8	Raroa Stream near confluence below bridge	Maandonks	RB 0.2km		\$6,000	Completed
9	Batter & install trenched willows	Wallace and Osbourne	LB 18.8km		\$15,000	
10	Repair trenched willows	Savages	RB 21.8km		\$8,000	
11	Whakatāne River					
12	Upstream Awatapu Outlet - batter rock & planting	R MacGregor Lease	RB 7.1km		\$20,000	
13	Orini Stream stopbank - rotten rock and planting	U/s Orini-Kope confluence	LB 0-2.2km		\$30,000	Completed
14	Orini stream stopbank - rock replenishment	U/s Kope-Orini floodgate	RB 0- 01km		\$12,000	
15	Trenched willows, batter and pole plant	R Lyford's	RB 26.9km		\$35,000	
16	Ōwhakatoro Stream, Foster Road	Foster Road bridge	RB/LB 12.2km		\$6,000	Completed
17	Rūātoki water intake - Trenched willow & groynes		LB38.3-38.5km		-	On hold
18	Batter and plant willows	C Peats	RB 18.8km		\$6,000	
19	Batter and plant willows	Regan Studer	LB 17.9km		\$3,000	
20	Batter and install trenched willows	C Peats	RB 15km		\$6,000	
21	Layering & trenched willows	Black's	LB 31.8km		-	On hold
22		Subtotal Annual Flood Repairs			\$189,000	
23	Fly tipping and rubbish collection/disposal	All sites		\$8,500	\$4,000	
24						
25	Pest Control	All sites		\$8,500	\$4,000	
26						
27		Subtotal		\$230,000	\$197,000	
28						
29	Whakatāne River					
30	Condition Assessment Defect Repairs					
31	SOS Project, Stage 2	Rowing Club to Henderson St	RB 4.3- 4.8km		\$250,000	Subject to separate Council approval
32	Remove stumps, tree and structures	WDC Camp Ground	RB 2.4 to 3km		\$30,000	
33	Remove Norfolk pine	Eivers road	3km		\$10,000	
34	Remove shelter belt & misc repairs	191 Rewatu Road	LB 9.6 to 9.7km		\$50,000	lower priority
35		Subtotal Defect Repairs			\$340,000	

	Work Type	Site	Location	Annual Budget	Job Estimate	Comment/Status
35						
36	Whakatāne River					
37	Mouth to Lime works	Drain/Canal/Tributary Maintenance				
38	including Tributaries	Desilting & Deweeding		\$63,200		
39		Deweeding & desilting at various locations			\$37,000	
41		River Channel Weed Spraying		\$21,100		
42		Various locations (all reaches)			\$31,000	
44		Tree clearing, mulching, layering & planting		\$131,900		
45		Various locations (all reaches)			\$129,000	
48		Rock maintenance & replenishment		\$126,800		
49		Various locations (all reaches)			\$33,000	
51		Fencing		\$2,200		
52		Various locations (all reaches)			\$7,000	
54		Beach shaping/ripping & overflow depressions		\$53,300		
55		Various locations			\$38,000	
57	Stopbanks	Stopbank maintenance including mowing		\$27,100		
58		Various locations			\$46,000	Includes mowing and toe-loading
60	Floodgates: Includes	Multiple structure inspections & maintenance		\$39,400		
61	Orini, Te Rahu,	Various repairs and maintenance			\$33,000	
62	minor floodgates &	Stoplog upgrades (Te Rahu & Waioho Canals)			\$40,000	
63	Kope Sluice-gate.	Houston's (C Peats) culvert replacement			\$30,000	
64		Replace Red Devon floodgate headwall			\$10,000	
65			Subtotal		\$113,000	
67	Floodwalls	Misc. maint, sealant replacement & weed control	Multiple locations		\$9,000	
68						
69	Pump Stations:	Multiple pump stations inspections, weed clearing & maintenance		\$37,100	\$33,200	
70	(Kope-Orini,	Electricity		\$51,100	\$80,000	Extremely wet period
71	Fortunes &		Subtotal		\$113,200	
72	Te Rahu stations)					
73		Emergency pumping		\$11,600	\$11,600	
74						
75	Containment Sites	Misc. maintenance, mowing	Keapa Road and SH 30		\$8,000	
77			Subtotal - Whakatāne River	\$564,800	\$575,800	

