



If calling, please ask for Democratic Services

Wairarapa Committee

Tuesday 20 February 2024, 10.00am

Committee Room, Greater Wellington Regional Council | Te Pane Matua Taiao,
34 Chapel St, Masterton

Quorum: four members, including two regional councillors

Members

Adrienne Staples, Councillor (Chair)	Greater Wellington Regional Council
Gary Caffell, Mayor	Masterton District Council
Amber Craig	Rangitāne ō Wairarapa
Martin Connelly, Mayor	South Wairarapa District Council
Penny Gaylor, Councillor	Greater Wellington Regional Council
Hon. Ron Mark, Mayor	Carterton District Council
Daran Ponter, Councillor	Greater Wellington Regional Council

Recommendations in reports are not to be construed as Council policy until adopted by Council

Wairarapa Committee

1 Purpose

Consider areas and matters of strategic importance to the Wairarapa, and recommend to Council on these matters.

2 Specific responsibilities

2.1 Apply Council's Te Tiriti o Waitangi principles when conducting the Committee's business and making decisions.

2.2 The areas to consider and recommend on to Council include, but are not limited to:

- a Flood protection
- b Land management
- c Biosecurity
- d Biodiversity
- e Climate
- f Public transport
- g Natural resource management
- h Broader areas of common interest to the territorial authorities and Council.

2.3 Consider potential arrangements for a catchment-based governance approach for the Wairarapa, and recommend to Council, as appropriate.

3 Members

3.1 The Councillor elected by the Wairarapa constituency.

3.2 Two other Councillors, appointed by Council.

3.3 Three other members, appointed by Council as follows:

- a The Mayor of Carterton District Council
- b The Mayor of Masterton District Council
- c The Mayor of South Wairarapa District Council.

3.4 Two other members, appointed by Council for each person's skills, attributes or knowledge that will assist the work of the Committee, being:

- a One member, nominated by Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa
- b One member, nominated by Rangitāne ō Wairarapa.

4 Alternate members

- 4.1 For the members in sections 3.1 and 3.2, Council may nominate a pool of up to three alternate Councillors for appointment by Council. If one of those members is unable to attend a meeting any person from this pool may sit at the table, speak and vote in their place.
- 4.2 Each territorial authority in section 3.3 may nominate an alternate elected member for appointment by Council. If an appointed member is unable to attend a meeting their alternate member may sit at the table, speak and vote in their place.
- 4.3 Each iwi authority in section 3.4 may nominate an alternate member for appointment by Council. If an appointed member is unable to attend a meeting their alternate member may sit at the table, speak and vote in their place.

5 Quorum

Four members, including two Councillors.

6 Voting entitlement

- 6.1 All members have equal speaking and voting rights.
- 6.2 Council's Standing Orders apply to the Committee; except that the Chair, in the case of an equality of votes, does not have a casting vote (and therefore the motion is defeated, and the status quo is preserved).

7 Servicing

The Committee is serviced by Greater Wellington.

8 Committee consideration

- 8.1 Matters of strategic importance to the Wairarapa constituency shall first be referred (including during the development of proposed Greater Wellington plans and policies) to the Wairarapa Committee or its members for their consideration.
- 8.2 Proposals developed by Wairarapa-focused advisory bodies formally established by Council shall be considered by the Committee for direct recommendation to Council for decision.

9 Council's decisions on the Committee's recommendations

- 9.1 Council's decisions on the Committee's recommendations are reported to the Committee.
- 9.2 Where Council makes any decision that is materially different from the Committee's recommendation, Council's report to the Committee will set out the reason(s) for that decision.

10 Remuneration and expenses

10.1 The expenses of the elected members shall be met by the council they represent.

10.2 Non-elected members (who are not otherwise being remunerated) may claim Greater Wellington's standard daily meeting attendance allowances and expenses.

11 Meeting frequency

The Committee shall meet six times each year, with additional meetings as required.

Wairarapa Committee

Tuesday 20 February 2024, 10.00am

Committee Room, Greater Wellington Regional Council | Te Pane Matua Taiao,
34 Chapel Street, Masterton

Public Business

No.	Item	Report	Page
1.	Apologies		
2.	Conflict of interest declarations		
3.	Public participation		
4.	Confirmation of the Public Minutes of the Wairarapa Committee meeting on Tuesday 31 October 2023	23.557	6
5.	Regional Policy Statement Change 1 And Natural Resources Plan Plan Change 1 Update	24.54	9
6.	Flood Risk Management update	24.25	25
7.	Cyclone Gabrielle Summary	24.43	36
8.	Update on Wairarapa Line	oral	



Please note these minutes remain unconfirmed until the Wairarapa Committee meeting on 20 February 2024

Report 23.557

Public minutes of the Wairarapa Committee meeting on Tuesday 31 October 2023

Committee Room, Greater Wellington Regional Council | Te Pane Matua Taiao
34 Chapel Street, Masterton at 10.32am.

Members Present

Councillor Staples (Chair)
Mayor Caffell
Amber Craig
Mayor Connelly
Councillor Gaylor
Hon. Mayor Mark

Greater Wellington Regional Council
Masterton District Council
Rangitāne o Wairarapa Inc
South Wairarapa District Council
Greater Wellington Regional Council
Carterton District Council

Karakia timatanga

The Committee Chair opened the meeting with a karakia timatanga.

Public Business

1 Apologies

Moved: Cr Gaylor / Mayor Caffell

That the Committee accepts the apology for absence from Councillor Ponter.

The motion was **carried**.

Noted: Councillor Ponter was absent on Council business.

2 Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

3 Public participation

There was no public participation.

4 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Wairarapa Committee meeting on Tuesday 8 August 2023 – Report 23.371

Moved: Mayor Connelly / Mayor Caffell

That the Committee confirms the Public minutes of the Wairarapa Committee meeting on Tuesday 8 August 2023 – Report 23.371

The motion was **carried**.

5 Annual Asset Management Condition Report for Wairarapa 2022/23 – Report 23.544

Lucy Ashford, Team Leader Flood Operations Planning and Jacky Cox, Manager Logistics and Resourcing spoke to the report.

Moved: Mayor Connelly / Mayor Caffell

That the Committee:

- 1 Recommends to the Environment Committee that it is satisfied that Flood protection and erosion control infrastructure assets have been managed satisfactorily to the agreed Level of Service (LoS).
- 2 Notes that identified issues are being addressed through maintenance and improvement work programmes.
- 3 Notes that current budgets are insufficient to ensure that assets are maintained to agreed levels of service in the long term.

The motion was **carried**.

Noted: Amber Craig requested that her vote against the motion be recorded.

6 National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity – Report 23.551 [For Information]

Fathima Iftikar, Director Strategy, Policy and Regulation, Tessa O'Brien, Senior Advisor Environment Policy, Ainslee Brown, Advisor Environment Policy, spoke to the report.

7 Annual Floodplain Management Condition Report for Wairarapa 2022/23 – Report 23.544 [For Information]

Jacky Cox, Manager Logistics and Resourcing and Madeliene Playford, Team Leader FMP Implementation, spoke to the report.

