

Appendix K Engagement summary report



Waipoua Urban Reach Flood Risk Management Concepts Engagement Report

Engagement with the Masterton community on flood risk
management concepts for the urban reach of the Waipoua River

17 February to 16 March 2025

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Document Approval

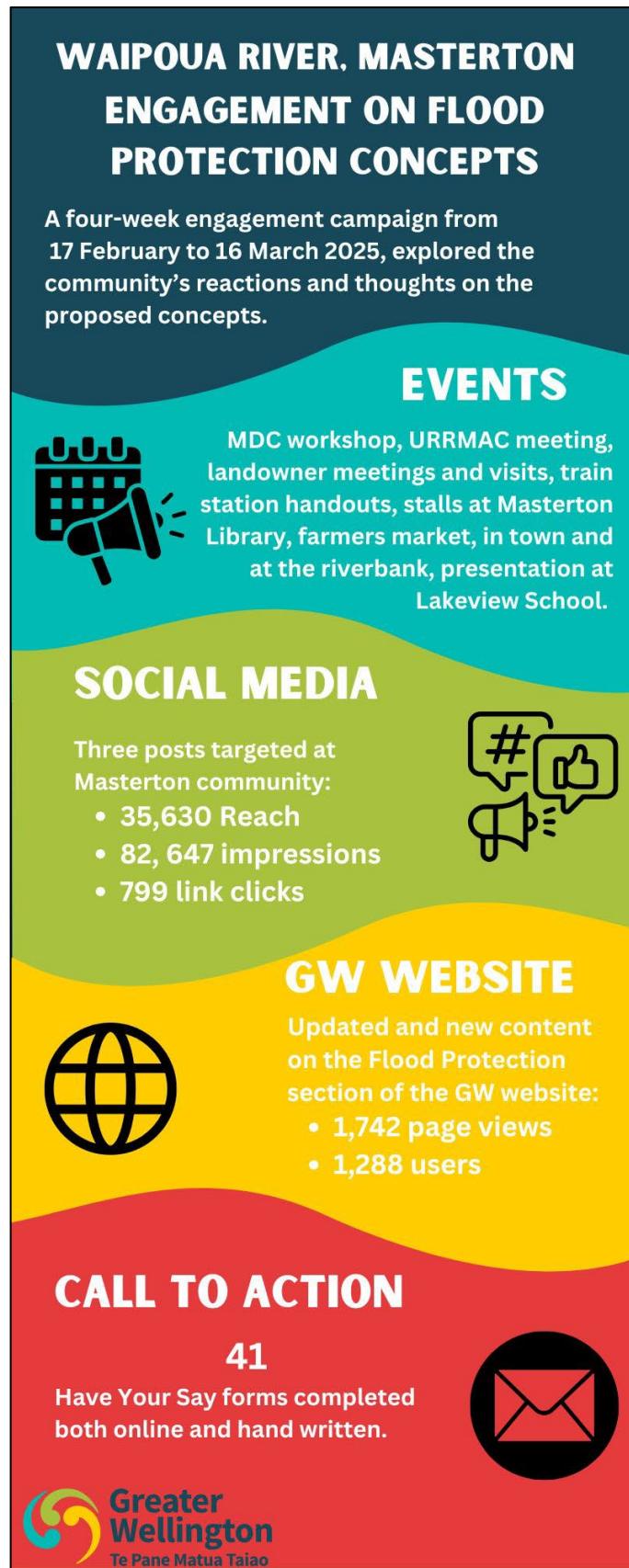
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Version History

Significant changes to this document are listed in the version history table below.

Version	Date	Revision	Approved by	Signature
1	28 March 2025	Issue 1	Francie Morrow Team Leader – Knowledge, Water Resilience	

Waipoua River Flood Risk Management Concepts Community Engagement Summary



1. Background

Flooding is a significant hazard in the Wellington region and poses a risk to both life and property. A key role of local authorities is to work with communities to protect them from the effects of hazards, including flooding.

Following a community meeting in 2019, the Waipoua Project Team was formed which includes Greater Wellington, Masterton District Council, community members and iwi. The Waipoua Project Team formed to identify the flood risk from the urban reach of the Waipoua River and then investigate concepts to manage this risk. This work is Stage 1 of the Major Project Response on the Waipoua Urban Reach from the Te Kāuru Upper Ruamāhanga Floodplain Management Plan.

The initial phase of work for the Waipoua Project Team was to determine the level of flood risk to Masterton, posed by flooding from the Waipoua River. The resulting flood hazard modelling identified that Masterton is at risk of flooding from the Waipoua River in a flood with a 1% annual exceedance probability (AEP) i.e., a flood that has a 1% chance of occurring in any given year. The flooding is worse when considering the predicted effects of climate change.

The Waipoua Project Team has subsequently been exploring ways to best manage the current and future flood risks to Masterton. The team has proposed four flood risk management concepts to improve protection for the Masterton community from the impacts of flooding. This report details the engagement undertaken to share and gather feedback on these concepts from stakeholders and the local community.

2. Engagement Objectives

Extensive stakeholder and community engagement has been undertaken to share and gather feedback on the Waipoua River flood management concepts. Community engagement took place between 17 February and 16 March 2025. Alongside this, briefings, presentations and workshops were also being held with stakeholders, including with Greater Wellington Wairarapa Councillor Staples, Masterton District Council and the Upper Ruamāhanga River Management Advisory Committee.

The main purpose of the engagement was to:

- Seek feedback on the proposed concepts for managing the Waipoua River's flood risk to Masterton's urban area.

Additional purposes for the engagement were:

- Informing the community about flood risks and gain support for the project.
- Discussing future opportunities for the urban reach of the river.
- Gathering information about the community's values (social, cultural, recreational and environmental) in relation to river management.
- Recognising the importance and value of the community's knowledge and experience.

3. Flood Risk Management Concepts

The Waipoua Project Team developed a series of flood risk management concepts to engage on, which can be summarised as:

- Concept 1: Upgrading the existing stopbanks.
- Concept 2: Undertaking mechanical work in the river channel (berm lowering and channel widening) as well as stopbank upgrades.
- Concept 3: Retreating the stopbanks on the true left bank (northern side) of the river where possible and other stopbank upgrades.
- Concept 4: Implementing nature-based solutions in the upper catchment (in combination with another flood risk management concept).

It is noted that through the work of the Waipoua Project Team, each of these concepts had initially been considered as a feasible stand-alone option. For Concept 4, nature-based solutions in the upper-catchment were assumed to be able to provide a 5% reduction in flow and stopbanks upgrades (i.e., Concept 1) would take place in the urban reach. However, prior to engagement it was determined that instead of presenting four design options, more valuable information could be gathered from the community by describing more high-level concepts which are more flexible and could be combined. It was promoted that the final design for managing the flood risk would likely involve a combination of aspects from each of the four proposed concepts.

In addition to the proposed concepts, the Waipoua Project Team also identified four work areas that will likely need to occur to complement the concepts. These are:

- Protection works each of the bridges;
- Bunds or stopbanks to protect Oxford Street;
- A bund to protect the Cameron Crescent area; and
- A bund and swale to protect the Akura Road area.

Further information regarding the information presented during the engagement (collaterals) is provided in Section 5.

4. Engagement with Masterton District Council and Greater Wellington

4.1 Update to Greater Wellington Councillor Adrienne Staples

An email briefing was sent to Adrienne Staples on 31 January 2025. The briefing discussed the upcoming flood management engagement in the Wairarapa: Waipoua River urban reach flood risk management concepts, as well as flood hazard modelling (Stage 3 and 4) for Donald's and Abbots Creeks in Featherston.

4.2 Masterton District Council Workshop

During this phase of the project, Greater Wellington, as representatives from the Waipoua Project Team, presented to Masterton District Council officers on two occasions:

- Presentation to Masterton District Council Officers on 15 September 2024.

- Presentation to Masterton District Council Executive Leadership Team on 11 February 2025.

The Waipoua Project Team (including community members and Greater Wellington representatives) also presented the proposed concepts and engagement plan to Masterton District Council elected members on 26 February 2025.

The key topics discussed included:

- Discussion around who pays for the work, whether it is funded through a Masterton District Council rate or Greater Wellington rate.
- Questions were asked about whether the concepts consider the new footbridge across the river.
- Discussion around what the area might look like once works were completed, and whether it was comparable to the Hutt River corridor.
- Discussions around the impact of flooding in the Ruamāhanga River and Waipoua River at the same time, and if the flood maps were available to the public.
- Questions were asked over which concept provided the greatest protection to Masterton.

4.3 Masterton District Council Submission

Masterton District Council prepared a written submission regarding the Waipoua River flood risk management concepts. The draft submission was presented to the elected members at an extraordinary Council meeting on March 19, which was subsequently approved.

Key points raised in the submission were:

- Key priorities: risk to life, the potential impacts to assets, the environment and possible impacts on insurance.
- Recognition of the need to protect the town, community assets and private property as well as the importance of the community being able to identify and connect with the river. Encouraging an outcome that results in a fair balance between these benefits.
- Indicated that a combination of attributes in the final recommended option would be preferred.

4.4 Engagement with Upper Ruamāhanga River Management Advisory Committee

Greater Wellington representatives presented to the Upper Ruamāhanga River Management Advisory Committee on 9 December 2024. At this time, the concepts were presented, and the committee was updated on when this community engagement period would occur.

A further update on the community engagement was sent to the committee via email on 13 February 2025. The brochure presenting the concepts was sent through the following week.

5. Community Engagement

Engagement with the community is recognised as an important part of Greater Wellington's flood risk management process. The engagement for this project was aimed to gauge public opinion on the proposed flood risk management concepts and understand community aspirations for the Waipoua River through Masterton.

A four-week engagement campaign was run from 17 February to 16 March 2025. The following sections provide details of the different aspects of the community engagement events and collaterals used.

5.1 Engagement Collaterals

5.1.1 DLE Flyers

A flyer was prepared to inform the local community of the upcoming drop-in sessions, provide a link to the website and raise awareness of the project. Reach Media were contracted by Greater Wellington to distribute the flyers. The flyers were sent out to 7,353 households in the Masterton urban area. A copy of the flyer is provided in Appendix A.

5.1.2 A4 Brochure

A four-sided A4 brochure was prepared to provide information on the concepts which could be used in the community engagement. These were handed out at in-person events and at the train stations. The brochure is attached in Appendix B.

5.1.3 Concept Maps

Conceptual plans were developed to enable the community to envision what each concept could look like and to identify areas for specific comment. The maps were included on the Greater Wellington website and were provided at in-person events. A copy of the maps are included in Appendix C.

5.1.4 Have Your Say Forms

A feedback form was developed to enable people to provide their thoughts on the four proposed concepts. The form had a series of questions aimed at gauging the community's opinions on each of the concepts, as well as some more targeted questions relating to river management and local assets. The form was available online through Greater Wellington's Have Your Say portal as well as physical print outs, which were made available for people attending the engagement events to take away, complete and return. A copy of the form is attached in Appendix D.

5.1.5 Privacy documents

Privacy assessments and a privacy statement were provided alongside the form on the Greater Wellington website (<https://haveyoursay.gw.govt.nz/waipouafloodconcepts>).

5.2 Newspaper Advertising

Two half-page advertisements were taken out in the *Wairarapa Times-Age* to promote the engagement, provide a link to the website content and advise of the community engagement drop-in sessions. The advertisements were printed on Wednesday 19 February and Saturday 22 February. A copy of the advertisement is provided in Appendix E. The *Wairarapa Times-Age* publishes twice weekly and has a readership of approximately 12,000 people.

5.3 Engagement with Landowners

The following sections summarise engagement with targeted landowners within the urban reach. It is acknowledged that further engagement and discussion with landowners, and particularly affected landowners, will need to be undertaken after confirmation of the preferred flood risk management option.

5.3.1 Mawley Park

Two Greater Wellington representatives and a Masterton District Council representative visited Mawley Park to discuss the concepts with the campground manager and staff on 11 February 2025. A summary of the key questions raised and discussed are provided in the table below.

The following points provide a summary of the comments and questions raised:

- What is the plan for the existing stopbanks?
- If the stopbanks are left but not maintained, how long would they take to erode?
- If the stopbanks are raised in their existing position, will the footprint change? Would this impact the property boundary?
- Will Greater Wellington talk to Masterton District Council [noting that they own the Mawley Park land]?
- Could you divert water to Henley Lake?
- What is the impact on rates?
- It was discussed that Concept 3 (retreated stopbanks) is not hugely different to the current level of protection – assuming the existing stopbanks stay in place.
- What is the timeframe for implementation?

It was agreed that once the brochures and Have Your Say forms were finalised, the Waipoua Project team would provide copies to Mawley Park manager, staff and residents.

The second visit was undertaken for 19 February 2025, which was attended by five Mawley Park long-term stayers and the campground manager. Copies of the brochures and Have Your Say forms were provided to those attending.

The following points provide a summary of the comments and questions raised:

- There has been significant erosion on the true left side of the river at the SH2 bridge.
- We can't swim in the river anymore.
- What are the potential effects of slash on flooding?
- The footpaths around the park have been rebuilt because stormwater running down from the terrace was wearing down the asphalt.
- The area around the washing line has flooded badly in the past. This is because there is inadequate drainage to get the water back to the river.
- Widening at the bridges is key.

5.3.2 Akura Road Industrial Area

Before any in-person events, the Greater Wellington representatives contacted landowners along Akura Road to provide them with information about the flood risk management concepts.

- A meeting was held with the landowner of 10 Akura Road on Friday 21 February 2025.
- The property owner for 20 - 24 Akura Road lives in Perth. Greater Wellington officers have been in email contact and have supplied them with links to website and online Have Your Say form.
- The property owner at 30 Akura Road attended one of the in-person events (Lakeview School). The Greater Wellington representative also made follow up contact with the owner.

5.3.3 Oxford Street Targeted Letters

Targeted letters were delivered to Oxford Street residents. These were delivered the week starting 17 February by a Waipoua Project Team community member.

5.3.4 Sports Bowl and Sports Grounds

On Thursday 27 February 2025, two Greater Wellington officers walked along the banks of the Waipoua River between the SH2 and Colombo Road bridges. The purpose was to identify the properties in that area and if possible, speak to any representatives of those properties. The properties visited were the Red Star rugby ground, NZMCA park, BMX track, the deer park, and the Pelorus Trust Athletics Track/ Colin Pugh Sports Bowl along the right bank and Pioneer rugby club, Masterton netball courts along the left bank.

There were no people around during this site visit as it appeared that the properties are not occupied unless there are events on. There were also no appropriate places to put posters up to advertise the drop in events.

A member of the Waipoua Project Team identified a community member involved with the Sports Bowl who should be contacted. When followed up, it was indicated that they had been contact and would submit a Have Your Say form online.

5.4 Community Engagement Events

Unless otherwise described each event was attended by both Greater Wellington and community members from the Waipoua Project Team. The attendees discussed the proposed flood risk management concepts and answered questions from the community.

5.4.1 Train station brochure handouts

Following approval from Metlink, two Greater Wellington officers handed out brochures at three Masterton train stations during the peak morning service times. Two officers attended the Masterton, Solway and Renall Street stations on the mornings of 25, 26 and 27 February 2025, respectively. A summary from each of the mornings are provided below.

Masterton Station

Time: 5:30 – 7:00 am, Tuesday 25 February 2025.

Masterton Station	Took brochure	Turned down brochure
Train 1	10	3
Train 2	17	3
Train 3 (bus replaced)	2	10
Total	29	16

The following points provide a summary of the comments and questions raised:

- I've got information on flooding because I'm buying a house in the flood zone.
- My house is on piles, so I'm ok. You can't protect everyone from flooding.
- The councils should have just one wastewater treatment plant for all of the Wairarapa down in Featherston. People need to think out of the box more.
- Oh yes, I read about this in the paper. Does that include Bentley Street?
- I don't live here, but that's very interesting.
- I've already submitted – I'm a geotechnical engineer and helped design the River Link stopbanks.

The third train was replaced by buses. Passengers on bus replacement were unhappy and didn't take brochures. This is likely to be either because they didn't want to read on the bus or because of the association with Greater Wellington/Metlink with the train service. There were a number of comments regarding fixing the train services rather than interest in flood protection.

Solway Station

Time: 5:30 – 7:00 am, Wednesday 26 February 2025.

Solway Station	Took brochure	Turned down brochure
Train 1	18	5
Train 2	8	11
Train 3	11	5
Total	37	21

The following points provide a summary of the comments and questions raised:

- I've read enough about this, so no.
- I've already seen this on Facebook.
- I work for the recovery office. We've been providing money for this sort of project.
- Yes, I looked into this [flooding] when we bought our house over here in April.
- Who cares about flooding? We care about train fares.
- Is it [the flood] coming?
- [Previously worked in environmental regulation] – No, but I know who to ask about this.
- This has never happened.

- Mother and daughter who took the brochure and then started talking about how their relative might flood.

While at the train station the Greater Wellington officers heard more comments regarding increasing train fares and that some people expected to be talking about the fares, not about flooding.

Renall Street Station

Time: 5:30 – 7:00 am, Thursday 27 February 2025.

	Took brochure	Turned down brochure
Train 1	7	0
Train 2	5	1
Total	12	1

The third train was replaced by bus service. Following the response when this happened on Tuesday morning (at Masterton Station), the Greater Wellington officers decided not to hand out brochures to those on the bus replaced service.

The following points provide a summary of the comments and questions raised:

- I've already seen this, I live in Matahiwi, just hurry up and do it [with a smile]
- Are you doing the talk? [the farmers' market] - I've got it in my dairy
- I tried to build a new place but had to build up too high because of the flood risk so didn't bother. I see someone has now built in there at ground level.
- Is it going to flood? I will go for a swim in the flood.
- What are the highlights? [Summary of the concepts was provided.]

5.4.2 Masterton District Library

Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm, Wednesday 26 February 2025.

Number of people who stopped to talk: 9.

The following points provide a summary of the comments and questions raised:

- I would like to see water quality improved.
- I like the idea of in channel works but am concerned about ongoing maintenance.
- We must look after the environment and have holistic thinking. We should take care of the headwaters to the confluence. There used to be wetlands in this catchment. Nature will rejuvenate itself.
- Cost is important. The preferred option should be cost effective.
- Will any of these options help with drought?
- I don't mind if the river doesn't look natural. I don't want to see it.
- I want to see natives planted, not willows. I support room for the river.
- The stopbanks in Waitara (Taranaki) were scary when they were full.

5.4.3 Presentation at Lakeview School

Time: Thursday 27 February 2025. The drop-in session was from 5:00 – 7:00 pm, with a presentation at 5:30 pm.

Number of people who attended: 8.

The following points provide a summary of the comments and questions raised:

- I trust your guys, you're the professionals. Just hurry up!
- As long as you have the right people in the room, I trust you.
- River Road works (existing flood resilience works)
- Acquisition of land
- Cost
- Timeline to completion
- Involvement from Masterton District Council
- Who is responsible for managing flood debris
- Risk to the campervan park
- SkyTEM and the ability to locate fault lines
- Management of the Ruamāhanga River

5.4.4 Stall in Charlie's Lane (alley by Paper Plus Masterton)

Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm, Saturday 1 March 2025.

Number of people who stopped to talk: 13.

A few others (~3) took a brochure but kept walking. A few were visiting from out of town. Many people did not wish to talk and did not stop or engage. It was noted that the Martinborough Fair was also on this date.

The following points provide a summary of the comments and questions raised:

- I don't live near the river/live up high, so this doesn't affect me.
- Concept 1 is a never-ending story where you just have to keep topping up the stopbanks.
- I advocate for a whole catchment approach.
- Rates are already too high.
- A flood that big won't ever happen.
- Climate change will happen no matter how much you spend. Greater Wellington said our stopbanks were fine but suddenly they no longer are?
- You can move the stopbank behind the deer park.
- Flooding happened at my place because of an undersized culvert. There was a quiet period for 10-12 years then 2-3 big events in 2 years.