	Work Type	Site	Location	Annual Budget	Job Estimate	Comment/Status
79	Tauranga River					
80	Confluence to	Channel & river bank weed spraying		\$15,400	\$25,000	
81	Barsdell's (30km)					
82		Tree clearing/mulching/layering		\$39,600	\$4,000	
84		Planting		\$20,500	\$4,000	
86		Rock replenishment		\$39,600		
87		K Clark's & Rakuraku's			\$65,000	
89	Fencing	Various Sites		\$1,600	\$5,000	
91	Beach shaping/ripping & overflow depressions			\$80,600		
92	Ripping	Beach Ripping-Various	RB and LB		\$34,000	
94		Subtotal - Tauranga River		\$197,300	\$137,000	
95						
96	Maintenance Works Only			\$779,100	\$720,800	
97	Annual Flood Repairs			\$213,000	\$189,000	
98	Overall Totals			\$992,100	\$909,800	
100	Total Asset Defect Repairs			-	\$340,000	Subject to separate Council funding approval

MEETING REPORT



To: Whakatāne-Tauranga Rivers Scheme
Advisory Group - 21 September 2022
meeting

Author: Paula Chapman, Project Manager

Date: 2 September 2022

Subject: Safeguarding our Stopbanks Update

1. Safeguarding Our Stopbanks Project - Background

A project titled 'Safeguarding our Stopbanks' started last financial year. The purpose of the project is to maintain community safety by resolving situations where encroaching land use may have affected the integrity of flood protection assets.

Over time residents have established vegetation, landscaping and fencing on public land and in many cases onto the adjoining stopbank batter and crest. The encroachments on the Whakatāne River were identified as a risk to the stopbank as far back as 2007 and were highlighted in the 2019 Asset Performance Assessment work as high risk.

The work is needed to ensure community flood protection assets (stopbank and floodwall) can be maintained in the future and to remediate potentially defective areas caused by the encroachments.

Preparatory work for the project focused on:

- Legal and policy basis for Regional Council to undertake the project.
- Rights of property owners (building legislation, existing use rights, and boundary and fencing regulations, structural vs non-structural improvements).
- Ability for Regional Council to potentially undertake works on private property (should there be high-risk situations that owners will not/cannot resolve).
- Liaison with Local Authorities to align communications and community engagement.

2. Whakatāne River - Stage One

Stage One of the project on the Whakatāne River stopbank land has been completed. This involved 17 properties and encroachments on and into the stopbank on Whakatāne District Council land in the area 50 Henderson Street through to 9 Ferry Road.

For the most part residents and property owners were very understanding of the need to remediate the stopbank asset to support community flood protection, and relationships were positive.

The work to date has reinforced the need for the project with numerous concerning encroachments being removed from the stopbank batter and toe, some of which were not obvious until work was underway.

In this first stage of work Whakatāne District Council contributed to the fencing and green waste removal costs.

3. Whakatāne River – Stage Two

Stage Two of the project is currently underway. This involves 20 properties in the area 48 Henderson Street through to 80 Landing Road and 2-6 Mananui Crescent, Whakatāne.

Physical works will be undertaken in two phases starting in October. The first section involves the stopbank area and the second the floodwall section.

Again, on the whole residents and property owners are well aware of the land ownership and the need to remediate the stopbank asset to support community flood protection. Some residents have had private use of the public land for many years and are apprehensive about the change.



Stage Two example of the stopbank on Council land where one property owner has a number of encroachments, and the other has minimal



Stage Two example of encroachments on the stopbank crest and batter (council land)

4. Whakatāne River - Stages Three and Four

Stages Three and Four of the project involves the stopbank behind Riverside Drive and this work is scheduled for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 construction seasons. Geotechnical soil sampling work is programmed for this summer to inform these future stages.

5. Riverside Drive Residents Group

A number of Riverside Drive residents have formed a lobby group and are resistant to the work proposed. Their concerns are broad (property values, cycleways, future maintenance, loss of trees, consistency) and include the impact of the Flood Protection and Drainage Bylaws 2020. Staff are working with the group to provide as much information and certainty as possible.