8 Flood Risk Management Update – Report 23.528 [For Information]

Jacky Cox, Manager Logistics and Resourcing and Madeliene Playford, Team Leader FMP Implementation, spoke to the report.

9 Wairarapa Coast-Eastern Hills Whaitua Development Update – Report 23.542 [For Information]

Fathima Iftikar, Director Strategy, Policy and Regulation, spoke to the report.

10 2023 Natural Resources Plan Plan Change 1 Cover Report – Report 23.553 [For Information]

Fathima Iftikar, Director Strategy, Policy and Regulation, Alastair Smaill, Transitional Programme Lead, and Natasha Tomic, Team Leader Policy, spoke to the report.

Karakia whakamutunga

The Committee Chair closed the meeting with a karakia whakamutunga.

The public meeting closed at 12.01pm

Councillor A Staples

Chair

Date:

Wairarapa Committee
20 February 2024
Report 24.54



For Information

REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT CHANGE 1 AND NATURAL RESOURCES PLAN PLAN CHANGE 1 UPDATE

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To update the Wairarapa Committee (the Committee) on:
 - a the status of proposed Change 1 to the Regional Policy Statement (RPS Change 1)
 - b the Proposed Plan Change 1 to the Natural Resources Plan (PC1)
 - c and to highlight key aspects of these plan changes relevant to the Wairarapa.

Te horopaki

Context

2. The Policy team updates the Committee periodically in relation to the status of the RPS Change 1 and PC1. The verbal update will cover the following topics:
 - a Outline of key policy directions in RPS Change 1
 - b Updates on the progress of RPS Change 1 as the hearing phase draws to a close
 - c Key policy directions relevant to resource management in the Wairarapa
 - d Outline of PC1, including in giving effect to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020
 - e Overview of the key provisions to implement, for the first time in the region, the National Objectives Framework
 - f Overview of PC1's proposed changes to region-wide provisions of the NRP
 - g Update on the progress of Schedule 1 for PC1
 - h Seeking input on plan change processes in the Wairarapa

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei

Next steps

3. The Policy team will provide and speak to a presentation ([Attachment 1](#)) at the Committee's meeting on 20 February 2024.

Ngā Take e hāngai ana te iwi Māori

Implications for Māori

4. The policy changes that make up Proposed RPS Change 1 and PC1 to the Natural Resources Plan have been developed with mana whenua / tangata whenua and embed Te Ao Māori into the Regional Policy Statement and Natural Resources Plan.

Ngā āpitihanga

Attachment

Number	Title
1	Update – Regional Policy Statement Change 1 and Plan Change 1 to the Natural Resources Plan

Ngā kaiwaitohu

Signatories

Writer	Hayley Vujcich – Senior Policy Advisor, Policy, Strategy, Policy and Regulation
Approver	Nicola Arnesen – Manager, Policy, Strategy, Policy and Regulation Fathima Iftikar – Director Strategy, Policy and Regulation Lian Butcher – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Taiao Group Manager Environment

He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations
<p><i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i></p> <p>This update supports the Wairarapa Committee purpose <i>To consider areas and matters of strategic importance to the Wairarapa</i>, including on natural resource management. NRP PC1 is a key natural resource management tool and important step in the wider NPS-FM 2020 and whitua implementation program.</p>
<p><i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i></p> <p>The current work programme for the Natural Resources Plan, Plan Change 1 has been approved through the 2021-31 Long Term Plan. There are no contributions to any other strategies and policies.</p>
<p><i>Internal consultation</i></p> <p>There was no internal consultation related to this report.</p>
<p><i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i></p> <p>There are no known risks and impacts related to this report.</p>

Update – Regional Policy Statement Change 1 and Plan Change 1 to the Natural Resources Plan

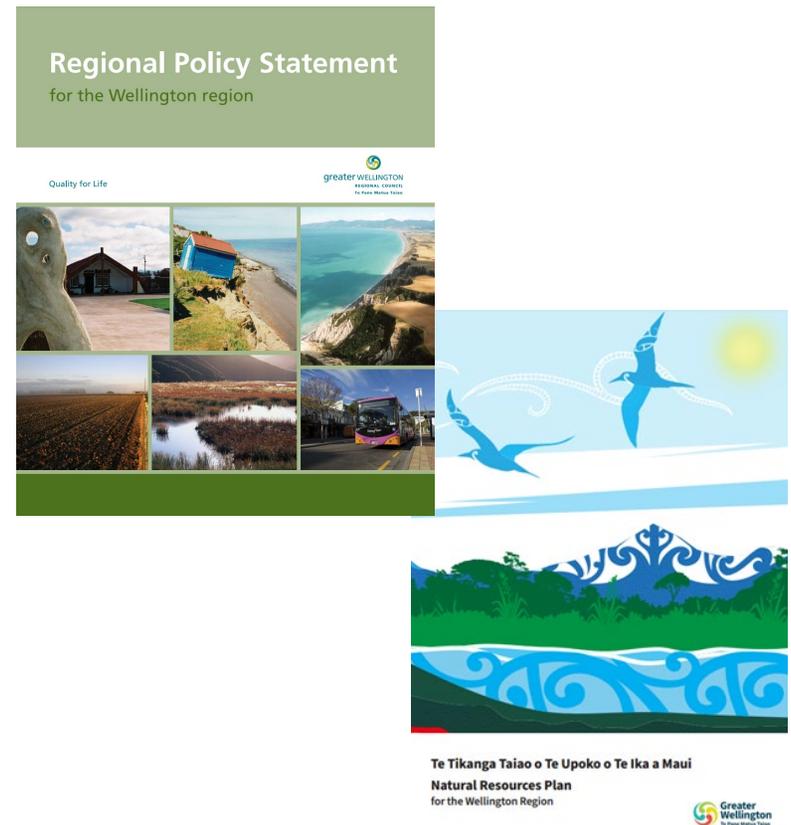
Presentation to Wairarapa Committee, 20 February 2024

Presenters: Natasha Tomic and Mika Zollner



Outline

- Proposed Change 1 to the Regional Policy Statement (RPS Change 1) is nearing the end of hearings
- Proposed Change 1 to the Natural Resources Plan (PC1) was notified 30 October 2023 and submissions closed 15 December 2023
- Both plan changes proceeding under the existing RMA framework. Any future change to national direction will be considered by decision-makers when enacted.



Recap on Proposed RPS Change 1

- Enabling urban development capacity while:
 - Giving effect to Te Mana o te Wai
 - Providing for integrated management, guided by Te Ao Māori
 - Ensuring development is climate resilient and low emission
 - Protecting indigenous biodiversity
 - Providing high quality and affordable housing



Examples of direction relevant to Wairarapa

- Majority of Proposed RPS Change 1 provisions are relevant to the Wairarapa, except some directive intensification direction
- Examples of non-regulatory direction:

Supporting water attenuation and retention in rural areas



Development manuals and design guidance



Supporting low-emission, water-resilient and climate-resilient agriculture



Promoting planting and regeneration of permanent forest to support climate change mitigation



Preparing climate change adaptation plans and strategies



Iwi-led climate change adaptation plans



Examples of direction relevant to Wairarapa

- Examples of regulatory direction, including direction applying to the Wairarapa Combined District Plan:

Nature-based solutions to support water resilience, climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation



Taking a risk-based approach to natural hazards



Enabling intensification (including infill) to contribute to well-functioning urban environments



Providing for marae and papakāinga



Reducing transport-related greenhouse gas emissions



Managing adverse effects of urban development on freshwater taking a whole-of-catchment approach, including water sensitive urban design

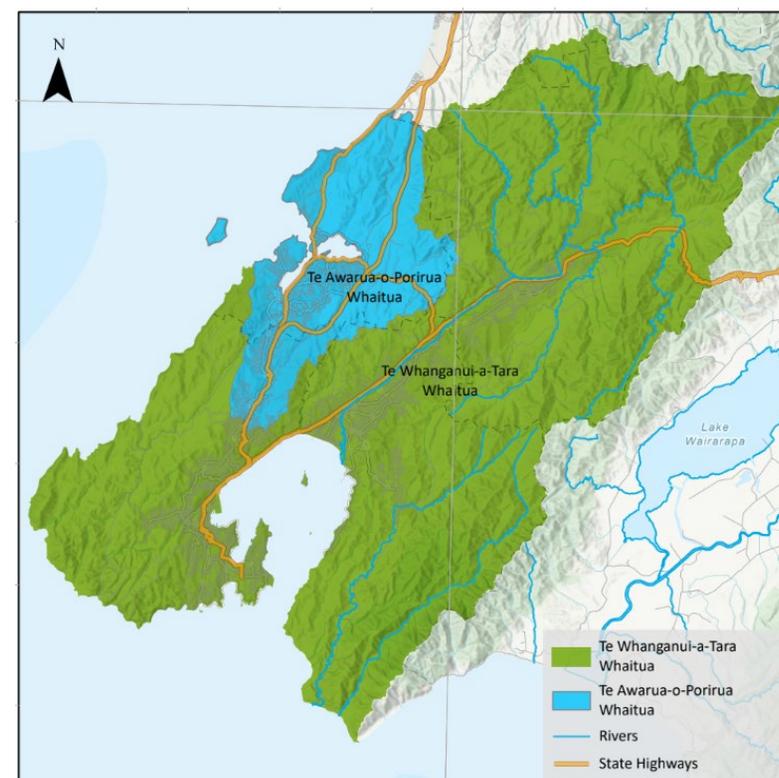


Proposed RPS Change 1 process



Recap on PC1

- Gives effect to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) – **a key step in whaitua implementation**
- Implements **National Objectives Framework (NOF)** and introduces limits for first time in the region
- Covers Te Awarua-o-Porirua (TAoP) and Te Whanganui-a-Tara (TWT) whaitua
- Embeds WIPs and mana whenua statements
- Also, some minor region-wide changes



What's in PC1 – Implementing the NOF

- New provisions for TWT and TAoP in the two whaitua-specific chapters
- Addresses discharges to land and water, land uses affecting water quality, and take and use of water (TAoP only)
- Introduces place-specific, numeric, timebound objectives (Target Attribute States – TAS) and limits on resource use
- Generally:
 - Existing activities must maintain, or improve if health of freshwater is degraded, and
 - New activities must avoid or offset impacts on freshwater.
- Some region-wide provisions are proposed to no longer apply to two whaitua:  

PC1 NOF provisions

- Affect outcomes and activities in Te Awarua-o-Porirua whaitua and whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara only
- Some key directions in PC1 that may be relevant to the Wairarapa:
 - Tying reductions in sediment loss to achieving outcomes in receiving waters
 - More specific regulation of forestry activities than NES Commercial Forestry in high erosion risk areas
 - Focus management of wastewater and stormwater network on meeting numeric TASs
 - Freshwater Action Plans to coordinate non-regulatory actions in catchment-based approach

PC1 region-wide changes

- New and amended sites of significance for indigenous biodiversity values in Wairarapa:
 - Changes relating to conservation status of freshwater species at already identified sites
 - 2 new coastal sites (Sch F4) – Mātaikona Reef seagrass and Wairarapa Coast seamount
- Minor changes
 - Changes to discharges to air rules to align with NZ Standards
 - Amend application in the coastal marine area
- Changes to rules for beds and lakes and rivers – resolving various minor drafting issues



Seagrass south of Mātaikona River – source [Salt Ecology 2023](#)

PC1 process from here

- PC1 had 270 submitters, with 180 unique submissions received
- Further submissions opened 12 February, closes 8 March 2024
- Hearings starting mid/late 2024
 - Two hearing processes – standard Schedule 1 and Freshwater Planning Process
 - One panel to hear both processes, similar to how RPS Change 1 is being heard

Wairarapa - where water glistens

- Ruamāhanga whaitua (2018)
- Wairarapa Coast whaitua process – yet to start
- Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy (2021)
- Wairarapa Moana Statutory Board – (Ruamāhanga) Committee for Natural Resources
- Proposed Wairarapa Combined District Plan
- Freshwater related plan changes for Wairarapa (Ruamāhanga and Wairarapa Coast)

Pātai/Questions?

Wairarapa Committee
20 February 2024
Report 24.25



For Information

FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To update the Wairarapa Committee (the Committee) on:
 - a Wairarapa aggregate resource opportunities.
 - b New funding received by Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet's Cyclone Recovery unit.
 - c Implementation progress for the Te Kāuru Upper Ruamāhanga Floodplain Management Plan (TKURFMP); including progress of the Ministry for Environment (MfE) Jobs for Nature project.
 - d Implementation progress for the Waiohine River Plan.
 - e The ongoing operational maintenance of the Wairarapa Rivers schemes.
 - f The progress of investigation projects; Waipoua Urban Catchment Plan, Mangatāre River Plan, flood hazard mapping for the Wairarapa Combined District Plan changes and regional initiatives.

Te tāhū kōrero

Background

2. Please refer to the Wairarapa Flood Protection Update Report – Report 23.528 that was circulated to the Committee.

Te tātaritanga

Analysis

3. This section provides an update on the Flood Protection works in the Wairarapa since the last Wairarapa Committee Meeting.

Wairarapa Aggregate Resource Opportunities

4. Te Waihanga (The New Zealand Infrastructure Commission) has reviewed all the work undertaken by GNS to date and is arranging a meeting with all councils in the Wellington Region to discuss the findings and next steps.
5. The meeting proposed for 21 November 2023 took place and was attended by all eight territorial authorities (TA) and Greater Wellington Regional Council.

6. The action for councils is to consider how to use the information for guiding land use and rules in their respective regional and district plans. We all need to work together to make this happen.
7. Following the November 2023 meeting with Council representatives, Te Waihanga will arrange meetings in early 2024 with industry and then the public to update them on the findings of the study.

