

# River and catchment management

Establishing a funding policy and targeted rate for  
Wharekawa (Kaiaua) Coast

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# Outline for today

- 10am Welcome/opening karakia
- 10.05am Introductions/housekeeping
- 10.15am Main presentation
- 10.50am Q&A time (open to the floor)
- 11.15am Break-out discussion tables
  - River and catchment management activities
  - Targeted rating
  - Hauraki District Council
- 11.45am Wrap-up
- 12 noon Closing karakia



# Purpose of today

- Explain river and catchment management, who does it, and how it is funded.
- Explain the process of developing a funding policy and targeted rate for a river and catchment programme.
- Receive feedback.



# Background

- Transfer of authority to Waikato in 2010 due to formation of Auckland Council.
- No community mandate to rate for such an activity.
- Similar programmes are funded by targeted rates paid by property owners.
- March/April 2017 – 3 storms (Tasman Tempest, Cyclone Debbie, Cyclone Cook)
- January 2018: significant coastal flood event.
- *Wharekawa Coast 2120 Community Plan* was developed.



# Background continued

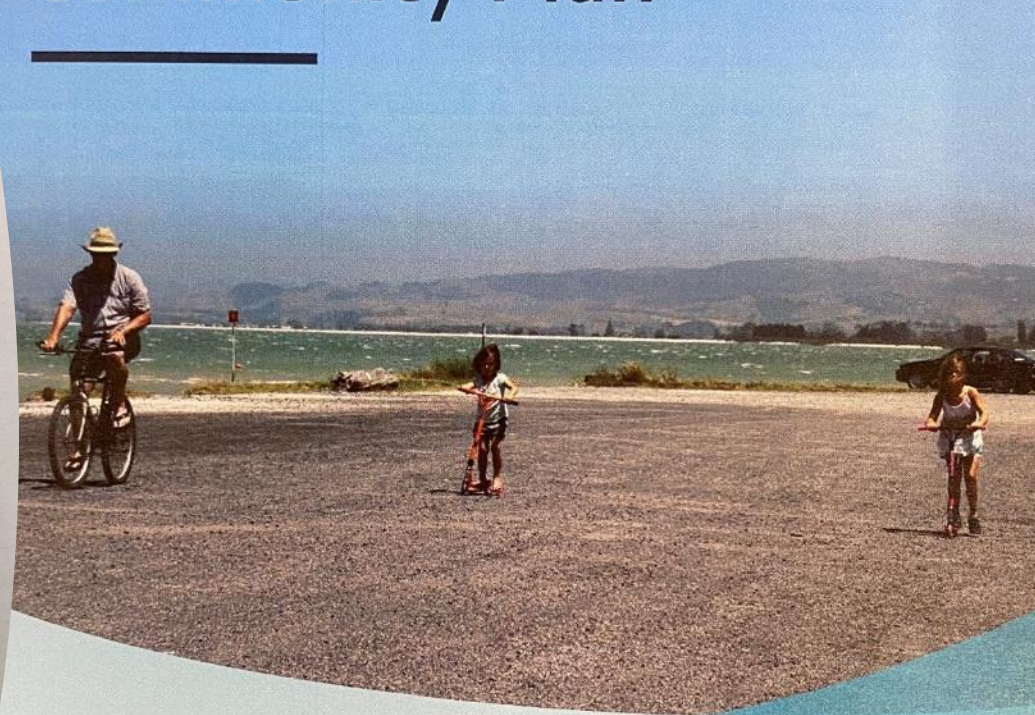
- Adopted by WRC, HDC and WDC in 2023.
- