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MEDIA RELEASE

Wairoa's \$70 million of Crown funding released

Wairoa's much-needed flood mitigation solution is one step closer, with the full \$70 million of Crown funding ring-fenced for Wairoa released following joint Ministerial approval of the Project Delivery Plan (PDP).

The PDP was submitted to the Crown in late March by Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC) and was based on the preferred flood mitigation solution Option 1C+ - a refined flood mitigation solution that, once constructed, will enable 627 properties to shift from Category 2C to Category 1. This followed a decision by HBRC to progress Option 1C+ at its meeting on 26 March 2025.

Crown Manager, Lawrence Yule says progressing Option 1C+ remains subject to land accessibility, and the project team continues to engage directly with those home and landowners impacted by the proposed flood mitigation solution.

"As individual owners have indicated they are ready, we have commenced the independent valuation process, and this work will continue to make progress over the coming weeks.

"We're also working with both the Māori Land Court and Te Tumu Paeroa, where appropriate, to support the ongoing kōrero with owners of whenua Māori."

The Crown's \$70 million of funding had been set aside following confirmation of HBRC's cost-sharing agreement with the Government in August 2023 for flood mitigation in the region.

HBRC Chair Hinewai Ormsby says, "securing the Crown's support and endorsement for the preferred flood mitigation solution Option 1C+ is a significant milestone and an important step forward for the project and for our Wairoa community, who we have worked closely with to get to this place. It also demonstrates the Government's faith in the process followed to date, and confidence in our ability to deliver a technically viable flood mitigation solution for Wairoa."

Mr Yule agrees, saying "getting to this point in the project is a direct reflection of the huge amount of work that's been done by all involved, and a testament to the way in which the people of Wairoa have come together to progress one of the most significant infrastructure and resilience projects ever delivered in Wairoa.

"With the PDP approved, the project's focus remains on securing the land access required to deliver flood mitigation for Wairoa."

Further cultural assessment activity is also ongoing, to ensure the proposed flood mitigation solution can protect marae and other cultural taonga, including Te Kopua and Waihirere Urupā.

"There is still a significant amount of mahi ahead for us all, and we remain committed to progressing this work at pace, and to continuing to work together to help safeguard the resilience and wellbeing of the community of Wairoa," Mr Yule says.

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Note to the Editor:



Above: a map showing the early concept stage of the refined Option 1C+

Preferred flood mitigation solution Option 1C+ features three components:

1. A 1.1km, 190-metre-wide floodway, with stopbanks on either side, in North Clyde. The floodway will temporarily allow excess water to flow through it only when river levels reach a certain height.
2. A secondary stopbank on the southern side of the river, from the SH2 bridge in the Wairoa township, along the river esplanade and toward Mitchell Road. The total length of the stopbank is currently estimated to be around 1.2km.
3. Lifting the floor level of three houses in Frasertown.

A factsheet with more detailed information on Option 1C+ is available online: [Wairoa Flood Mitigation Project](#).