Government Funding – Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet

Crack Willow Block Removal Project

8. As stated in the last meeting report we were successful in obtaining \$3.5 million from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) for the Recovery and Flooding Resilience fund for the crack willow blockage removal in the eastern rivers in the Wairarapa. This decision was publicly announced on 6 October 2023. Our contribution is \$250,000 worth of project management time.
9. Crown Infrastructure Partners (CIP) are administering the funding. It has taken until 16 January 2024 for CIP to supply us with a draft contract.
10. An internal meeting was held on 16 January 2024 to introduce a steering group into the project that will provide both expertise and local knowledge in order to achieve successful outcomes for the project. The introduction included an overview of the project, a discussion on procurement and health and safety and a discussion on how to eradicate the crack willow species (*Salix fragilis*).
11. The removal of crack willow blockages throughout the Eastern Rivers of the Wairarapa started early 2024 and Phase One (summer 2023/24) will focus on removing 91 blockages from the Kopuaranga and Whareama Rivers. Phase Two (summer 2024/25) will include approximately 263 blockage removals from the Eastern Rivers of the Wairarapa and the removal of crack willow from localised areas. The localised areas will focus on choking points within the river channels and the removed crack willow be replanted with natives to assist with habitat rehabilitation.
12. Discussions with mana whenua will commence in the first quarter of 2024 to determine the most effective methodologies for habitat rehabilitation, including identifying localised areas where the crack willow species will be removed, and habitat rehabilitation will be required. Trial sites for native species will be established with mana whenua in the coming months.
13. Discussions with community groups are underway to ensure we are aware of all major blockages and can prioritise accordingly.

Flood warning systems upgrade

14. In November 2023 Greater Wellington applied to DPMC again for further funding to assist in the Cyclone Gabrielle recovery. We put forward a further crack willow blockage removal application totalling \$5 million and \$4 million for improvement flood warning systems.
15. On 24 January 2024, we received confirmation from DPMC on approved funding of \$1.25 million for flood warning system upgrades. We were unsuccessful in obtaining further funding for crack willow blockage removal.

16. The next steps are to rescope the flood warning system upgrades and determine what we can achieve with the \$1.25 million fund. Then we will again be working with CIP to develop a project schedule and a contract.
17. This work is scheduled to be completed by 25 June 2025.

Te Kāuru Upper Ruamāhanga Floodplain Management Plan – Implementation

The Upper Ruamāhanga River Management Advisory Committee

18. The Upper Ruamāhanga River Management Advisory Committee (URRMAC) met on 11 December 2023. The main discussions were around the River Management Groups (RMG) and what their role is. The outcome of this meeting is that Greater Wellington will provide the committee with a draft 12 month meeting schedule outlining the purpose of each meeting to be reviewed.

River Road, Masterton erosion protection works

19. Stage One of the River Road, Masterton is now completed (as of 30 June 2023).
20. Stage Two, the construction of a 150-metre rock revetment will commence this summer 2023/24. The rock revetment design is currently being finalised by our consultants and a rock supply tender will be sent out to suppliers within the week of 29 February 2024. Rock supply will commence in March 2024, followed by the construction of the rock revetment. The aim is to complete this project by the end of June 2024.
21. Discussions with mana whenua regarding Stage Three works are to commence once our partners have availability. At present the proposal is for eleven 1000 tonne rock groynes.
22. Programme progress is being regularly communicated to partners and stakeholders (including iwi, Fish and Game, Department of Conservation, and Masterton District Council (MDC)) via email correspondence.

Memorandum of Understanding – Masterton District Council raw water supply

23. A draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for erosion protection of a raw water supply pipe along the edge of the Waingawa River is currently with MDC for review. There has been no progress since the last report.

Te Kāuru Upper Ruamāhanga Floodplain Management Plan – Operational work

24. The Waingawa River scheme completed works to stop erosion continuing toward Masterton District Councils water supply pipeline in the upper reach, gravel re-distribution was used to reinforce eroding bank, the work totalled \$29,500. Gravel re-distribution work was completed opposite Hood Aerodrome to reinforce past works where river had eroded past Te Kauru outer design line costing \$7,000.
25. The Waipoua River scheme has had a bulldozer clear vegetation build ups and flood debris from a number of high beaches. This work totalled \$10,000.
26. The Waipoua River scheme had willow tree removal work undertaken through the Masterton urban reach costing \$44,000.
27. There has been ongoing gravel extraction at various sites and with various contractors to address problem gravel beach build ups.

28. Rubbish removal has been undertaken across most river scheme areas, especially over the Christmas break.
29. Asset condition rating surveys are continuing across all Te Kāuru river schemes.

Te Kāuru Upper Ruamāhanga – Investigations

Waipoua investigations

30. As part of the work being undertaken with the Waipoua Catchment Community Group, several investigations have been commissioned to help inform the flood risk management options for the Masterton urban area.
31. Tonkin + Taylor is undertaking a flood damages assessment for flooding from the Waipoua River. Quantifying flood damages is a fundamental component of assessing flood risk. The results will help to inform suitable thresholds of investment into flood risk management and justify expenditure by quantifying a return on investment (or a reduction in risk to the community). The outcomes are expected by June 2024.
32. A natural character index investigation is being undertaken by Massey University to understand the extent to which today's managed river corridors of the Waipoua River and Mangatāre Stream differ from those prior to management, and what, if any, characteristics have changed. The value of a natural character index assessment lies in helping inform future river management initiatives that seek to improve river condition for a range of purposes, including habitat diversity (for healthy ecosystems) and provision of sufficient 'room for the river' (for sustainable flood management). This will also be incorporated into the nature-based solutions feasibility study for the Waipoua catchment which is discussed from paragraph 48 below. Results from this investigation are expected by the end of March 2024.
33. A geomorphic assessment of the Waipoua catchment is being undertaken by Tonkin + Taylor. Geomorphic processes control form, function, and behaviour, which directly influences flood and erosion risk. As such, the geomorphic context of a catchment provides the foundation upon which other technical investigations of the catchment can be built. This assessment will support the development of a long-term flood risk management plan and river plan for the Waipoua River and be incorporated into the nature-based solutions feasibility study. The outcomes are expected by June 2024.
34. The stopbanks running through the Masterton urban reach of the Waipoua River protect the township from flood events. A geophysical investigation of the stopbanks was undertaken in 2015 but only provides an outline of their condition and is not sufficient to be able to make informed decisions about how to proceed with protecting urban areas. A comprehensive geotechnical investigation is required to gain a comprehensive understanding of the current state of the stopbanks to allow for decisions to be made with the aim of improving the infrastructure and providing better fluvial flood resilience to the adjacent communities. This work is currently being procured. It is anticipated that that outcomes of the geotechnical investigation of the existing stopbanks will be available by the end of June 2024.
35. Greater Wellington is looking to develop geomorphic descriptions for the eleven managed waterways in the Ruamāhanga catchment, totalling more than 270 km. This information will be used in the future development of the Ruamāhanga Catchment

Operational Management Plans and resource consent applications for gravel extraction and river works. Through a collaborative process, Greater Wellington has identified high level stream typing as a suitable method to define coherent geomorphic reaches. The proposed high-level stream typing assessment will provide a qualitative description of river character and behaviour, based on catchment-scale landscape controls (such as geology, landcover, valley confinement) which inform reach-based character (planform, reach slope, sediment regime) and drives current and potential future reach behaviour. This work is currently being procured. It is anticipated that that outcomes of the geotechnical investigation of the existing stopbanks will be available by the end of June 2024.

Waiōhine River Plan - Implementation

36. The Waiōhine River Plan Advisory Committee members had their first meeting on 21 November 2023. The meeting held in Greytown had member introductions and provided the Committee with a background of the River Plan, capital works to be undertaken (stopbank design and construction), and Greater Wellington operations gave an overview of previous works in the Waiōhine. The committee also elected a chair.
37. Scoping of the stopbank work continues. We are currently in the process of procuring a design consultant to complete the detailed design on both the North and Kuratawhiti stopbanks, along with a re-run of the flood modelling. The next stage is to present the final design to the directly affected landowners in a hope to obtain their affected party sign off, before we proceed to applying for consent to build.
38. We have been in discussions with the directly affected landowners and will continue to keep them up to date with our progress.

Waiōhine River Plan - Operations

39. Investigation into suitable rock supply for the Fullers Bend Revetment is underway so future work can resume in the coming construction season (this summer).
40. Erosion protection works which consisted of willow cabling over a 50m length of left bank at end of Tilsons Road to stop continuing bank erosion at cross section 2 costing \$31,100.
41. Mangatarere Stopbank clearing of 900m around State Highway 2 of dead willow, scrub and blackberry, in preparation for replanting with natives. This work cost \$33,000.
42. Weed spraying through the scheme around stopbanks and access tracks was undertaken at a cost of \$22,000.

Waiohine River – Investigations

43. There were no investigations this reporting period.

Mangatāre Stream - Operations

44. There has been erosion outside of the Mangatarere Stream Scheme boundary that has increased the flood risk to the Carterton township. Because this location is outside of the scheme, a resource consent application to repair the erosion was prepared and submitted but has been withdrawn due to lack of Iwi consultation. A site meeting was held with hapū representatives on 28 August 2023 to listen to concerns in repairing the erosion site. Other options were discussed onsite. Feedback from hapū members has been received and incorporated into a revised consent application that will be lodged on the week of 12 February 2024. The Iwi that provided the feedback has been notified that the consent will be lodged at this time and to expect to see the application.
45. Greater Wellington has also met with Carterton District Council (CDC) to highlight the risk to the town from this erosion, and to further discussions on managing flood risk from the Mangatarere Stream.

Mangatāre Stream – Investigations

46. Discussions have been taking place with Rangitāne o Wairarapa & Kahungunu ki Wairarapa on progressing the management plan. Direction is expected on the way forward in early 2024.
47. As mentioned in paragraph 32 above, a natural character index assessment is being undertaken for the Mangatāre Stream.

Wairarapa Flood Hazard Mapping

48. Flood hazard mapping for the Upper Ruamāhanga is progressing through the second peer review stages which will be completed by the end March 2024. Preparation for the independent audit will be underway in March 2024.
49. Mapping for Donalds and Abbots Creeks is progressing well, with the hydrology assessments being completed ahead of peer review in the coming month.
50. The independent audit is being undertaken on the Waipoua flood hazard modelling. Once this is complete, the Waipoua flood hazard maps will be finalised. This is expected by March 2024.

Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme - Operations

51. The Ruamāhanga River below the Waiōhine confluence has seen ongoing gravel extraction from aggrading beaches. Gravel is also being extraction from Cross Creek and Pigeon Bush Creeks, on the western shores of Lake Wairarapa.
52. Vegetation control (mowing, herbicide spraying, mulching etc) has been taking place in multiple locations over the scheme.
53. Bed recontouring works immediately downstream of Waihenga Bridge, primarily for erosion protection purposes but also to re-instate public access to the downstream beach, were started before Christmas but were unable to be completed before the holiday season due to rain and elevated river levels. The works are planned to be completed once the consent allows, after 1 February 2024.
54. Further stopbank repairs are ongoing in the Mahaki Road area of the Ruamāhanga River. The Capital works project to realign the stopbank has commenced, with

procurement of the main contractor underway. The project team is working to get tenders, evaluation, and negotiations complete by the end of February 2024 with the contractor starting on site by early/mid-March 2024.

55. Condition rating inspections of all 2,097 assets in the Lower Valley is ongoing with 1,518 (72%) completed at the start of 29 January 2024 and 579 to go.

Drainage Scheme – Operations

56. An inspection on the second pump at Te Hopai has revealed that it is in a corroded state and replacement parts will be required. We are awaiting scheme members confirmation that they want this work to go ahead.
57. A further issue at Te Hopai is that the flap gates are not sealing, allowing water to backflow through one the pumps, causing faults. Investigation has found the timber that the gate seals against is rotten and has deteriorated. Repairs are ongoing and aim to be completed early February 2024, subject to weather and water level conditions.
58. For the non-pumped, gravity drainage schemes the costs of the scheme have been greater than the scheme income. Meetings with the gravity scheme members regarding a review of future maintenance works and rating requirements for each drain have been held, but attendance was poor. Following internal discussion and advice from Councillor Staples, Greater Wellington have agreed that:
 - a The costs of GW's work on each scheme should be fully covered by each scheme's targeted rates.
 - b Targeted rates are likely to increase 2-3 times, which could mean that scheme members currently paying a higher targeted rate could significantly impacted.
 - c We will give each scheme the opportunity to manage the scheme themselves, without Greater Wellington intervention, but will need 75% of the scheme members to agree this.
 - d There is no appetite currently to change how the targeted rate is distributed amongst scheme members or to enlarge or reduce the extents of the schemes.

Ministry for the Environment 'Jobs for Nature' Project Update

59. Weed vegetation maintenance activities in previous planted sites (approximately 50 hectares) are ongoing and the first maintenance activities for the winter 2023 plantings have begun.
60. Pest animal control is continuing across all sites with a variety of pest animal species continuing to be caught. The rabbit fencing at Kuratawhiti Street appears to be preventing incursions and the remaining population within the fence are being managed to prevent plant damage. Ongoing surveillance across all sites will continue.
61. Winter 2023 plantings are complete and the plants are establishing well.
62. Four kilometres of fencing has been installed with another three kilometres to be installed in the coming months.