MEETING REPORT



To: Whakatāne-Tauranga Rivers Scheme
Advisory Group - 21 September 2022
meeting

Author(s): Kirsty Brown, Rivers and Drainage
Assets Manager

Bruce Crabbe, Rivers and Drainage
Operations Manager

Date: 1 September 2022

Subject: Asset Management Planning - 'Room for the River' Approach

The purpose of this report is to highlight the changing landscaping we are facing and what that will mean for our future asset management planning and service delivery.

One of the central themes for our next Long Term Plan and Asset Management Plan reviews will be supporting our communities to be more sustainable and resilient now and into the future, not just environmentally but also socially, culturally, and economically.

This will require a shift in our thinking, particularly for ongoing and future flood and erosion works, on both rural and urban land, to enable river catchments to behave more naturally with less frequent interventions. This will change the way river works are managed with a focus on maximising natural river processes while continuing to provide service levels e.g. providing more room for the river and using natural and nature-based flood management solutions.

We are also entering a time of change with several Central Government policy reforms, such as the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management which will re-set how planning for our freshwater resources occurs. Regional Council is also continuing to look at how it delivers its services, particularly around working with iwi and hapū. Responding to this challenge is one of Council's priority impact areas.

Separate investigations¹ have been carried out by external River Engineers relatively recently. Both have recommended that the rivers are too confined and a 'room for the river' approach is needed for the rivers to adapt to the frequency of flooding that is currently occurring and forecast to continue with climate change predictions. Gary Williams (Waterscape) produced a 'river corridor' proposal for the upper Whakatāne, Waioeka and Otara Rivers (refer aerial photos below for upper Whakatāne River corridors). This corridor could guide staff when deciding when and where erosion repair works may take place in the future.

Discussions are underway with members of the Rūātoki Tribal Committee at present to explore their aspirations for ongoing health and management of the river.

¹ 2019 Gary Williams (Waterscape) and 2022 Kyle Christensen. Available on request.

Whakatāne River – Waikirikiri area (Gary Williams proposed river corridor):



Whakatāne River – Rūātoki area (Gary Williams proposed river corridor):



MEETING REPORT



To: Whakatāne-Tauranga Rivers Scheme
Advisory Group - 21 September 2022
meeting

Author: Mark Townsend, Engineering Manager

Date: 2 September 2022

Subject: Gravel Management Update

1 Tauranga River Extractions 2018-2022

Year	Site	Allocation (m ³)	Extraction (m ³)
2018-19	Brown's Pit (XS 28-29)	24,500	23,890
2019-20	Chase Takao	15,838	6,260
2020-21	Wardlaw's Reach 6	2,500	2,513
2021-22	Wardlaw's Reach 6	3,000	2,725
2021-22	Brown's Lower beach	7,500	
2021-22	Brown's Upper beach	3,000	848
2021-22	Wardlaw's Lower Beach	3,000	

The average gravel supply rate into the Tauranga River is estimated to be 20,000m³ per year. While this indicates extraction is generally sustainable, extraction is purposefully directed towards specific locations or reaches where it is considered to be beneficial to the river system.

2 Whakatāne River Extractions 2018-2022

There have been no extractions from the Whakatāne River since 2018 in keeping with decisions in to limit extractions due to declining bed levels in the top section of the reach above Ohotū Bridge. When bed levels are too low, banks are high and have to take the full force of the flow during a flood which means banks can erode and protection works are undermined.

The most recent Natural Environmental Regional Monitoring Network (NERMN) Report 2011-2018 published last year recommends the following:

"An annual extraction quantity of up to 30,000 m³/year be undertaken within the reach from Pekatahi Bridge to Ohotū Bridge (XS47), but extraction should be limited to locations where mean annual bed levels exceed the guideline envelope."

"Due to bed level degradation, extractions in the section of reach between Ohotū Bridge and Limeworks (XS47 to XS57) should be available only where works are for river management purposes and will generally be in conjunction with other river management operations."

Land access issues have also influenced potential extractions with concerns from both iwi and hapū about extraction activity in the Whakatāne River.

3 **Consents**

The Central Freight Lines Ltd (CFL) consent to extract 20,000m³ per annum from defined locations on the Whakatāne River is currently on hold at the request of the applicant.

