

# OHITI FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECT UPDATE

## IN A NUTSHELL

1. Regional and District Councils have agreed in principle to work with a community-led review group for the Ohiti stopbank project. Regional council is currently reviewing the terms of reference Te Piringa Hapū and B2R have drafted.
2. The Review Group will enlist members of the community to ensure that the various concerns of the community are properly addressed
3. The aim is to ensure an effective solution for 2C landowners that does not unfairly or unnecessarily transfer the risk from one part of the community to another
4. Councils will still need to talk with affected landowners and the wider community but the review aims to smooth the pathway by addressing the community's questions.

## THE DETAIL

### AFTER THE OCTOBER 8 COMMUNITY MEETING

Te Piringa Hapū and B2R called an urgent hui with Hawke's Bay Regional Council and Hastings District Council to discuss concerns raised by the community and next steps for this project.

Attending from the **Regional Council** were: Chair, Hinewai Ormsby, Cr Xan Harding, CEO Nic Peet, Te Wairama Munro, Te Kaha Hawaii Kirangi, Jon Kingsford, Chris Dolley, Richard Wakelin. From **Hastings District Council**: Deputy Mayor, Tania Kerr, Councillors Ana Apatu and Heather Te Au-Skipworth, CEO Nigel Bickle, Craig Thew and Gus Charteris. **Crown Infrastructure Partners**, which hold the flood protection contracts on behalf of the Crown, also attended.

### Te Piringa Hapū and B2R put forward the following concerns:

- Inadequate information flow to community and late engagement
- Overly-pressured timeframe to complete the project

- Need for recognition of the wider community's concerns (impacts on bridge, road and Omahu community) from Council's preferred options in 'overdesign' events (> 1:100)
- Need for process from here that whole community can have confidence in

### And laid out the following expectations:

1. Tonkin and Taylor model a new option as a way to achieve the best outcomes for the whole community, including the insurability of the affected homes.
2. The community be involved in the design and oversight of the peer review of the council's preferred option and the modelling of the "over-design" events.
3. The stopbank team to provide detailed responses to the community and should have access to the detailed cost-benefit analysis.
4. Regional Council meet with community quickly to review the new option - modelling and costings - and discuss the peer review process and overdesign event modelling.

### Community-Led Review:

The core outcome was a **community-led review** of flood protection options to help arrive at the best solution for the whole community.

A community-led review is different from the standard 'stakeholder group' that councils often set up to consult with the community. A community-led process is just that: the community members involved set the agenda and work programme, convene the members and coordinate the process. We have made clear that:

- A community-led review can only be successful if Regional Council changes the schedule of flow modelling to address risk transfer questions (impacts on Omahu, the road and bridge) first, before moving to more detailed analysis of particular options.
- This process does not remove HBRC duties to talk directly with affected landholders – those requiring flood protection and those who may or will be affected by the proposed flood protection measures. However, B2R and Te Piringa Hapū will raise any concerns shared directly by community members on their behalf.
- The Community-Led Review Group will not make the final decisions on this project but this process should help deliver the best solution for te whanau katoa.

We have put draft terms of reference to Regional Council and are awaiting their feedback.

### Who will be on the Community-Led Review:

We have put forward:

- 2C Landholders along Ohiti and Taihape Road (2 people)
- Landholders likely to be affected by flood protection measures along (2 people)
- Mana whenua (2 people)
- Community potentially affected by the Council's preferred options (2 people)
- Heavy-Traffic Forum (2 members)
- Hastings District Council (2 representatives)

- Regional Council (as required to provide the information the community is asking for)
- An independent chair to be appointed by the community.

### Reporting back to the community:

The community will receive meeting minutes two days after each meeting.

### B2R's Role

We support good outcomes for the 11 homes along Ohiti Road that have lived with uncertainty since February 2023.

Our role is to ensure that the concerns the community has brought to us are properly addressed and that the community is included and consulted on the new stopbank design. We'll do that to the best of our ability.

We are not a voice for every person, but we are focussing on the issues common to everyone – safety and preserving vital access routes. We have made clear that the regional council must talk directly to all landholders directly impacted by flood protection measures.

**Have questions?**

**Want to be kept up-to-date?**



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