Ministry for the Environment funded project – Waipoua nature-based solutions feasibility study

63. The Ministry for the Environment (MfE) allocated \$5 million to support local government to invest in resilience planning that would help mitigate impacts against future severe weather events, using a nature-based solutions lens.
64. Nature-based solutions are defined as ‘actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems, which address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services and resilience and biodiversity benefits.
65. MfE strongly encouraged partnering with tangata whenua to bring te ao Māori to the project and encouraged collaboration with Territorial Authorities.
66. The Waipoua River was selected as the location for a Greater Wellington project. MfE has award \$462,500 towards this project.
67. This project proposes to quantify the benefits of nature-based solutions for managing flood risk to Masterton. This feasibility study will consider ways to grow resilience and rebalance the taiao, realise the potential of water, and give effect to the expressions of both Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Te Mana o te Wai and Rangitāne Te Mana O Te Wai.
68. A first task common to numerous proposals from councils across New Zealand was to undertake a literature review of nature based solutions for New Zealand and their relative efficacies. Therefore, a literature review was commissioned collaboratively with other councils. This is being undertaken by the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA).
69. Progress is on-going in working with iwi partners to consider how mātauranga Māori practices can be incorporated into this project.

Regional Investigations Initiatives

Emergency Management

70. The automated warning systems project is to start the 6-month pilot on 1 March 2024. Knowledge Water Engineers have been working with supplier ‘TNZ Group’ to pre-test the system before roll-out.

Data & Monitoring

71. A review of Greater Wellington’s cross routine river survey processes is underway with a view to exploit new technologies such as drone LiDAR and bathymetric survey techniques. A new process is anticipated to be agreed before the start of the next financial year.

Flood Monitoring Network Improvements Programme

72. Rain radar feasibility investigations will be finished in January 2024. This has been assessing radar shadow and range issues across the region jointly with the Met Service & Horizons Regional Council.

**Ngā hua ahumoni
Financial implications**

Crack Willow Removal, Early Flood Warning Systems upgrade and MfE Projects

73. Some of these projects are being funded with budgets being brought forward in the Long-Term Plan (LTP). Others are direct government funding with project management time as Greater Wellington’s contribution.

Crack Willow Removal

Government Funding	DPMC – Cyclone Recovery Unit
Opex allocated:	\$250,000 (LTP 2018-28)

Early Flood Warning Systems

Government Funding	DPMC – Cyclone Recovery Unit
Capex allocated:	\$TBC (LTP 2018-28)

Ruamāhanga River Scheme River Road (Stage 2):

LTP or Annual Plan description:	Te Kāuru Capex Implementation
Capex allocated:	\$2.3 million (LTP 2018-28)

Project 4: Ruamāhanga River Major Rivers Riparian Management Project (MfE):

LTP or Annual Plan description:	Wairarapa River Scheme Maintenance
Loan allocated:	\$0.8 million (debt)
Internal Funding:	\$1.7 million (LTP 2018-28)
Third Party Funding	\$2.5 million

**Ngā Take e hāngai ana te iwi Māori
Implications for Māori**

74. Greater Wellington is required to manage land and water within a range of statutory requirements, including giving effect to Te Mana o Te Wai and considering Te Tiriti o Waitangi in the development and implementation of the Council’s strategies, plans, programmes and initiatives.

- 75. Implementation with mana whenua partners is guided by Te Whāriki – the new Māori Outcomes Framework as part of Council’s LTP 2021–31.
- 76. The Department is continuing to explore opportunities for Māori through the consenting space as well as through the Climate Resilience projects.
- 77. Cultural liaison or co-design contracts have been signed by Rangitāne ō Wairarapa Incorporated and Ngati Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Charitable Trust for enhanced involvement and collaboration on programme work for the Climate Resilience Projects.

**Te huritao ki te huringa o te āhuarangi
Consideration of climate change**

- 78. Each project within the catchment considers and responds to the predicted impacts of climate change when considering the appropriate response to the issue the project seeks to address.
- 79. This programme aligns with the 2015 Climate Change strategy, which states ‘we will help the region adapt to climate change’. The projects increase climate change adaptation and resilience to natural disasters in the region.
- 80. The greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from rock supply vary depending on the quarry source of the rock and transport to the work sites. Quarry sources for projects vary. The emissions from rock supply production and transport are not presently part of the organisation’s GHG inventory.
- 81. Targeted planting has been carried out to mitigate CO₂ emissions for the Kānoa projects.
- 82. Greater Wellington currently assesses options to address flood risk based on the predicted impacts of climate change over the next 100 years. Unless specified differently for specific projects, these values are an increase in rainfall intensity of twenty percent, and a sea level rise of 0.8 metres.

**Ngā kaiwaitohu
Signatories**

Writers	Madeliene Playford – acting Team Leader, Floodplain Management Plan Implementation Andy Brown – Team Leader Knowledge – Water Hamish Fenwick – Team Leader Flood Operations Delivery
Approvers	Jacky Cox – Manager Logistics and Resourcing Jack Mace – Director Delivery Lian Butcher – Kaiwhakahaere Matua, Taiao Group Manager, Environment

<p>He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations</p>
<p><i>Fit with Council’s roles or with Committee’s terms of reference</i></p> <p>The Committee is to consider areas and matters of strategic importance to the Wairarapa and recommend to Council on these matters.</p>
<p><i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i></p> <p>The projects contained within this report deliver on Greater Wellington’s strategic priority area of te tū pakari a te rohe/regional resilience, and support delivery of Greater Wellington’s strategic priority area of te oranga o te wai māori me te rerenga rauropi/freshwater quality and biodiversity. All river matters discussed here are included in the LTP.</p>
<p><i>Internal consultation</i></p> <p>Specific projects consult with groups and departments across Greater Wellington where relevant to a project.</p>
<p><i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i></p> <p>The purpose of implementation floodplain management plans in implementing asset management procedures is to reduce the risk to communities and improve the region’s resilience. Greater Wellington has adopted procedures and processes to minimise risks. Working with community committees enables a wider understanding of the risks before adoption of work programmes.</p>

Wairarapa Committee
 20 February 2024
 Report 24.43



For Information

CYCLONE GABRIELLE SUMMARY

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To provide the Wairarapa Committee a summary of the Cyclone Gabrielle event, its impact, and support provided to community.