MEETING REPORT



To: Whakatāne-Tauranga Rivers Scheme
Advisory Group - 21 September 2022
meeting

Author: Kirsty Brown, Rivers and Drainage
Assets Manager

Date: 6 September 2022

Subject: General Business Report

1. River Scheme Advisory Groups Terms of Reference Review

As advised at our last group meeting, a review of the 2016 Terms of Reference (TOR) for our four river schemes advisory groups has been underway. The main purpose of this review is to confirm that the purpose of the advisory groups remains appropriate and to consider how the group might assist in achieving our Long Term Plan strategic impact areas: Partnerships with Māori, Climate Change and Community Participation. The review has also supported addressing concerns raised in the 2021 online survey, e.g. barriers to meeting attendance.

A copy of the draft TOR (attached) was circulated via email on 19 July 2022 with the option of providing feedback prior to the September round of group meetings. The main enhancements include:

- A clause that provides an opportunity for members to be reimbursed for time or mileage if they are required to travel or take time off work to attend meetings.
- The inclusion of the following four guiding principles to support the work of the advisory groups:

- **Adapting to our changing climate**

The Bay of Plenty's climate is changing, and these changes will continue for the foreseeable future. Adaptation is essential to ensure our River Schemes remain sustainable and resilient in the long term. The work of the Advisory Groups helps to manage the effects of changing climate.

- **Working effectively with Māori to deliver outcomes for the region**

Implementing the principles of the Te Tiriti o Waitangi (The Treaty of Waitangi) collaboration and partnership will guide the work of the Advisory Groups. The Council has an opportunity to work effectively with Māori by establishing appropriate Māori participation through Advisory Groups. Hearing Māori perspectives and the inclusion of cultural values (such as Mātauranga Māori) will ensure river management and flood protection solutions remain consistent with community expectations. Diversity within the River Advisory Groups is encouraged and supported as it reflects the diversity in our wider community.

- **Community participation**

Members will assist with the sharing of scheme information to ratepayers and residents and promote opportunities for participation and collaboration.

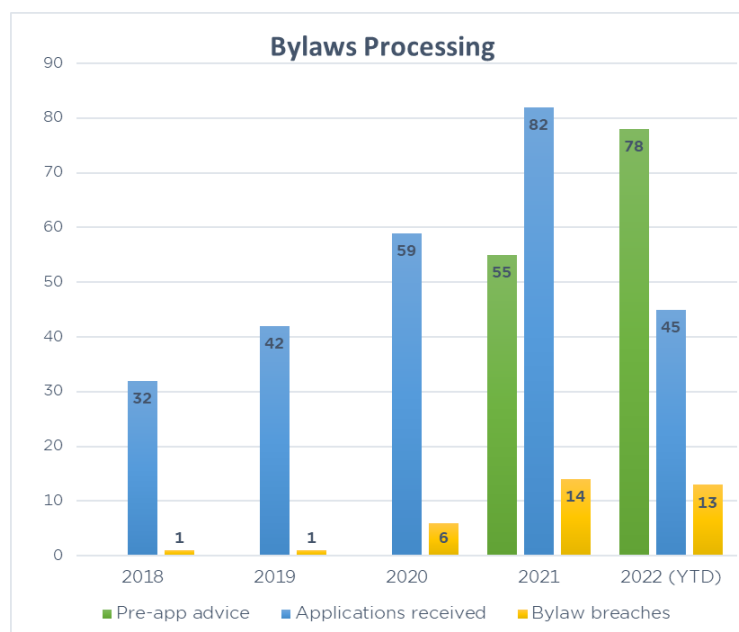
- **Sympathy with natural processes**

Evolving best practice in river engineering and management in New Zealand is being shaped by the 'Making Room for the River' philosophy. This approach tends to a more natural and less engineered/confined river system, to improve overall river and ecological health.

2. Flood Protection and Drainage Bylaws 2020 Update

The Flood Protection and Drainage Bylaws 2020 regulates and safeguards Council's flood protection and drainage assets from damage and misuse. Following is an update on some of the key activities and performance implementing the Bylaws since its last review in 2020 and becoming operative 1 February 2021.