5.4.5 Masterton District Library

Time: 2:00 – 4:00 pm, Tuesday 4 March 2025.

Number of people who stopped to talk: 6.

The following points provide a summary of the comments and questions raised:

- When will the flood maps appear on my LIM?
- I have a house in the flood zone, which is also my art studio.
- I live on Elizabeth Street and am part of neighbourhood watch.
- I am interested in emergency management.
- I support making room for the river.

5.4.6 Wairarapa Farmers' Market

Time: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, Saturday 8 March 2025.

Number of people who stopped to talk: 17.

The following points provide a summary of the comments and questions raised:

- I am annoyed that the irrigation channels are not regularly cleaned out. I live on Masterton-Castlepoint Road and my place floods because Greater Wellington open the flood gates.
- The culverts under the road need to be bigger to let more water through.
- I don't want inside my house to be visible from the top of the stopbank.
- What are you planning on doing with the existing large trees?
- Why do we continue to build in flood zones?
- What's wrong with removing more rock from the river?
- A backflow could be built on my property that allows floodwater in.
- Water levels are low. A very large flood would be needed to see these flood depths.
- Do you have a do-nothing option?

5.4.7 Stall in Queen Elizabeth Park

Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm Sunday 9 March 2025.

Number of people who stopped to talk: 7.

Another community event (children's event) was also taking place at Queen Elizabeth Park that day.

The following points provide a summary of the comments and questions raised:

- Flooding won't happen on the Waipoua.
- \$30M is too much money.
- There should be a one-off tax hit to pay for things like this. Not bleed rate payers dry.

- There should be a diversion/realignment as well as an area to hold up the water.

5.5 Have Your Say and physical feedback forms

At the end of the engagement period, 41 responses were received:

- 7 handwritten and 34 online responses
- 243 people saw the links to the forms (aware)¹
- 104 people read the forms online (informed)¹
- 36 people engaged online forms (engaged)

5.5.1 Feedback Assessment

The 41 feedback forms were assessed by Greater Wellington to understand the community's views on the concepts and common positive and negative themes. A copy of a blank form is provided in Appendix D for context.

The table below shows an averaged score for how each option was rated. This is based on the Love, Like, Neutral, Dislike or Hate responses (assigned a numerical value between +5 and -5). These results indicate the use of nature-based solutions was the most favourable by a considerable margin. Upgrading the existing stopbanks was the next most favourable, followed by retreating some stopbanks and finally in channel works (and stopbank upgrades). The concepts of retreating some stopbanks and in channel works were closely rated but were more polarising. The in-person conversations were largely consistent with these results, with nature-based solutions being most favoured and the other concepts being more closely scored.

Summary of 'Love it' or 'Hate it' questions	
Concept	Score
Concept 1 – Upgrade existing stopbanks	0.9
Concept 2 – In channel works and stopbank upgrades	0.4
Concept 3 – Retreated stopbanks	0.5
Concept 4 - Nature-based solutions	2.9

A series of questions were then posed which asked: 'when thinking about the Waipoua River, on a scale of 1 to 10 how important is the following...'. The rating provided for each question was then averaged. A summary of the results is provided in the table below.

More detailed questions about Waipoua River and local assets	
When thinking about the Waipoua River, on a scale of 1 to 10 how important is the following:	Score (average)
Protecting Mawley Park	5.4
Protecting the Sports Bowl	5.7
Protecting the sports fields	4.7
Protecting the Akura industrial area	6.3
Giving the river as much room as possible	7.3

¹ 'Reach' refers to the number of times people saw the content, 'impressions' is how many times the content was displayed, whether people saw it or not.

More detailed questions about Waipoua River and local assets	
When thinking about the Waipoua River, on a scale of 1 to 10 how important is the following:	Score (average)
Ensuring access to the river	7.6
Ensuring that changes have a positive effect on the environment	7.9
Enhancing the ability for mahinga kai practices	5.5
Upholding the mana of the Waipoua River	6.3

Where more directed questions were asked regarding different aspects of the Waipoua River, the highest scores related to giving the river as much room as possible, ensuring access to the river and ensuring changes have a positive effect on the environment. The remaining scores were largely consistent between protecting Mawley Park, the Sports Bowl and the Akura industrial area, enhancing the ability for mahinga kai practices and upholding the mana of the river. Protection of the sports fields scored the lowest across all questions.

In addition to the ratings provided for each concept, as well as the additional questions, all comments provided by the respondents were analysed. A summary of the most common comment themes is provided in the table below. Breakdowns of comment themes and whether they were positive or negative for each concept are provided in the proceeding table. The associated number is the count of individual comments that mentioned that theme.

All Concepts	
Comment theme (positive & negative)	Count
Environmental considerations	20
Natural river state/flow	17
Assets and property	18
Costs	14
Recreation	9

Concept 1 - Upgrade the existing stopbanks			
Positive		Negative	
Utilises existing infrastructure	3	Does not increase capacity for floodwater	4
Minimal disruption	3	Barrier to river access	4
More space for river and public	2	Heavy reliance on stopbanks	3
Low environmental impact	1	Does not give river room to move	3
Proven approach for flood protection	1		
Concept 2 - Undertake mechanical work in the river channel			
Positive		Negative	
More capacity for floodwater	7	Environmental impacts	11
Gives the river room to move	3	Reduces natural character of river	5
Reduce pressure on stopbanks	2	Ongoing maintenance	4

Environmental improvements	1	Geomorphic concerns	1
More capacity for floodwater	7		
Concept 3 - Retreat some stopbanks			
Positive		Negative	
Gives the river room to move	6	Flooding of Mawley Park	10
More capacity for floodwater	5	Flooding of Sports Bowl/ fields	9
Long term effectiveness	2	Encroaching on property	3
Less disruption	1	Disruptive	1
Improves access to river & surrounding area	1	Ongoing maintenance	1
		Not enough capacity for floodwater	1
		Removal of existing stopbanks	1
Concept 4 - Nature-based solutions			
Positive		Negative	
Environmental benefits	12	Does not provide enough protection	5
Gives the river room to move	4	Loss of productive farmland	2
Away from township	2	Takes a long time to take effect	2
Long term effectiveness	2		
Helpful for events of all sizes	1		
Aligns with te ao Māori	1		
Improves natural character	1		

Comments provided in the written responses were centred on environmental effects as well as the ‘natural’ state of the river (both flow and character). These were followed by comments on existing assets (e.g., Mawley Park or Sports Bowl) and the cost of upgrading the existing flood protection scheme.

In addition to the common theme of comments relating to each concept, several other comments received during this process are provided below.

- These are too expensive, hardship on rate payers.
- Have you considered implementing warning systems?
- Can you help with the water shortage and low water levels?
- I am worried about constriction at bridges.
- I do not like the proposed Akura floodwall.
- You should move critical infrastructure and manage recovery.
- What are your considerations for vegetation management?
- Do it now, do it right, and we save money and effort in the long run.
- The stopbanks just need to be topped up.
- Have you considered an earthquake changing the sediment supply.

- The stopbanks have worked for years, this work is unnecessary.
- We have opportunity to restore te mana o te wai of the awa.
- The Waipoua River means everything to my whanau and I.
- Respect our riverways.
- The stopbanks in Waitara were scary when full.
- What is the potential for slash to affect the river?
- A flood that big won't happen.
- What are the property requirements for these concepts?
- Stopbanks are visually unattractive.

5.6 Website Insights

Greater Wellington website content on the Waipoua River project was created to inform people about the background of the project, why it is being undertaken and to provide information on the concepts. The Have Your Say form was linked at the bottom of the website content.

The website had 1,742 views and 1,288 visitors.

5.7 Social Media insights

Greater Wellington ran a campaign of three targeted social media posts. The posts targeted people living in Masterton aged 24 to 80 years.

- *Post 1:* 17 February to 16 March 2025 (whole engagement period) – outlined the work and how to engage.
- *Post 2:* 17 February to 1 March 2025 – notified people of the upcoming engagement events.
- *Post 3:* 1 March to 9 March 2025 – invited people to attend the remaining events.

Insights on each of these posts are provided in the table below.

Insight	Post 1 (general)	Post 2 (event 1)	Post 3 (event 2)	Total
Reach ²	12,029	2,219	2,1382	35,630
Impressions	24,027	2,484	56,136	82,647
Click links	298	25	476	799

6. Summary

Engagement with the community is recognised as an important part of Greater Wellington's flood risk management planning process. The engagement for this project was aimed to gauge public opinion on the proposed flood risk management concepts and understand community aspirations for the Waipoua River through Masterton.

² 'Reach' refers to the number of times people saw the content, 'impressions' is how many times the content was displayed, whether people saw it or not.

Engagement undertaken during the four-week period covered a range of channels, events and targeted most areas of the Masterton community. A summary of the people reached is provided in the table below.

Event/activity	Approximate number of people ³
DLE flyers	7,353
Train station handouts	78
Engagement events	66
Website visits	1,288
Newspaper	<i>unknown</i>
HYS feedback forms received	41
Social media post reach	35,630

Based on the in-person conversations and written responses it appears that a large portion of the community are in favour of implementing nature-based solutions but there is acknowledgement that this will need to be undertaken in conjunction with other flood risk management concepts. Upgrading the existing stopbanks was next highly favoured. The concepts of retreating some stopbanks and the idea of in channel works were closely rated but were more polarising.

Comments across the concepts were largely centred on environmental effects as well as the river in a more ‘natural’ state (both flow and character) followed by existing assets and the cost of upgrading the existing flood protection scheme.

