



Safeguarding our Stopbanks



SEPTEMBER 2023

PROJECT UPDATE #6

Welcome to spring and the official start of our construction season. This means the return of our regular SOS newsletter and, as we prepare to start Stage 3, we're returning to our six-weekly distribution.

This issue outlines some of the work that's due to begin and minor 'finishing' work that needs to be done to complete Stage 2. We've also included a reminder on bylaw property maps and the next Community Reference Group meeting.

If you'd like to have a chat about the project or have any questions about this update, you are welcome to contact us by email at riversanddrains@boprc.govt.nz or phone **0800 884 880**.

The Safeguarding our Stopbanks project team

A quick recap on why this work is happening

Stopbanks are only as strong as their weakest link and are vulnerable to damage from inappropriate use, vegetation or structures that shouldn't be there.

Over the years structures, trees and gardens have been established outside private property boundaries. These can create weakness in the stopbank, which can cause water to flow through during a flood and lead to the stopbank failing.

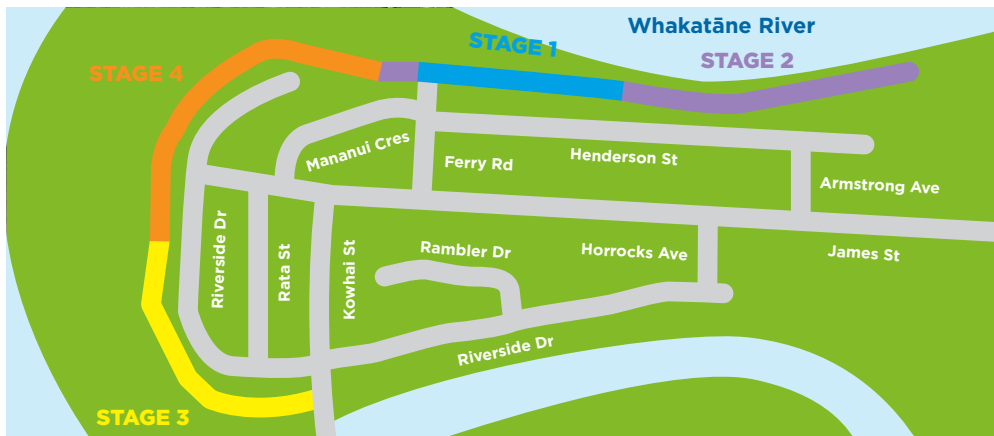
The Safeguarding our Stopbanks work involves removing some of the vegetation and structures so the stopbank can be repaired and strengthened and continue to do its job to protect the community from flooding.

VISIT: 5 Quay Street, Whakatāne **OPEN:** 8.30am - 5pm Monday - Friday
PHONE: 0800 884 880 | 6am - 6pm **7 DAYS A WEEK** or **EMAIL:** info@boprc.govt.nz



From flood protection to keeping your harbour safe

Find out more about what your Regional Council rates pay for at www.boprc.govt.nz



- **STAGE 1:**
COMPLETE
- **STAGE 2:**
COMPLETE
- **STAGE 3:**
October 2023
- March 2024
- **STAGE 4:**
October 2024
- March 2025

Finishing Stage 2

Our teams have been making the most of the rain-free days, with the completion of the hydroseeding and fence repairs over July and August as planned.

There are some final bits of work to be done on **Stage 2**, which we will be doing over the construction season (in conjunction with the start of **Stage 3**).

This tidying work includes the removal of tree stumps and roots around the Rowing Club (which we will do in conjunction with Whakatāne District Council’s construction on the roundabout), and tidying and maintenance work around the concrete floodwalls along Henderson Street.



Preparation for Stage 3

This construction season (October 2023 to March 2024), we are scheduled to begin **Stage 3** behind Riverside Drive.

We are currently in the information gathering stage of the process, which includes geotechnical testing on public land (on the stopbank and the berm area adjacent to the stopbank). The testing involves a hand auger that bores a small hole to sampling depths (the holes are filled once the sampling is complete). The analysis of the sampling information helps the engineering team make decisions on remediation work.

We have now been in touch with all Stage 3 property owners and will continue to liaise with them, in regard to the timing of the works.



