

Stakeholder notes 09.05.24

Purpose of today's meeting to look into flood modelling in more detail based on the most up-to-date modelling that includes roughage being factored in. Mindful still awaiting several reports including dredging, bar management, global approach.

Gary Williams has been engaged in peer review. Work to include looking at culverts.

On-ground visits have still not occurred. The group again stressed that the modelling is based on incorrect data and that ground truthing is needed.

Andrew Somersby WSP presented new modelling, including 5C, which has an added stopbank and pushes the water back across Awamate and further up the river.

Stopbanks increase the depth of flooding on SH2 and the vulnerability of the road.

The modelling is based on high tide plus 1.6m storm surge plus bar closed. The worst scenario is high tide and closed bar, which would have more effect on the south side of town.

Further discussion around using Awatere Stream as part of mitigation but could not get the modelling to perform.

The group asked if some of the modelling options that had been ruled out would work once accurate data, including the roughage factor, were gathered.

Combinations are not ruled out. The group wants the best solution, not one driven by money. Costing is not the starting point; affordability is secondary.

It was again suggested that houses be raised as is being done in other areas—the indicative cost (as suggested by Michelle McIlroy) to raise 350 homes is \$17m.

Suggestion project management is too constrained. Reiteration that finance should be the last consideration, need to look at combination, and re-stressed the importance of cultural impacts analysis, which should have been at the forefront of the work.

Discussion around the river's shallowness, dredging, and the risk of water velocity collapsing/scouring spillways. Reinforced Geotech lining to reduce scouring.

Discussion around Waihirere being isolated, options footbridge, evacuation point. Won't be a road bridge over spillway. Waihirere has same isolation problem when floods now.

The legality of putting water into someone else's property was raised and needs to be determined before more money is spent on options that may not be legally possible.

Tunnels and underground raised. The cost to move 1000 cubic meters a second is prohibitive.

Lawrence Yule reminded the group that its job is to get the best information possible and give it back to the Tripartite group. He said he is not sure there will be a universal agreement, but that is not needed; it is about putting options forward. The Stakeholder Group's job is not consultation; it's about gathering information so it can make a recommendation to the Tripartite.

Information on the cultural assessment, dredging, bar management, costings, etc., all need to be provided. Gary Williams will also review the material prepared to date and talk with the stakeholder group.

Mr Yule stressed the importance of the ground truthing, saying that, now, there is an element of doubt because it hasn't been done.

There was a discussion that it was taking too long to get information to the group. They have been asking for months. The group is expected to make a recommendation without the information. Again, concern was raised about taking the river problem from one side and making it a concentrated issue in other areas.

Stressed stakeholder group has a mandate to ask questions, and a recommendation to the Tripartite group won't be able to be made until the questions have been answered. The questions being asked by the stakeholder group will be the same as those asked by the community.

Dave Paku of Hurumua said that for his whānau, first and foremost is about Wairoa, but he also suggested option 5 is now not suitable and should be taken off the table.

Wiki Hauraki said the marae (Takitimu, Tawhiti-a-Maru Ruataniwha, Hurumua, Hinemihi) will not support a model that affects them.

Tawhiti-a-Maru, potentially the most impacted by the most models, said they want to help the community but unsure how they can move forward and would like someone to talk to them about their options.

Mr Yule asked if there was any support from the stakeholder group for the variations of option 5. Based on response will go back to the Tripartite group saying very little if any support for options 5 based on the current information.

1C, the last viable option that does not affect the marae, could be viable in combination with lifting houses. Expected to have 1C costings by the end of next week. Noting that option 1B, the most hydrologically and technically viable option has not been discounted.

Mr Yule said significant progress had been made, effectively three options: do nothing, 1C, 1C and/or raise houses.