

WAIROA

FLOOD MITIGATION
PROJECT

4 December 2025

Agenda

- Our kaupapa
- Option 1C+
- Land access
- Order in Council
- Contractor appointment
- Resource consenting
- National Infrastructure Funding and Finance (NIFF)
- Holistic flood plain management
- Next steps

Our kaupapa

Our focus has always been on finding a way forward with the **best possible technically viable solution** that **minimises negative impacts on whānau, their land and homes** and **protects marae, urupā and cultural taonga** in the process.

Option 1C+



Option 1C+ – narrowed

There have been further refinements to Option 1C+ during the current design phase:

- **Width:** original 190m width maintained for upper section of floodway, narrowed down to 105m wide at the southern end
- **Depth:** floodway has an average depth of 1.5m, and up to 2.0m deep at the southern end
- **Wall height:** up to 2m above road level at the southern end, minimal changes to stopbank height/s on the southern side of the river
- **Cost:** closer to \$70 million, including a contingency (allowing for an additional \$5 million for a section of concrete at the southern end of the floodway)



Land access – floodway complete

Land access has been a primary focus for the project since our last community hui.

This is a process requiring careful balance between community urgency and respectful engagement with directly impacted whānau.

- Continue to work toward completing land access agreements for all directly impacted homes and landowners within the narrowed Option 1C+ floodway footprint.
- Discussions with homeowners on the southern side of the river near Mitchell Road and Churchill Ave are also ongoing.

Order in Council – approved

- In August 2025, Cabinet approved the Order in Council amendment requested by Hawke's Bay Regional Council.
- As a result, the Hawke's Bay Flood Protection Works Order 2024 has been updated, enabling the streamlined consenting process to cover the full scope of Option 1C+.
- 14 emailed submissions were made, with the large majority supportive of the proposed amendment.

Contractor appointment – Goodman

- Request for Proposal (RFP) for early contractor involvement and final construction – completed September
- Site visits and technical assessments – completed September
- Confirmed appointment of Goodman – October

Procurement strategy has a specific focus on utilising local contractors and supply chains from within the Wairoa District.



Resource consent – application drafted

A comprehensive Resource Consent application will be processed under the Severe Weather Emergency Recovery (Hawke's Bay Flood Protection Works) Order 2024:

- A faster, more efficient pathway specifically created for post-Cyclone Gabrielle flood protection projects
- Assesses the works as a Controlled Activity and consent must be granted with no rights of appeal, with specified conditions
- Requires decisions within 30 working days of acceptance
- Includes mechanisms for continued community input through a Stakeholder Technical Advisory Group (STAG)
- Application to be lodged pre-Christmas with consent granted in February 2026

National Infrastructure Funding and Finance

On Monday, the project team met with National Infrastructure Funding and Finance (NIFF) to provide an update on the project and confirm next steps:

- Technically viable flood mitigation solution
- Respects cultural values and whenua of the Wairoa community
- Can be funded out of the Crown's \$70 million
- Enables 627 Category 2C properties to move to Category 1
- Required land access achievable
- Resource consenting pathway identified

Holistic flood plain management

- Intermediate Management Plan for the Wairoa Bar in place – HBRC, in collaboration with WDC and Tātau Tātau
- Crown peer review of groyne option completed
- Funding still uncertain – particularly given narrowed Option 1C+
- Upper catchment native planting modelling – expected to be completed by February 2026



Next steps

- The Crown peer review process has now been initiated
- Some engineering refinements highlighted
- More detailed design and peer review works to complete
- Continue to work toward the possibility of some construction activity during the current 2025/26 summer season
- Remains subject to achieving all necessary project approvals from the Crown

This is about turning plans into action to protect the Wairoa community, and we remain grateful for the ongoing engagement and patience of the community as we work toward a safer future for all.



Questions?

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