

Stakeholder flood protection notes 31.10.24

Meeting chaired by Wairoa Mayor Craig Little

Crown Manager Lawrence Yule said significant public engagement was underway and he wanted to update the Stakeholder group on the timelines.

Stressed the need to let the community know the journey to date and options that have been considered. Desire to share all the reports in the Stakeholder Dropbox with the public via the Wairoa Recovery website. As such, members of the Stakeholder Group were released from the confidentiality agreements they had signed.

Resolution: That the confidentiality clause relating to information shared with the Wairoa Stakeholder Group now be released. Moved: Turi Paku/seconded: Oha Manuel.

Reports to be uploaded on Nov 4 ahead of Nov 5 public meeting.

Discussion and clarification that the two most technically viable options that are going to public consultation, options 1C and 1D, were not endorsed by all members of the stakeholder group.

Engagement has begun with homeowners directly impacted by 1C and 1D technically viable options. This was followed by a meeting for directly affected whānau held at Takitimu Marae, which drew 80-100 people.

Ground conditions/geotechnical work is now needed to gather more info around options 1C and 1D.

Looking to confirm who will carry out the cultural impact assessment.

The preferred option needs to be confirmed by Feb 7, and the business case must be lodged with central government. by the end of March 2025. Likely to take two summer construction periods to build.

Working with WDC on mobile temporary flood mitigation for vulnerable areas if there is an event before the permanent solution is in place.

Summary of the Bathymetric survey of the Wairoa River, including drone footage and sonar 3D imaging. Showed no significant change near the river mouth since the last data was captured in 2010 and that dredging the lower section of the river demonstrates only a small benefit to NC. However, dredging from the Wairoa Bridge to the river mouth may have an impact on Kopu Road.

In summarising, Mr Yule said the report indicated in the last 14 years, sediment in the river had not built up to any extent, and the river had remained in a steady state over that period despite climate change, sea level rises and bar management changes.

Increased sediment was noted in the period prior to the 2010 data, with some members believing dredging was still the answer and requesting that dredging be kept on the table as an option for mitigation for the Kopu Road end of town.

Question re whānau receiving valuation and legal advice as part of the flood mitigation project. This was confirmed, noting the national criteria around this support.

In response to a query regarding costing, Mr Yule advised that geotechnical work is needed to get more accurate figures.

Further query about the status of Railway Bridge, unanswered.

The question of how much money has been spent to date was raised with the response of approximately \$ 1.5 million.

Further question around whether the Hawke's Bay Regional Council had implemented any of the recommendations from the Government review into Wairoa River mouth management (Mike Bush report). HBRC Jon Kingsford of HBRC responded that there were 42 recommendations, and a report was being prepared identifying what had been adopted and what areas require more work.

Mr Yule said his understanding is that HBRC plans to uptake most, if not all, of the report recommendations, adding that work is being undertaken around bar management with more local and mana whenua involvement.