- Resourcing: the LTP 2021-31 provided for a FTE position to lead and facilitate Bylaws implementation. Recruitment for this role took over 12 months with Kylie Hendl-Cox joining the RAD Assets team in May this year as the Assets Engineer (Bylaws).
- Education: a number of initiatives have been implemented to raised awareness of the Bylaws including explainer videos, online interactive map and information flyers.
- Bylaw Authority Processing and Bylaw Breaches: the below graph provides an overview of the pre-application information requests, Bylaw authority applications received; and Bylaw breaches investigated from 2018 to August 2022.



- Ploughing: development of ploughing rules was identified under the Bylaws as a programme of work that would be staged over several years. The first step is to research ploughing techniques and run seepage modelling.
- Iwi/Hapū Bylaws Authority Management Plans: based on a prioritised risk rating, staff are currently engaging with 10 hapū who exercise traditional cultural practice or manage waahi tapu in the bylaw applicable areas.

3. Condition and Performance Assessments

Our Rivers and Drainage Asset Management Plan sets out a programme of condition and performance assessments for our flood protection and drainage infrastructure assets. The next round of assessments are due to commence this financial year.

Asset condition is a measure of the physical state of an asset which is visually assessed by staff/contractors and graded from 1 (very good) to 5 (very poor). The below table summarise the condition rating results for 2020-2021 for Council's Whakatane stopbank network. For stopbanks, the 'count' is each 100-metre inspection point and for culverts/floodgates the 'count' is the actual asset. Data collected during the field assessment provides information for maintenance programmes and renewal proprieties.

Year	2020/21
Asset Condition Rating Scores	%
1 - very good	35.8
2 - good	43.6
3 - moderate	16.7
4 - poor	3.5
5 - very poor	0.4
Total	100.0

While condition assessment looks at the physical state of an asset, performance assessment is a 'whole picture' analysis by assessing required service levels, asset condition, intrinsic strength, capacity, geology, and the potential risks to communities.

These assessments use the performance assessment framework and tool developed for the NZ River Managers Special Interest Group and produce a risk profile for each river's assets segmented, from 1 (very low) to 5 (very high).

4. Local Elections 2022

Local Government elections are being held this year for the Regional Council's 14 councillor roles. Postal voting opens on 16 September and closes Saturday, 8 October 2022. For more information on the local elections, please visit: <https://www.boprc.govt.nz/your-council/council-and-region/representation-and-elections>

For your information, Councillor Clark is not seeking re-election. Bill has been a key member of the advisory groups for several years, and we would like to thank him for his invaluable service to us and our communities over the years.

Rivers Scheme Advisory Group Terms of Reference 2022

For Kaituna Catchment Control Scheme, Waioeka-Otara Rivers Scheme, Whakatāne-Tauranga (formerly Waimana) Rivers Scheme, and Rangitāiki-Tarawera Rivers Scheme.

1.0 Purpose of the River Scheme Advisory Groups

- To connect regularly with those communities that benefit from and contribute to the work the Regional Council delivers to maintain and improve our river schemes.
- To enable discussion on the Regional Council's rivers and drainage work programmes and levels of service; and
- To discuss how we might adjust current practices, where necessary, to support sustainable river scheme management.

2.0 Guiding Principles

The following principles will guide the work of the Advisory Groups:

- **Adapting to our changing climate**

The Bay of Plenty's climate is changing, and these changes will continue for the foreseeable future. Adaptation is essential to ensure our River Schemes remain sustainable and resilient in the long term. The work of the Advisory Groups helps to manage the effects of changing climate.

- **Working effectively with Māori to deliver outcomes for the region**

Implementing the principles of the Te Tiriti o Waitangi (The Treaty of Waitangi) collaboration and partnership will guide the work of the Advisory Groups. The Council has an opportunity to work effectively with Māori by establishing appropriate Māori participation through Advisory Groups. Hearing Māori perspectives and the inclusion of cultural values (such as Mātauranga Māori) will ensure river management and flood protection solutions remain consistent with community expectations. Diversity within the River Advisory Groups is encouraged and supported as it reflects the diversity in our wider community.

- **Community Participation**

Members will assist with the sharing of scheme information to ratepayers and residents and promote opportunities for participation and collaboration.