7. Lessons Learnt

During this engagement period, the following areas were identified which could be improved upon:

- The flyers were delivered earlier than expected (weekend prior to engagement period starting), which meant the Greater Wellington website was not live when the flyer was received. This resulted in people trying to access the website and provide feedback but not being able to.
- It also appears that the flyer may not have been delivered to all required households. It is uncertain why this occurred but may have been due to ‘no circulars’ on mailboxes or an error where some houses were missed.
- The community engagement coincided with a series of external factors which are likely to have reduced the community’s willingness to engage on flooding. This includes the financial environment, change in government priorities and a dry summer. Many people highlighted issues regarding financial hardship and water shortages.

³ Some of these may be representing the same person on more than one activity.

8. Next Steps

Each of the respondents who provided their contact details have been thanked for their submission.

The Waipoua Project Team is completing a multi-criteria analysis, which incorporates the information and feedback gathered, to determine a preferred option to manage the flood risk of the Waipoua River to Masterton. This preferred option is then intended to be presented to the Masterton community at a later date.

Appendix A – DLE flyer

Protecting Masterton from Waipoua River flooding

**KŌRERO MAI -
HAVE YOUR SAY!**



Masterton is at risk of flooding from the Waipoua River with a flood that has a 1% chance of happening in any given year.

Greater Wellington has been working alongside members of the community and iwi, exploring solutions to help manage the flood risk to Masterton.

We have some concepts that we'd like your feedback on.

We will be out and about in the community to share the concepts, answer questions and discuss best steps forward for Masterton and those who live, work and play here.



Come and talk to us!

Masterton District Library

Wednesday 26 February 10 am – 12 pm

Lakeview School, drop in and presentation

Thursday 27 February 5 - 7 pm (presentation at 5:30 pm)

Charlie's Lane (outside Paper Plus) 181 Queen Street

Saturday 1 March 10 am – 12 pm

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Wairarapa Farmers Market (Solway Showgrounds)

Saturday 8 March 9 am – 1 pm

Queen Elizabeth Park – near the carpark by the skate park

Sunday 9 March 10 am – 12 pm

Let's work together to build resilient, prepared communities.

Learn more and give your feedback here

www.gw.govt.nz/waipouafloodsolutions

Send us your feedback by Sunday 16 March 2025.

Appendix B – A4 brochure

Waipoua Flood Risk Management Concepts

**KŌRERO MAI -
HAVE YOUR SAY!**

Masterton is at risk of flooding from the Waipoua River in a flood that has a 1% chance of happening in any given year. The flooding risk increases when other potential scenarios are factored in, including climate change.

Following a community meeting in 2019, a project team formed which includes Greater Wellington, members of the community and iwi.

The project team have been working to firstly define the flood risk to Masterton and then investigate possible outcomes to help manage that risk.

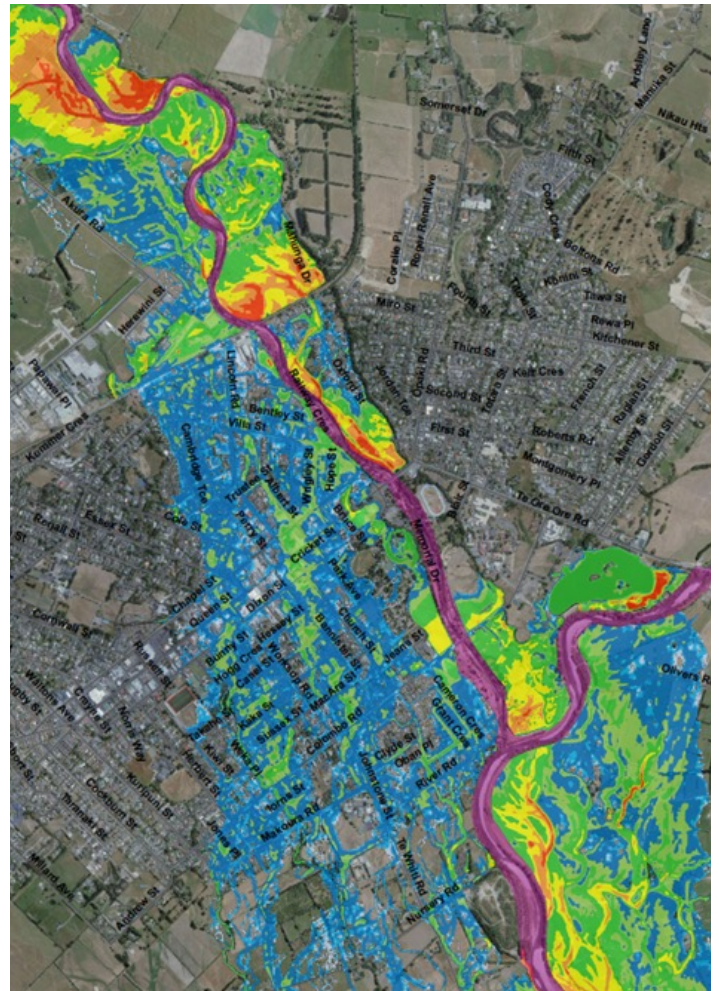
This work forms part of the Te Kāuru Upper Ruamāhanga Floodplain Management Plan.

Your knowledge is important to us, and we need your feedback on proposed concepts for managing the flood risk to Masterton's urban area from the Waipoua River.

The final design will likely involve a combination of aspects from each of the concepts, so we want to hear from you about what you do and don't like.

We also want to hear about your vision for the future of the Waipoua River through Masterton.

Your feedback will help inform a design to manage flood risk which incorporates the values and aims of the community while recognising the river as an integrated part of the Masterton township.



Future 1% annual exceedance probability flood
(with sensitivity scenarios)

The above map models how climate change will affect the 1% chance flood through Masterton. In addition to climate change, this map also includes a variety of adverse scenarios which could affect a flood event. For example, the railway bridge being partially blocked by debris such as rocks and trees, which would impact the depth and spread of floodwater. These adverse scenarios have not been factored in all at once but rather each run through the model separately and the results merged to create a map.

Flood Management Concepts

The project team has been developing feasible concepts to manage flood risk from the Waipoua River to Masterton. The team has worked with experts, used the most up-to-date technology, and collected as much data as possible to inform these concepts.

The final design will likely involve a combination of aspects from each of the four concepts described here.

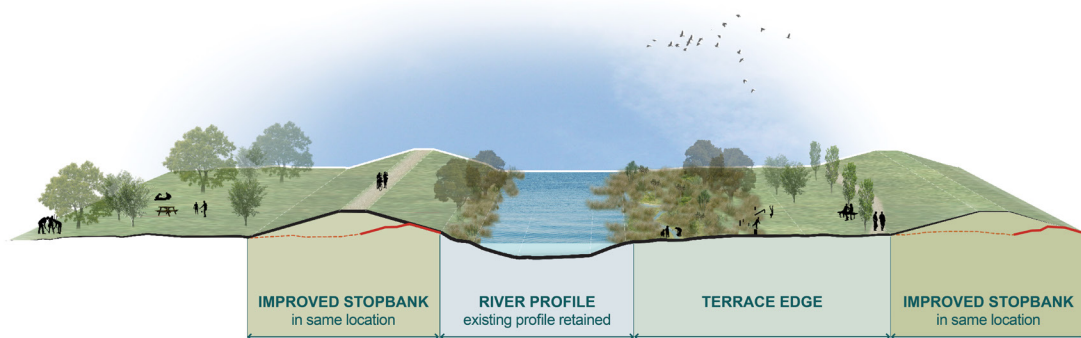
The project team has also identified four work areas that will likely need to occur to complement these concepts. These are protection works at the bridges, bunds or stopbanks to protect the Oxford Street and Cameron Crescent areas as well as a bund and a swale (a depression that collects and redirects water) to protect the Akura Road area.

Based on our current knowledge, high level estimates suggest that the cost to implement these concepts will be similar and are in the order of \$30 million. Based on current rating classification this equates to an average total rate increase of \$10 per \$100,000 CV for local Masterton rate payers. For a property with a value of \$540,000, this would be an additional \$54 per year. For regional rate payers outside of the Masterton area, the rates increase would be less than \$0.50 per \$100,000 CV.

These costs could be less if funding from central government is available.

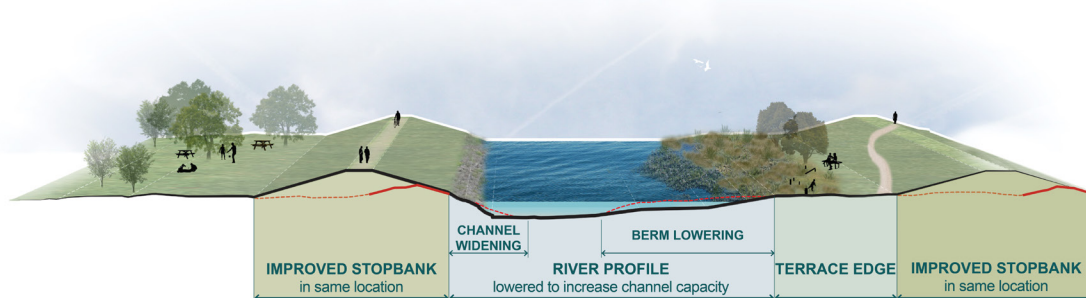
CONCEPT 1—Improve and extend the existing stopbanks

- Extend some stopbanks and make some higher than present to ensure they meet the right standards.
- Higher and longer stopbanks may restrict the river's space to move and make people feel more disconnected to the river.
- This concept would largely utilise the footprints of the existing stopbanks.