Te horopaki

Context

2. There have been a series of reports and impact assessments completed since the event. This report will summarise each of their main findings. These reports are:
 - a “After Action Review: Cyclone Gabrielle - Wairarapa Response”- An external review from the 3 Wairarapa District Councils.
 - b Wellington Regional Emergency Management Office Lessons learnt from Cyclone Gabrielle and regional exercises; An Environment Committee report presented on 23 November 2023
 - c Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) Situation reports
3. On 12-14 February 2023 Cyclone Gabrielle hit the North Island of Aotearoa New Zealand. The area of impact in the Wairarapa was the Tinui/Whareama Catchment of the Wairarapa East Coast.
4. The table below outlines the timeline of events and alerts:

February 12 (Sunday)	<p>A Severe Weather Warning was received from MetService for heavy rainfall for the Wairarapa and Tararua district.</p> <p>The MetService issued an Orange Severe Rain Warning for Wairarapa including the Tararua District for 20 hours from 4:00pm Monday to 12:00pm Tuesday.</p> <p>80 to 140 mm of rain was expected to accumulate, especially about the ranges and the eastern hills. Peak rates of 10 to 15 mm/h. Greater Wellington’s Duty Flood Incident Manager briefed the Flood Incident Management team and established rosters on the same day. A Flood Incident Management team stand-up was scheduled at 2:00pm on Monday, 13 February.</p>
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	<p>The Flood Incident Management team provided input into a Regional Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) hui on Monday and planned to assist in briefings for the Greater Wellington Crisis Management Team as needed.</p> <p>Asset inspections were carried out as needed in preparation on Monday for all Flood Protection managed schemes. Greater Wellington Flood Warning Contact Lists were actioned across the Region.</p>
<p>February 13 (Monday)</p>	<p>MetService updated the Orange Sever Rain Warning for Wairarapa including the Tararua District with a change to the forecast for 16 hours from 11:00pm Monday to 3:00pm Tuesday.</p> <p>The forecast for the region had increased rainfall totals and intensities with 120 to 180 mm of rain predicted about the ranges and eastern hills, and 80 to 120 mm in lower lying areas.</p> <p>A flood incident Situation Report was provided to key internal and external contacts listed in the Greater Wellington Flood Response Procedure alerting the incident was likely to affect the Wairarapa, especially eastern hills, and the Tararuas (including Kapiti Coast catchments).</p> <p>Wairarapa Landowner warning lists and Greater Wellington contractors working in rivers list were contacted.</p>
<p>February 14 (Tuesday)</p>	<p>Based on intelligence, the Flood Incident Manager escalated the event to MODERATE for the Wairarapa due to the road closures and extensive flooding in the eastern catchments.</p> <p>Eastern Wairarapa catchments experienced high intensity rainfall throughout the morning. The Flood Incident Manager maintained contact with Regional Civil Defence throughout the day and provided intelligence to support the Wairarapa Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs) response in the eastern catchments.</p> <p>The township of Tinui was flooded and roads into the town closed.</p> <p>NOTE: Greater Wellington does not provide wider community warnings beyond this point. Greater Wellington supports the Wairarapa EOC via the Regional liaison officer.</p>
<p>February 15 (Wednesday)</p>	<p>The rainfall site at Tanawa hut in the Eastern Wairarapa recorded high intensity rainfall (over 20mm/hr) throughout the morning on 14 February with over 240mm over 24 hours.</p> <p>This was significant rainfall for these catchments and caused the Whareama and Tinui rivers to rise, resulting in significant flooding throughout the floodplain, access roads and township.</p> <p>Manual readings and photographs indicated that the Whareama River at Eastwood's (1280 Manawa Road) peaked at over 7.0m on Tuesday.</p>

	<p>There is comparison of these water levels to the floods in 1991 making this a significant event.</p> <p>Rainfall eased on Wednesday however further rainfall was forecast overnight and on Thursday. It was not expected to be as intense as Tuesday however since the catchment was already saturated, it was indicated that this further rainfall may result in faster runoff and a rapid response in the rivers.</p> <p>Greater Wellington Operations staff were assessing assets for flooding and erosion damage throughout the region that day.</p> <p>Through the Greater Wellington Flood Incident Manager, the team inputted into CDEM Group meetings.</p> <p>Planning was done for an aerial survey of the eastern catchments to collect photographic information about flood and erosion damage.</p>
<p>February 16 (Thursday)</p>	<p>Cyclone Gabrielle was now located well east of the North Island and expected to continue to move away from New Zealand towards the southeast.</p> <p>However overnight, an associated front brought more rain to southern parts of the Region.</p> <p>A further 30mm was expected in the morning and then light rains throughout the afternoon. Therefore, it was advised that rivers would remain elevated throughout the day.</p> <p>The impacts of the heavy rain and significant flooding on Tuesday were still being felt in the catchments.</p> <p>The situation report issued at 10am mentioned the full extent of the damage was unknown as Officers have not been able to get in touch with all catchment scheme committees.</p> <p>The 6pm situation report updated that Land Management Staff had been in touch with Scheme chairs who reported power outages and communication issues.</p> <p>Hydrology staff had been out to the Whareama catchment this day.</p> <p>The Wairarapa EOC was coordinating relief efforts into Tinui and Riversdale.</p>
<p>February 18 (Saturday) Helicopter flight</p>	<p>A helicopter flight occurred on 18 February 2023. It took imagery of the Whareama and Mataikona catchments and coastline and recorded damage and repair priorities via geo-referenced photos.</p> <p>A Whareama Scheme meeting was held on 17 March 2023 where the flight results were presented, and the Whareama Scheme Committee accepted Greater Wellington’s recommendations to commence work on the highest-priority blockages (approx. 62 recorded from the 18/2 flight) and committed an agreed amount from their fund reserve.</p>

<p>After event</p>	<p>Greater Wellington has attended several community meetings and are continuing to work with the Wairarapa Recovery Group to support ongoing recovery.</p> <p>Greater Wellington issued key information about recovery activities to guide landowners about clean-up work and how this aligns with rules in the Regional Plan.</p>
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**Te tātaritanga
Analysis**

Impact on Tinui



Image 1: Photo of cyclone damage, taken during catchment scheme flight over Manawa-annedale.

5. *Image 1* above shows a typical scene on the helicopter flight of Manawa-Annedale branch of the Whareama catchment with widespread hillslope erosion and subsidence. There has been significant damage along the Whareama riverbanks, ranging from the general integrity of the channel to numerous fences, roads and road edges, bridges and farm accessways being fully or partially damaged, unusable or unsafe.
6. Tree subsidence and bank erosion have created numerous blockages in the channel system. The highest-priority blockages were deemed to be those straddling all or most of the channel ('strainers') with a high chance of either moving themselves or catching debris coming down the river that will lead to ongoing erosion effects (refer to *image 2* for an example). Left unattended these sites will cause significant erosion to adjacent

land which will add additional sediment to the river system as well as potentially damage communal assets. Each work site is a complex situation to deal with including access for heavy machinery, safe working areas as soil types differ, and the ability to remove large debris from the channel.

7. Attempts were made to begin work on several areas soon after Gabrielle but had to be stopped as the riverbanks were still too unstable and heavy digger work was unable to be carried out in those conditions. Plans were made to restart works in spring/summer from December 2023 to March 2024 during typical Catchment Scheme work windows.



Image 2: Photo of typical blockage seen within the catchment

Cyclone Gabrielle Land Categorisation

8. On 1 June 2023, the Government announced it would enter a funding arrangement with councils in cyclone and flood affected regions to help support the affected communities. This was later called the Future of Severely Affected Land (FOSAL) process. The Government determined that the area of Masterton District Council (MDC) should be included in this scheme.