- **Sympathy with Natural processes**

Evolving best practice in river engineering and management in New Zealand is being shaped by the “Making Room for the River” philosophy. This approach tends to a more natural and less engineered/confined river system, to improve overall river and ecological health.

3.0 Scope of activity

The role of the Advisory Group is as follows:

- To be a local contact on rivers and drainage issues.
- To share information to and from river scheme communities, stakeholders and tangata whenua.
- To act as a voice for the community to inform the planning and delivery of scheme works.
- Provide community views and input into key Rivers and Drainage management plans and strategies.
- Provide a feedback forum for Council on Rivers and Drainage proposals, projects and changes.
- To make recommendations on scheme management and operations including:
 - Capital and maintenance work
 - Proposed annual work programmes and budgets
 - Floodplain Management Strategies, and
 - Integrated and collaborative management opportunities.

4.0 Status

Local input and advice from Advisory Groups is essential for effective scheme management and is highly regarded by Council. While the Advisory Groups have no statutory basis or delegated functions of Council, they can make recommendations on Council matters.

5.0 Membership

The number and structure of members is intended to achieve a broad representation of the community covering the geographical extent of the Scheme, tangata whenua and various rating categories. The Council may appoint additional members to best meet the needs of the scheme. *(Each scheme-specific ToR will have its Membership Schedule inserted here from the Membership Schedule below).*

6.0 Appointment and term of service

Members will be appointed for a period of three years with a maximum term of six years. If an Advisory Group does not achieve its desired number of members, existing members who have exceeded their appointment period may continue for a further three-year term(s) by appointment.

Group membership consists of tangata whenua, territorial authorities, and targeted rate payers. Ratepayer representatives must be a targeted ratepayer in the Scheme to be eligible for nomination.

Ratepayer representatives are determined by the Council following a public consultation process.

Council may appoint members representing special interests within the Scheme.

An elected member of the Regional Council will be the Chairperson.

Members who are unable to complete their three-year term may be replaced by either Council or the authority they represented.

7.0 Meeting frequency and operation

There will generally be two meetings held per year in March and September called by the Chairperson or delegate.

Meeting agendas will be compiled by managers and staff who will also service the meeting.

Council will assist with personal expenses incurred in meeting attendance, in keeping with Council's Expenses and Allowances Policy. Claims in this regard are voluntary.

8.0 Conflict of interest

Members are required to bring to the attention of the Chairperson any conflict of interest or potential conflict they may have with any item on the agenda.

If a member is deemed to have a real or perceived conflict of interest in a matter that is being considered at a meeting, he/she will be excused from discussions and deliberations on the issue where a conflict of interest exists OR must not be present for consideration of that matter.

9.0 Confidentiality

During the business of the Advisory Group, a member will, from time to time, be privy to confidential information. Any confidential information is protected and should not be disclosed until a resolution of the Advisory Group to release the information has been made.

10.0 Communication and reporting

The line of communication between Council and the Advisory Group will generally be through the Regional Council General Manager and the Advisory Group Chairperson.

Issues or recommendations arising from Advisory Group meetings will either be addressed by Scheme Managers or referred to the Council.

Information updates to Members will be circulated by email.

Information updates to scheme ratepayers will be made available via media releases, information posted on the Council web site and/or by email.

Rangitāiki Drainage Scheme [insert only in Rangitāiki-Tarawera and Whakatāne-Tauranga TORs]

The Rangitāiki Drainage Scheme that is managed by BOPRC has a significantly smaller operational area and annual budget than the four major river schemes. For efficiency reasons the significant matters of interest relating to the Rangitāiki Drainage Scheme will be discussed and considered through the Whakatāne-Tauranga and Rangitāiki-Tarawera Rivers Scheme Advisory Group meetings. Matters specifically relating to the Rangitāiki Drainage Scheme will be discussed with “Rangitāiki Plains” representatives of the Whakatāne-Tauranga and Rangitāiki-Tarawera Rivers Scheme Advisory Groups.

11.0 Terms of Reference review

The Council may review this Terms of Reference at any time if it considers circumstances or its community collaboration processes have changed. Prior consultation with the Advisory Group members will occur if a review is being considered.