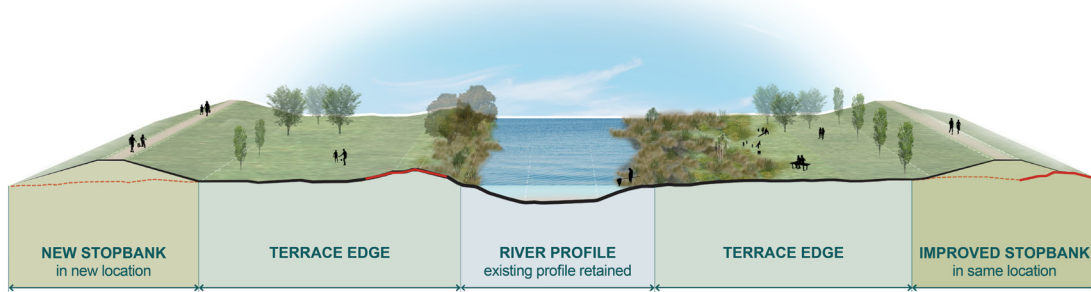
CONCEPT 2—Undertake extensive work in the river channel

- Work in and alongside the river channel to increase the capacity for flood water through town.
- Channel works would involve mechanical excavation of material in and alongside the river.
- This concept would need to be implemented in conjunction with improving existing stopbanks. Because of the channel works, stopbank improvements will not need to be as high as those proposed in Concept 1.



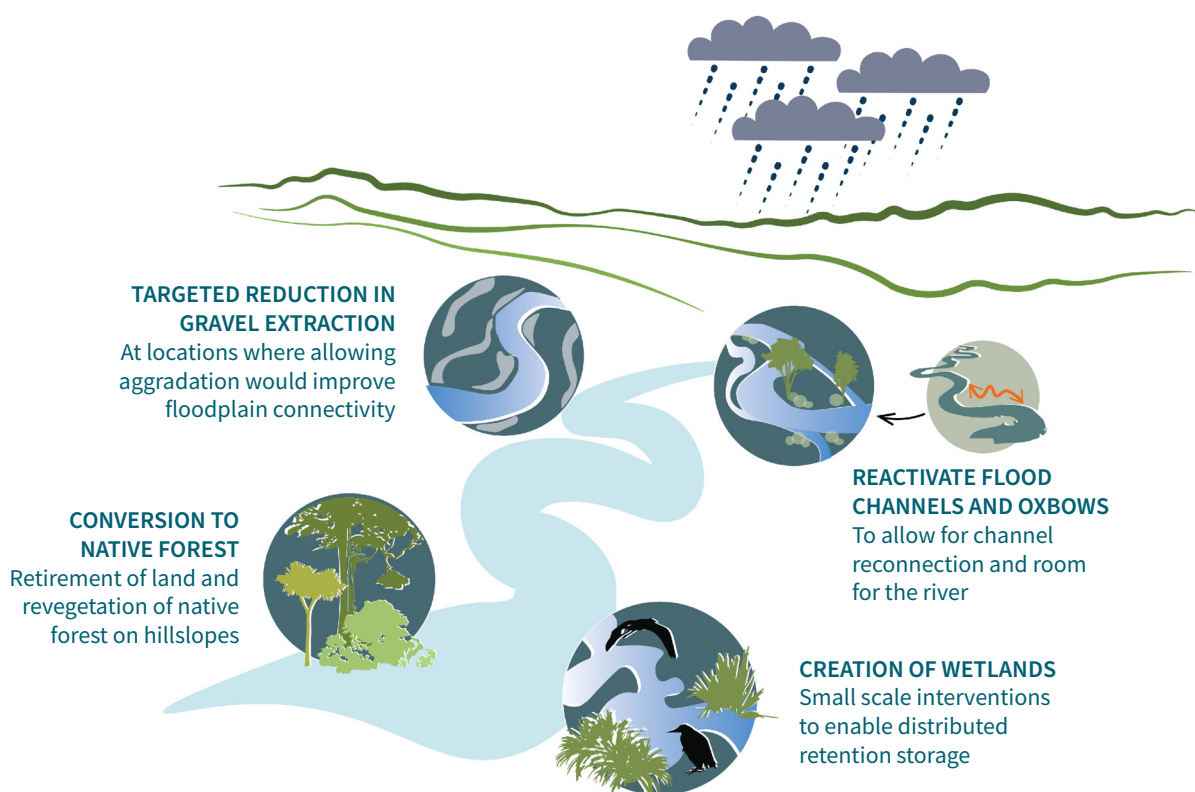
CONCEPT 3—Retreat some stopbanks

- Retreat stopbanks on the northern side of the river to give the Waipoua more room.
- Depending on the location this may mean that Mawley Park, the Sports Bowl and /or sports fields would be at risk of flooding in a large event.
- Existing stopbanks on the southern side of the Waipoua would also need to be upgraded although stopbank heights would not need to be as high as in Concept 1.



CONCEPT 4—Implement nature-based solutions in the upper catchment

- This concept proposes to use nature based solutions to reduce the river flow through town.
- There are many different types of nature-based solutions, such as planting in the river catchment, installing a network of swales and giving the river more room to move.
- It is currently unknown what kind of nature-based solution could be implemented or how much of the flood water could be retained in the upper catchment, but work is being done to investigate this.
- Different nature-based solutions have different levels of effectiveness over time. For example, swales can provide an immediate effect, while establishing vegetation can provide increasing benefits with time.
- Some nature-based solutions may require a significant area of land, which could take time to integrate into a flood risk management design.
- This concept would need to be implemented in conjunction with other flood management concepts.



Have your say

www.gw.govt.nz/waipouafloodconcepts

We would like your feedback on the flood management concepts being considered. We are also happy to answer any questions you might have. We will take this feedback on board as part of identifying a preferred design for managing the flood risk to Masterton.

Come and talk to our team

This is your chance to ask questions and provide feedback on the flood management concepts to the friendly project team.

Where you'll find us

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Lakeview School, drop in and presentation

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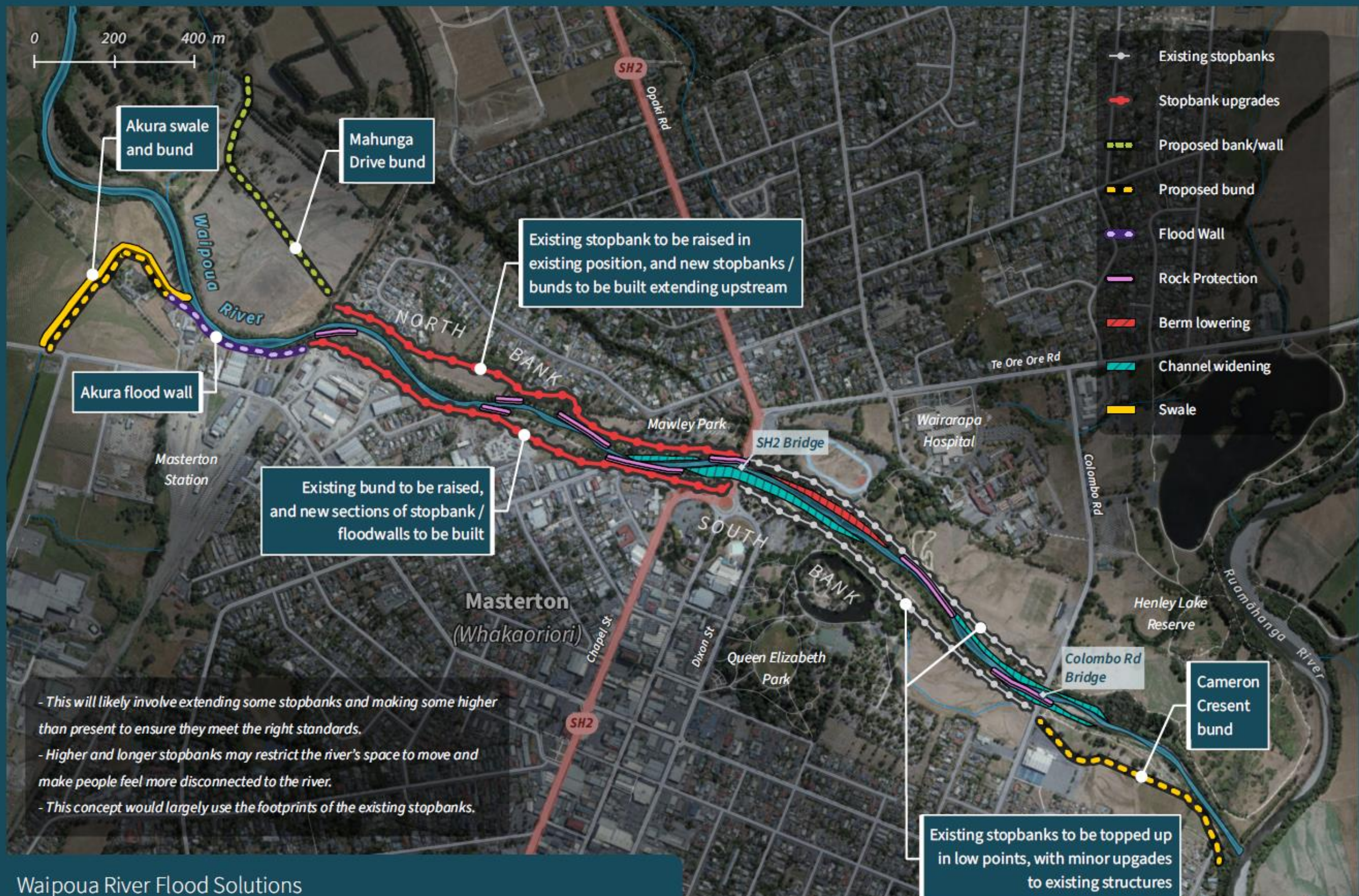
Project Team:

Andrew Stewart (facilitator)
Andrew Donald
Gary Foster
Ian Gunn
Michael Hewison
Ra Smith
Daphne Te Whare

Subject matter experts
Members of Greater Wellington
Members of Masterton District
Council

We also wish to acknowledge the participation and contributions from other community members.