9. Led by MDC and the Wairarapa Recovery office, Greater Wellington’s Knowledge Water Flood Engineers conducted risk assessments of 12 dwellings on nine properties. To assess the risk at each property evidence was assessed, such as:
 - a A site visit
 - b Interviews with landowners
 - c Photos and videos from recent events
 - d Review of current flood hazard information and historic flood events
10. With this information, flood risk specialists used a multi-criteria analysis to understand the flood risk to the property. In assessing if the flood risk has an intolerable risk of injury or death, the following factors were considered:
 - a **Event frequency** – What is the history of flooding at the property? How frequently does it flood? What are the potential impacts of climate change?
 - b **Flood flow velocities** – Would it be safe to cross flood waters, in a car or by foot?
 - c **Debris** – If someone had to cross flood waters to evacuate, would large debris hinder this or potentially cause injury.
 - d **Height of water in dwellings** – How high was the water in the house? If this occurred at night would evacuation be possible?
 - e **Egress** – How much time would a person have to evacuate? How far would they have to travel? Could they to it in dark conditions?
 - f **Potential erosion** – Could the land become unstable due to lateral erosion from nearby rivers or water ways?
11. Each of these factors that contribute to flood risk have been classified as high, medium, or low risk of injury or death. A property with three or more of these factors classified as “high” is considered to have a significant risk of injury or death that cannot be easily mitigated; therefore, it was placed in Category 3. If a property’s flood risk factors were assessed as medium or low risk levels, they were placed in Category 2 or 1.
12. The assessment resulted in all properties being assessed as Category 3. MDC has subsequently applied for and received funding for either buying out the residential dwelling or funding the relocation of the dwelling to an alternative location on the property. MDC will undertake these negotiations and Greater Wellington will continue to provide technical assistance.

Summary of Recommendations:

13. The reviews completed all mention the need for community to have the necessary resources and training for these types of events. Communication channels are a key part of any community, especially in a natural disaster.

14. Below is a summary of the key recommendations from the “After Action Review: Cyclone Gabrielle- Wairarapa Response”:
- a All three Wairarapa councils establish appropriate arrangements in accordance with the agreed concepts of operations.
 - b All EOC reports use correct Coordinated Incident Management System (CIMS) terminology in status report.
 - c Staff from all relevant council functions (including Māori Liaison) should be involved in the activation of the council incident management team (IMT) and EOC from the outset.
 - d To ensure ongoing connectivity with communities that often get isolated, alternate communication options should be explored and a suitable solution identified. While some communities like Tinui had a Community Emergency Hub kit with a VHF radio, no one knew how to use it and it was not able to provide the required level of connectivity with Greater Wellington or the EOC. Upon exploring why the Tinui radio had not been used, it was revealed that it had been placed in the community during some Community Emergency Hub training several years before. At the time, 15 or so members of the community had been present. Since then, the radio had been tested every year, but there had been no community training run for the past two-three years due to Covid-19. Of the original 15 community members who attended the training, only three or four remained in the community and none recalled how to use the radio.
 - e Clearly identified community points of contact for each community should be available to all staff in the EOC so they are not dependent on a single individual being in the EOC to have that connectivity.
 - f At the end of the response phase a clear regional impact summary document should be completed to understand what recovery work is required going forward.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei

Next steps

Greater Wellington support planned for 2024 (new funding):

- 15. Greater Wellington along with MDC and Carterton District Council (CDC) applied for funding support through the Local Government Flood Resilience Co-investment Fund which is being managed by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC). The funding is to support areas impacted by Cyclone Hale and Gabrielle. Greater Wellington put forward two applications, one in September 2023 and one in November 2023.
- 16. The September 2023 bid was for crack willow blockage removal totalling \$7 million. On 5 October 2023 DPMC confirmed funding of \$3.5 million to be utilised by 30 June 2025.
- 17. The November 2023 bid was for more crack willow blockage removal funding totalling \$5 million as well as early flood warning system upgrades totalling \$4 million. On 24 January 2024 DPMC confirmed funding of \$1.25 million for early flood warning systems upgrades. We did not receive any further funding for crack willow blockage removal. This fund must also be utilised by 30 June 2025.

18. This funding is focused on flood resilience in impacted communities and will target key areas of crack willow blockages caused by debris during the cyclone. There is also funding for replanting and restoration of the river.
19. The funding for early flood warning system upgrades has only just been achieved. We need to review our application and undertake a rescoping exercise to ensure we undertake appropriate upgrades with the funds made available to us.
20. The funding is a great opportunity to support the community and restore parts of the catchment. Greater Wellington teams who manage the Catchment Schemes are already aware of some key areas within the catchment and have made a start on removing some blockages in January 2024. There is opportunity for more sites to be included and we will be engaging with the Tinui community in February.
21. This funding provides an extra opportunity to think as a whole catchment and how can we enable resilience into the future. Careful thought is needed about each site and the methodology of crack willow removal, so one problem is not swapped for another.

Greater Wellington support planned through existing programmes:

Restoration Services

22. Greater Wellington continues to work with landowners through existing support programmes in these catchments. Approx. 60 hectares are planned to be retired to protect erosion-prone land and waterways in the catchment in 2024. There is strong interest from landowners to continue their poplar and willow planting programmes this year. Poplar and willow stools at Akura were damaged during the cyclone and supply is lower than usual (estimates at 15,000-20,000 for the season). Greater Wellington will prioritize areas with the most need over winter 2024 and 2025.

Flood Incident Management

23. Greater Wellington continues to invest in improving regional flood emergency management in partnership with Wellington Region Emergency Management Office (WREMO). This programme includes:
 - a **Flood forecasting** – Greater Wellington is investing in a new flood forecasting system in partnership with international experts and the MetService. This programme is currently in the development stage where flood forecasting models are being developed for each of the major river catchments in the Region.
 - b **Automated warnings systems** – a text-based auto call system is currently being trialled in the Wairarapa to replace the manual phone trees currently operated by our Flood Warning Duty Officers. This system will increase resilience, and free up the duty officers to perform other tasks such as impact assessment and network management. There is the potential for this system to be broadened for use in the Eastern Hills.
 - c **Flood Monitoring Network Improvements – A regional programme of resilience** improvements is underway. This programme is currently being reset following lessons from Cyclone Gabrielle. This programme is considering communication, power supplies, ability to gauge in high flows and infrastructure resilience. This programme will also consider the opportunity to install new sites in areas with limited coverage such as the Eastern Hills.

- d **Flood response procedures** – The operational procedures undergo constant update and improvement. We are working with all territorial authorities including the Wairarapa councils to learn lessons from each event to improve regional resilience.

**Ngā kaiwaitohu
Signatories**

Writer	Tash Styles – Catchment Manager – Wairarapa Coast
Approvers	Nicola Patrick – Director, Catchment Lian Butcher – Kaiwhakahaerea Matua Taiao Group Manager, Environment

He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations
<i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i> The Wairarapa has specific responsibility for considering matters of significance to the Wairarapa, including flood protection and land management.
<i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i> This report informs the Wairarapa Committee on progress made on recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle.
<i>Internal consultation</i> The Knowledge and Insights, Delivery and Catchment functions were consulted.
<i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i> There are no known risks or impacts arising from this report.