Next Reference Group Meeting

The SOS Community Reference Group provides a forum for sharing information, input on Council communications to residents, and feedback to the project team on what's working well and opportunities for improvement.

Our next meeting is being held in September. If you'd like to learn about the reference group or get involved please contact Kirsty Brown, Rivers and Drainage Asset Manager, via email on riversanddrains@boprc.govt.nz

Cut and carry: Contractor notifications

Previously, our cut and carry contractors have been putting notices in residents' letterboxes to let them know when the work is due to happen.

However, this hasn't always worked well as the contractor's schedule can change (largely due to wet weather). To ensure communications are more timely and efficient, we will be moving to an email and text notification system for those neighbours who would like notification of pending cut and carry operations. The email and text notifications will replace the letter drop notices.

Residents who would like to receive the notification, please call **0800 884 880** or email riversanddrains@boprc.govt.nz, and give us your email address and cellphone number.

Trees and stopbanks

Trees, or any kind of deep-rooted vegetation, can pose a serious risk to the integrity of flood defences. This is because trees and tree stumps can increase the likelihood of seepage (the slow flow of water) through or under a stopbank. While controlled seepage is okay, excessive, uncontrolled seepage can cause stopbanks to fail.

There's a couple of main ways this can happen:

- Tree roots can grow through a stopbank, creating pathways for water to enter the stopbank and leave holes if the tree dies and the roots rot. This then creates a clear path for seepage to flow through – like a pipe. Tree roots can also grow beneath floodwalls, lifting wall sections and breaking joints.
- Large trees are at risk of toppling over in a flood event or when there has been heavy rain. This is because when the ground is saturated, it loses its strength and so the trees can be more easily moved by strong winds.



Sign up to your River Scheme

The schemes are areas of land where we maintain and upgrade flood defences, manage riverbank erosion risks and do drain maintenance.

The Safeguarding our Stopbanks project is just one piece of work that we're doing in the Whakatāne-Tauranga Rivers Scheme.

To find out more on what's happening across the scheme, you can keep up to date via our website by subscribing to boprc.govt.nz/whakatane-tauranga-rivers-scheme

Project Future Proof update

Project Future Proof is a multi-stage project to upgrade stopbanks and floodwalls along the town centre stretches of the Whakatāne River / Ōhinemataroa (from McAllister St Pump Station to the Muriwai Drive playground).

Construction on **Stage One** is scheduled to begin before the end of the year. We have recently completed testing on Kakahoroa Drive to locate any utilities (such as power and gas), and are currently working with our project partners to finalise construction plans.

Further information about the project is available on our website: boprc.govt.nz/project-future-proof



Bylaw Applicable Area property maps

If your property borders a stopbank, you will likely need a Bylaw Authority to undertake earthworks or install plantings and / or structures on your property. This is because you are living in a Bylaw Applicable Area, where we have Flood Protection and Drainage Bylaws in place to help protect our flood defences from damage or misuse.

A Bylaw Authority is written permission from us that includes conditions to ensure flood protection and drainage infrastructure assets are not damaged or compromised when activities are carried out. Living in a Bylaw Applicable Area does not mean you can not undertake any work; it is to ensure any work carried out doesn't inadvertently affect the integrity of our flood protection and drainage infrastructure assets, which help keep us all safe in flood events.

If you are planning to do works, you can fill out a pre-application advice request form or a Bylaw Authority Application Form online: boprc.govt.nz/bylaw-authority



Not sure if you're in a Bylaw Applicable Area (and therefore need a Bylaw Authority)?

There are two ways you can find out:

1. You can use our interactive map to find your property and see if it is covered by these Bylaws. Access this on our website: boprc.govt.nz/bylaw-authority
2. You can request property specific maps that show your property boundaries, and the 12m and 40m set back areas, which will require a Bylaw Authority for specific work.

If you want to request a property specific map, you can contact us on riversanddrains@boprc.govt.nz

We understand Bylaws can be complex; please contact us with any questions you may have relating to your property.

Please note

Any requests prior to September 18 won't be processed until after this date due to staffing constraints. Any requests will take up to 10 working days to process.