Appendix C – Concept Maps

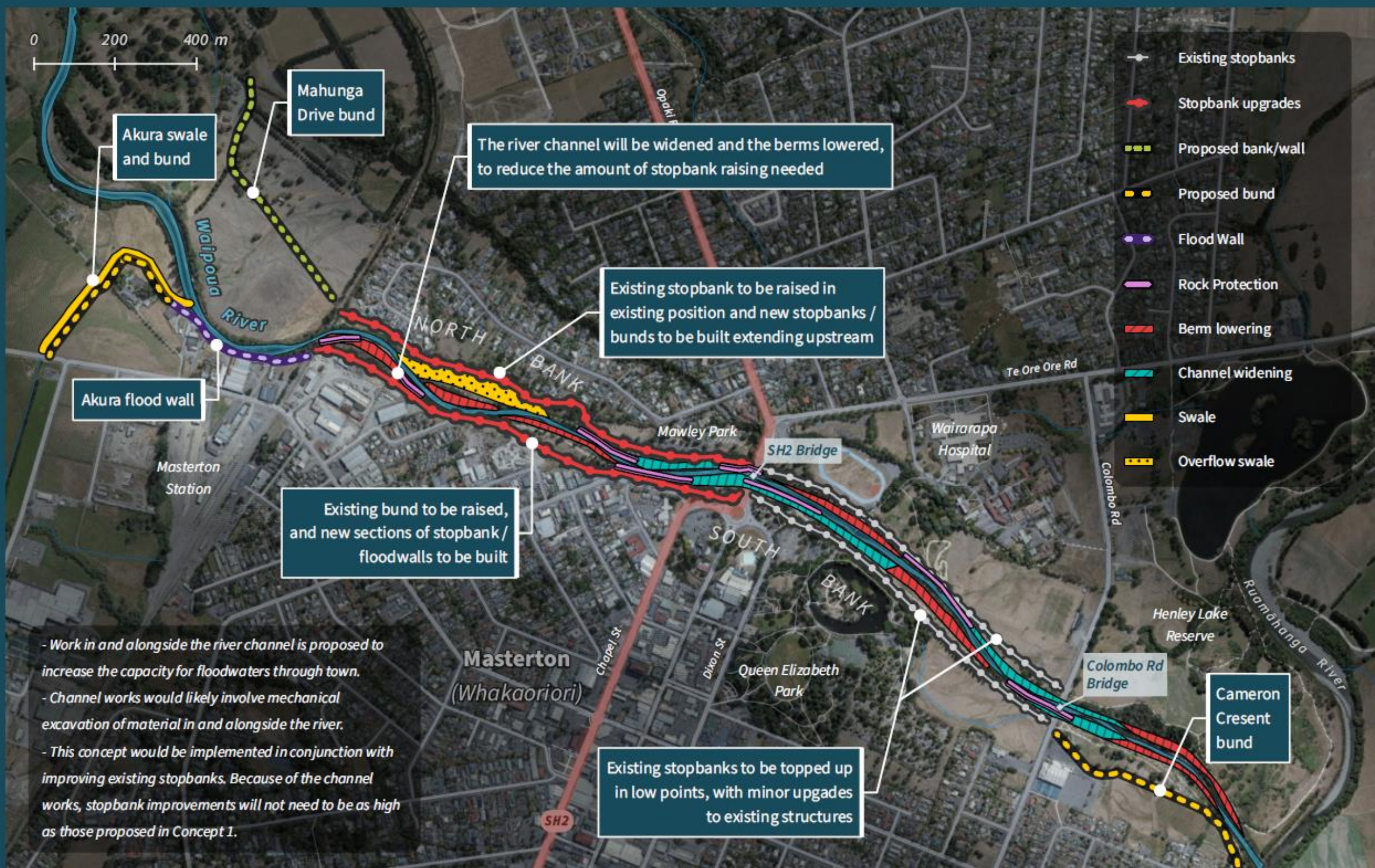


Waipoua River Flood Solutions

Concept 1 | Improving and extending existing stopbanks

February 2025 - Basemap: LINZ, OSM contributors





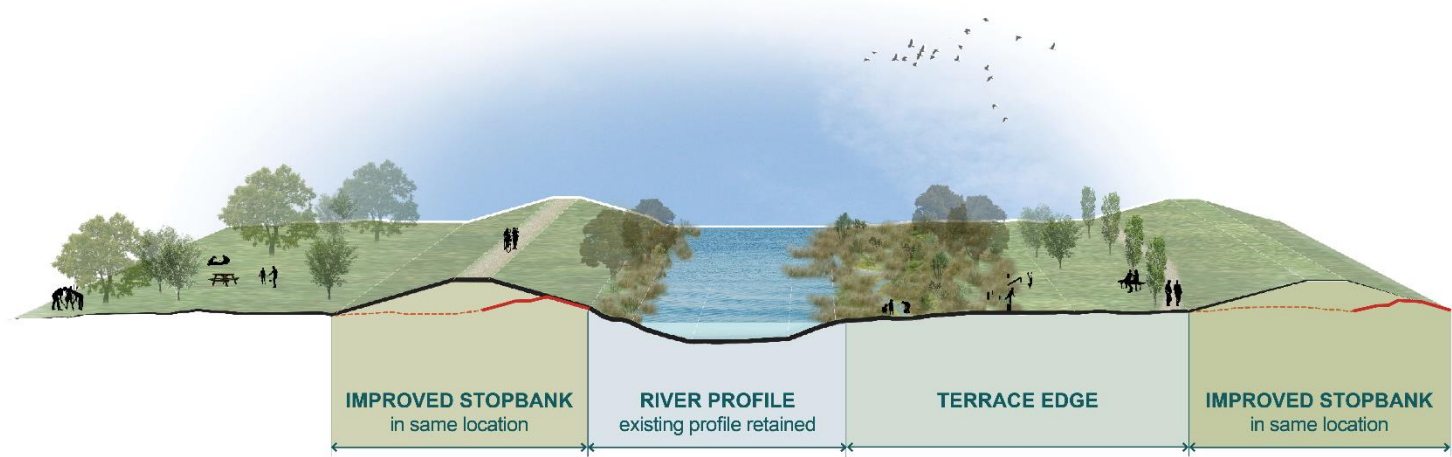
Waipoua River Flood Solutions

Concept 2 | Undertaking extensive work in the river channel

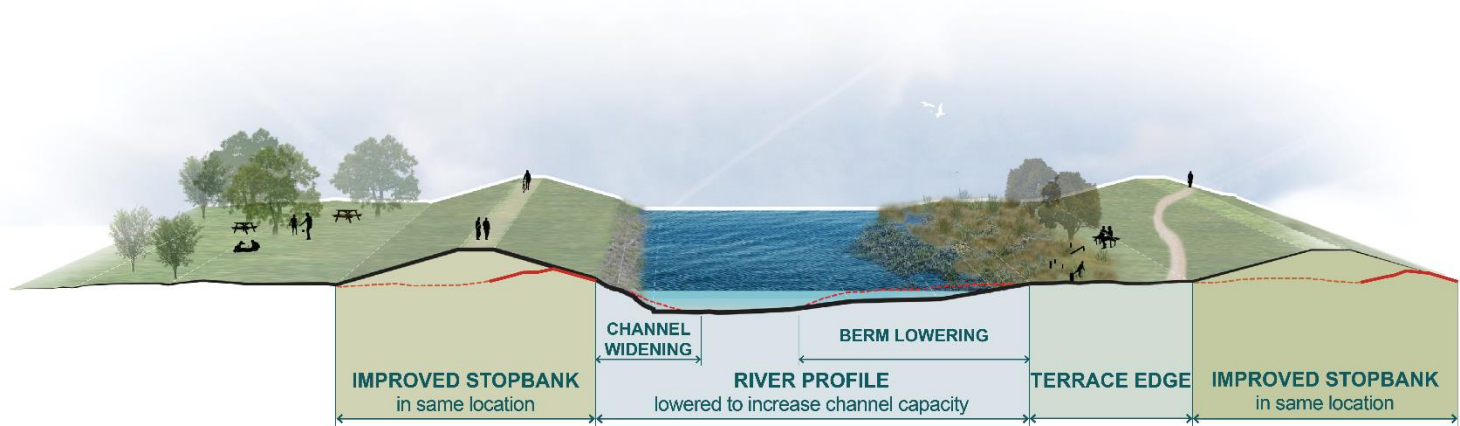
February 2025 - Basemap: LINZ, OSM contributors



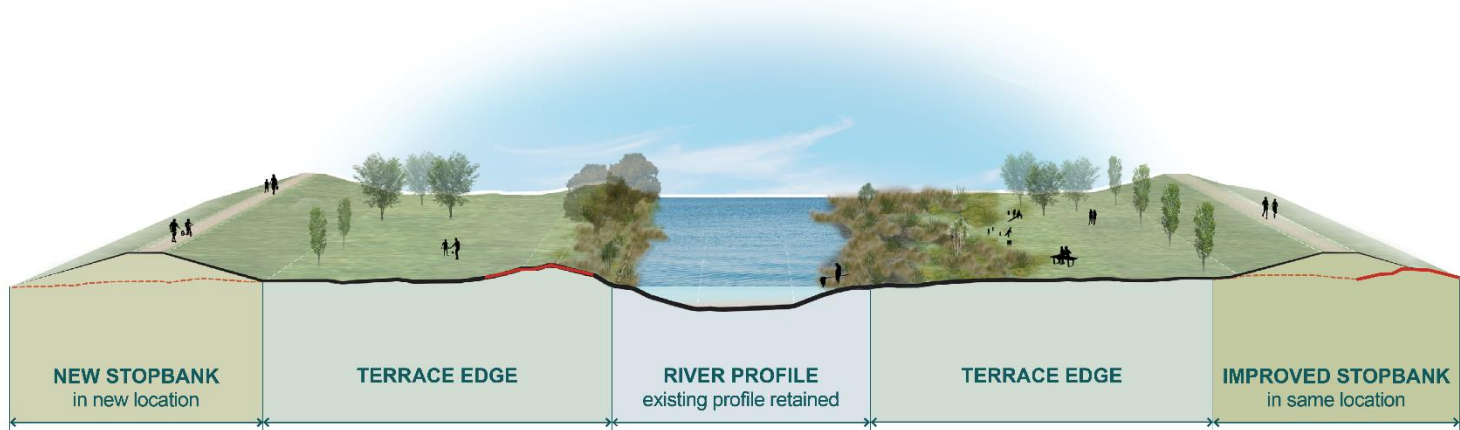
Concept 1: Improve and extend existing stopbanks



