

Stakeholder Flood Protection notes 25.03.24

Met Ruataniwha Marae for site visit including Railway Road Road, showgrounds, Hurumua/Awamate.

Purpose: to update, visit sites, address option recommendations and community consultation.

Tripartite wants recommended option/s for the next day meeting.

Awaiting reports on cultural impact, forestry, woody debris, river mouth management, dredging, upper catchment management, global options, Andrew Newman report. All reports expected by the end of April.

Discussion like-for-like for people giving up homes – full replacement, not capital value. Anybody who is impacted/adversely affected will be fairly compensated.

Raised that modelling based on tabletop/desktop exercises, no confidence in guesstimates, not robust and not enough information provided to make fully informed decisions.

Genesis involvement questioned which will be addressed in the Andrew Newman report.

Raised that there is no accurate data, the stakeholder group can't give a recommendation when reports are weeks away. Needs time for due diligence. Suggested values have not been considered, and implications could be in excess of the \$70m ringfenced for protection.

Group members said they haven't removed options; they have been told by WSP they are not doable.

Group chairman Lawrence Yule said there is pressure from the Crown which wants solutions and to move people from 2A to 2C. HBRC can make that happen but has to be confident there is a viable option. WDC has written to HBRC asking to change from 2A to 2C immediately.

None of the options are perfect, there are pros and cons, but for HBRC to lift 2A it needs to be confident there is a solution.

Concern around option 5 – involves turning the river 90 degrees, which is not the way the river wants to go and creates a danger if there is a stopbank failure. Also, concern re-flooding across SH2 and working with Waka Kotahi.

Suggestion to look at the Feilding model and how that impacts communities.

Need to look for the best, safest solution for Wairoa's future. If there is no option to support, Wairoa will face buyouts and the stakeholder group does not support that, so options need to be identified.

Around \$250,000 spent on modelling to date.

Further discussion 627 properties in 2A, yet some weren't impacted by flooding. Flood protection options protect 160 houses. Around 350 flooded in Cyclone Gabrielle.

Site visits identified some of the data was not correct. Ground truthing to be carried out to ensure confidence and accuracy.

Concern raised around the peer-review process, that without consultation with the stakeholder group – peer review has been carried out by the same company that developed the modelling - so they are peer-reviewing themselves.

Discussion, led by Lawrence Yule, that there are really only two viable technical options left on the table, the 1 (a,b,c), which is the spillway and 5, the stopbanking.

While the group support didn't support options 1 (a,b,c) and 5 and continually pressed for more information, members did not disagree that of what had been presented to date, there are no other options that technically work based on the information received.