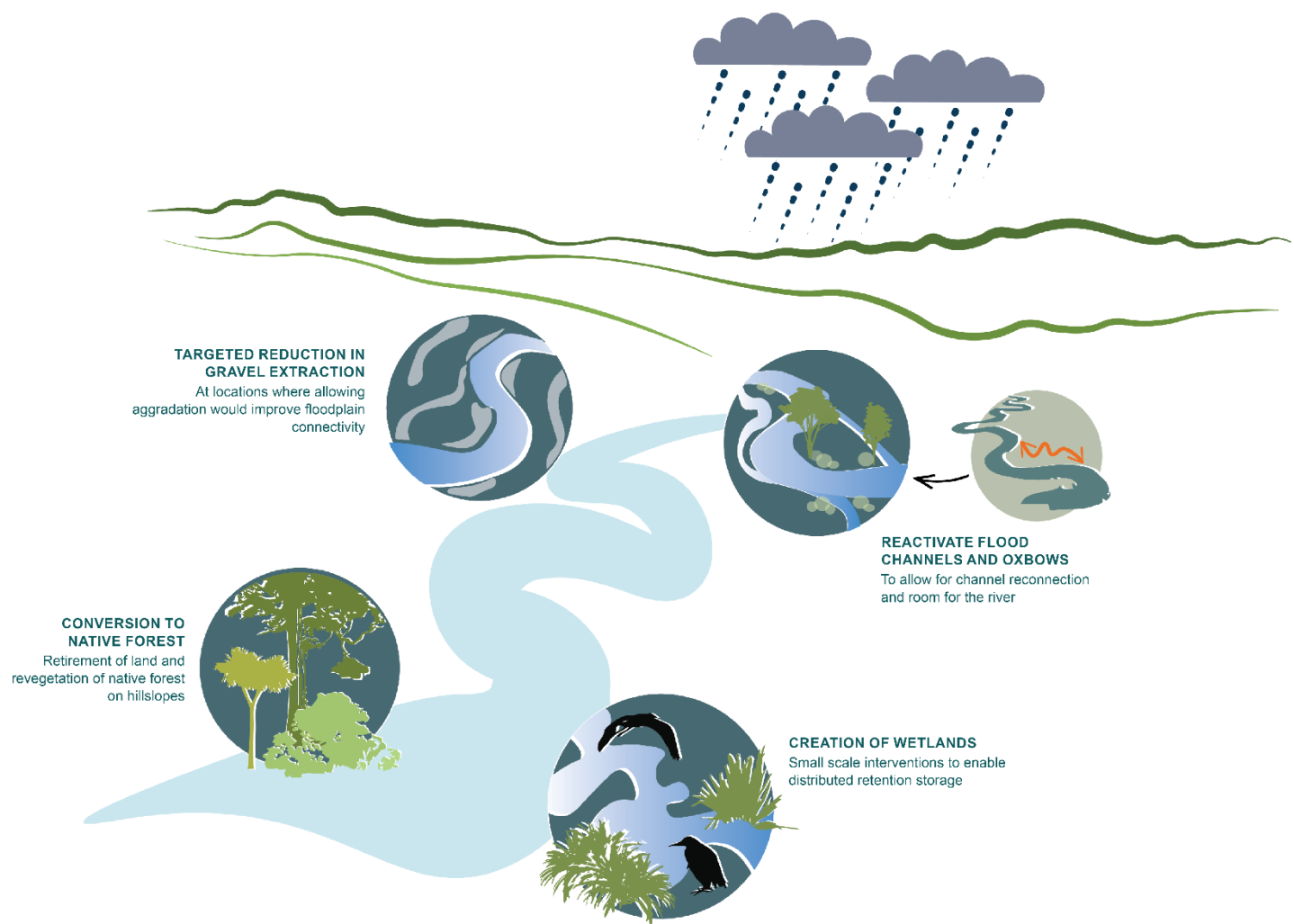
Concept 2: Undertake extensive work in the river channeel



Concept 3: Retreat some stopbanks



Concept 4: Implement nature-based solutions in the upper catchment



Appendix D - Have Your Say Form

Waipoua River flood management concepts for Masterton

As an alternative to filling in this form, you can provide feedback online at www.haveyoursay.gw.govt.nz/waipouafloodconcepts

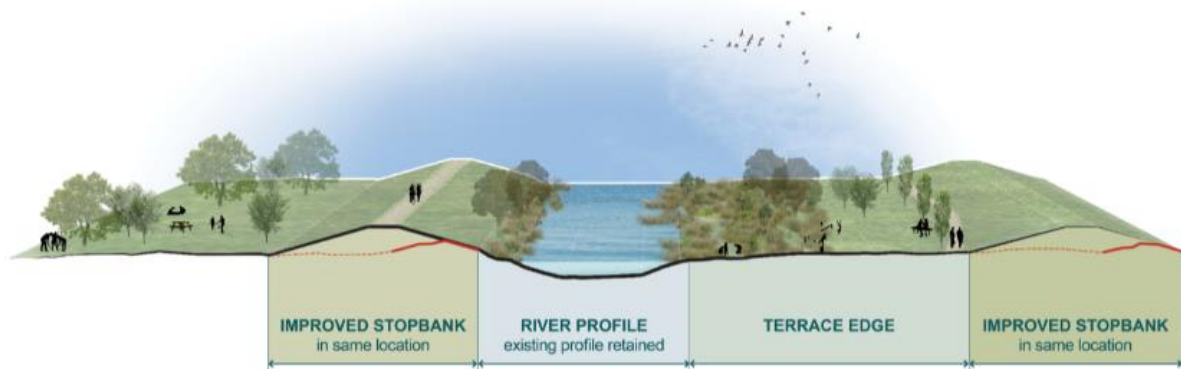
Name (optional):

Phone number (optional):

Email address (optional):

Please note: If provided, these contact details will be managed in accordance with our privacy statement. The intended use of these details is to enable Greater Wellington to get in touch to provide future updates on the project.

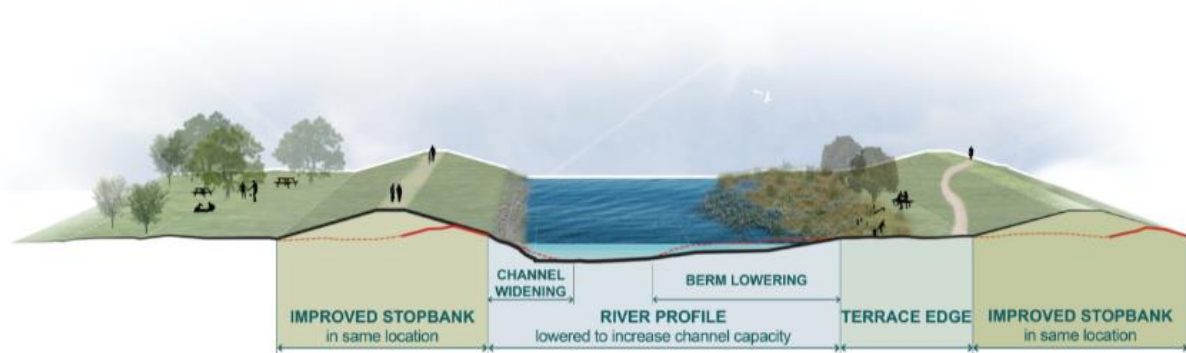
Q1. What are your thoughts on the concept of upgrading the existing stopbanks?



- ☐ Hate it
- ☐ Dislike it
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Like it
- ☐ Love it

Q2. Why?

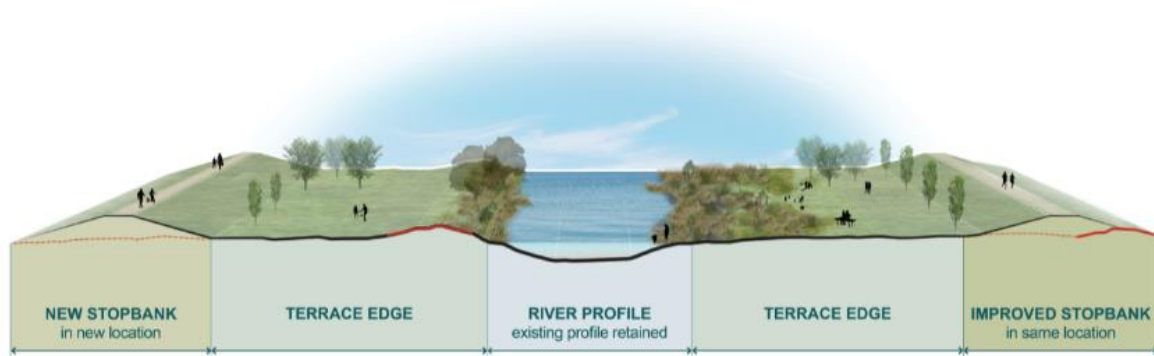
Q3. What are your thoughts on mechanical works alongside and in the river channel to allow more capacity for floodwaters?



- ☐ Hate it
- ☐ Dislike it
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Like it
- ☐ Love it

Q4. Why?

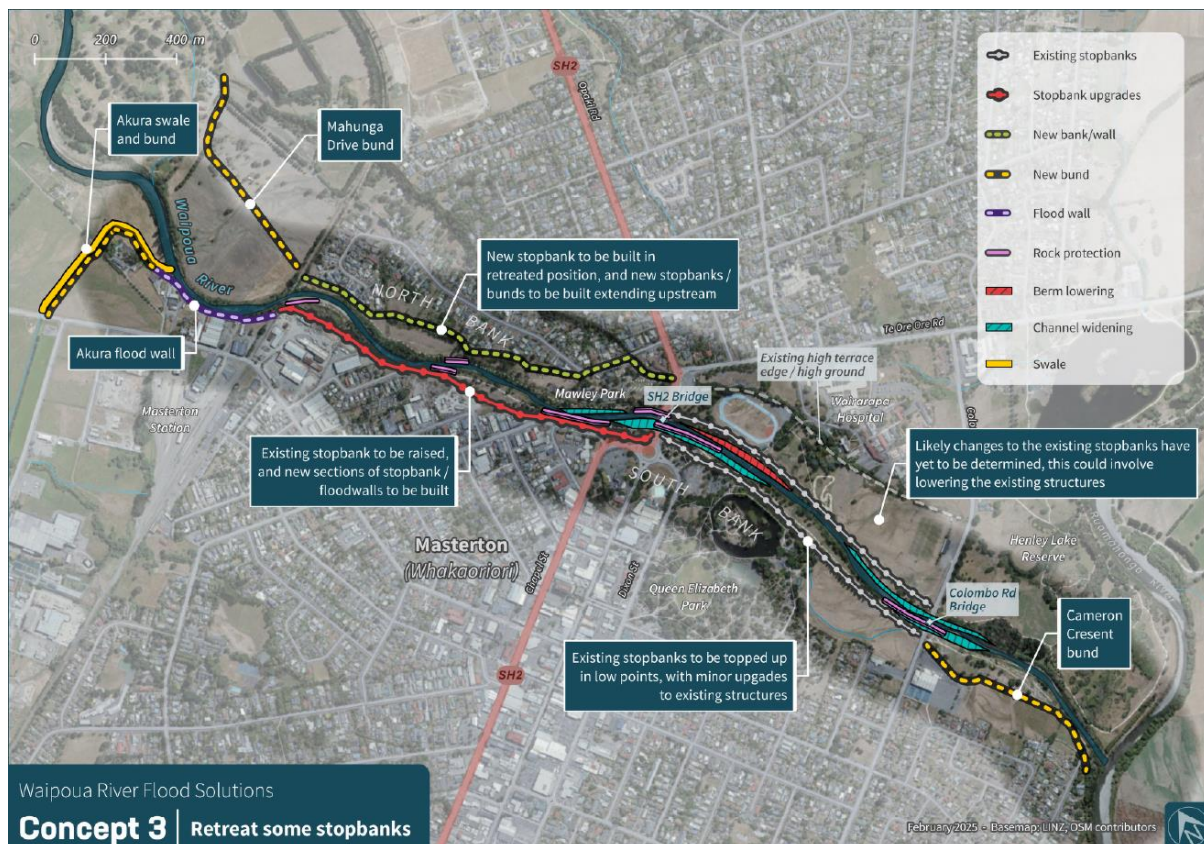
Q5. How do you feel about the concept of moving stopbanks further away from the river to give it more room?



- ☐ Hate it
- ☐ Dislike it
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Like it
- ☐ Love it

Q6. Why?

Q7. Concept Three shows a possible retreated stopbank alignment. How do you feel about the position of these stopbanks?

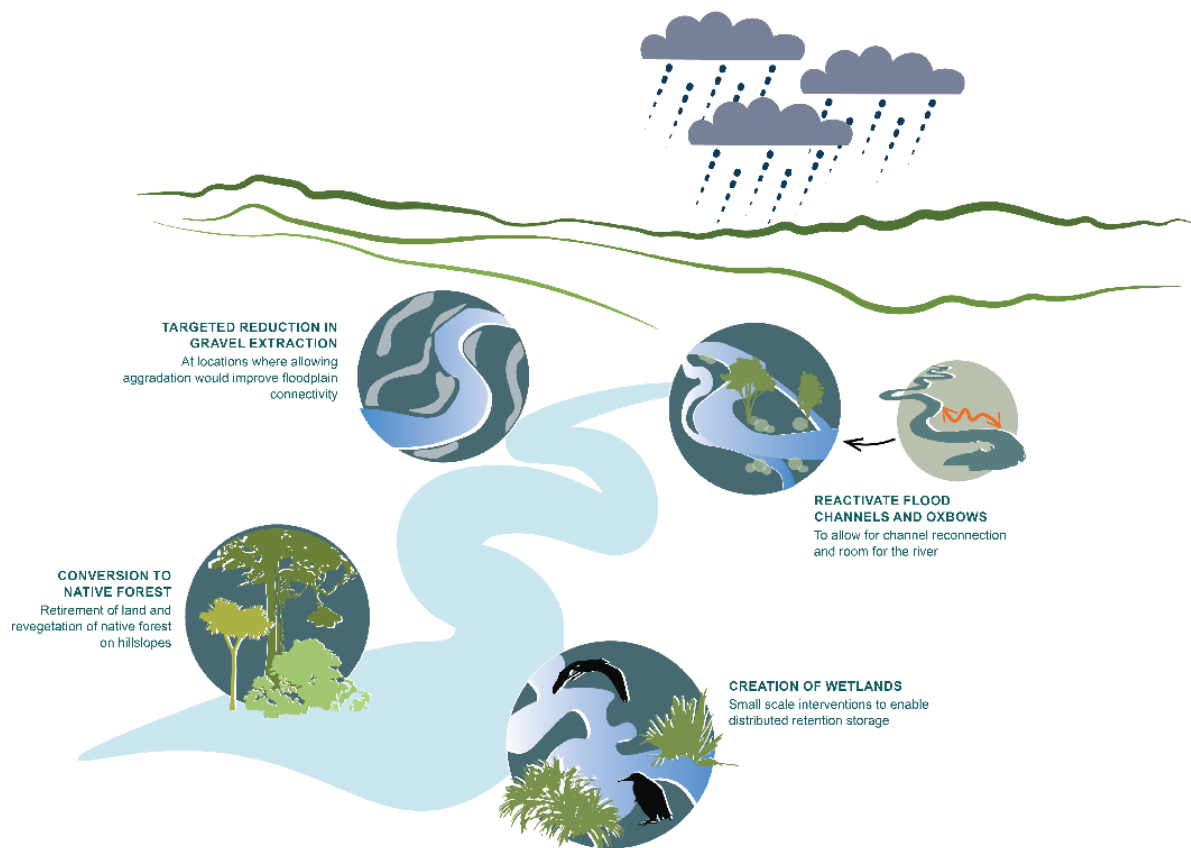


- ☐ Hate it
- ☐ Dislike it
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Like it
- ☐ Love it

Q8. Why?

Q9. Do you have a preferred alignment that includes or excludes certain locations (e.g. Mawley Park)?

Q10. What are your thoughts on nature-based solutions in the upper catchment?



- ☐ Hate it
- ☐ Dislike it
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Like it
- ☐ Love it

Q11. Why?

Q12. Do you have any additional thoughts on any of the concepts?

When thinking about the Waipoua River, on a scale of 1 to 10 how important is the following:

(Please circle)

Q13. Protecting Mawley Park

Not at all										Essential
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	

Q14. Protecting the Sports Bowl

Not at all										Essential
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	

Q15. Protecting the sports fields

Not at all										Essential
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	

Q16. Protecting the Akura industrial area

Not at all Essential

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Q17. Giving the river as much room as possible

Not at all Essential

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Q18. Ensuring access to the river

Not at all Essential

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Q19. Ensuring that changes have a positive effect on the environment

Not at all Essential

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Q20. Enhancing the ability for mahinga kai practices

Not at all Essential

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

(Mahinga kai is a Māori term that refers to the traditional use of natural resources, including food, tools and medicine.)

Q21. Upholding the mana of the Waipoua River

Not at all Essential

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Q22. Do you have any other comments?

Thank you!

How we'll use your feedback

We'll use your feedback to help us determine the best outcome for minimising the impact of flooding on Masterton's urban areas.

Your information will be held securely by Greater Wellington. You can find out more in our Privacy Statement on our website.

What to do when you have completed this form

Please hand this form in to one of the project team members at one of our drop-in sessions or drop into the feedback box at the reception of the Masterton office at 34 Chapel Street.

Appendix E – Newspaper Advertisement

Consent given for wind farm

Energy
Kate Judson

Meridian Energy has secured consent to construct a large wind farm north of Wairarapa, despite heated opposition from a group of residents.

The Mt Munro Wind Farm project covers 900 hectares in Eketahuna, and will use 20 turbines to generate 90MWp of renewable energy each year – enough to power up to 42,000 average homes.

The Environment Court hearing ended on October 2, and the decision to grant consent was made yesterday.

Meridian chief executive Neal Barclay said New Zealand was heading toward another winter that could highlight the challenges the national grid might face.

"When experiencing a shortage of fuel, whether that's low lake levels or a shortage of gas, we need more generation capacity to boost security of supply and enable the further electrification of homes and businesses," he said.

"Having Mt Munro consented means we can get on with building another important asset. This is a great project that will also bring significant benefits to the local and regional economies."

Mt Munro was one of several projects Meridian had to increase its generation capacity and strengthen the electricity system. This green light followed the February 10 consent of the company's 120MW Ruakaka Solar Farm in Northland.

"We're committed to doing our share of the heavy lifting in growing New Zealand's electricity supply, and that commitment is backed by a \$3 billion investment



An artist's impression of the Mt Munro Wind Farm, which was granted consent by the Environment Court yesterday.

through to 2030. It's a lot of hard work to get construction ready, so these recent approvals add real momentum to our development pipeline."

The Environment Court's decision could be challenged in the High Court but only on points of law. Any such challenges must be submitted within 15 days.

During the Environment Court hearing last year, 'Right energy, wrong place' was the message from Eketahuna residents who formed the Hastwell Mt Munro Protection Society to oppose Meridian's wind farm.

They cited huge environmental impacts, mental distress, and reduced house values. Society chairperson Chris Clarke was approached regarding the consent and said the group would respond in due course.

The South Wairarapa Whenua Action Group was also set up to oppose various large solar projects floated for the region, similar to Eketahuna's Mt Munro Protection Society.



The Hastwell Mt Munro Protection Society committee members opposed Meridian Energy's wind farm at the Environment Court hearing last September.

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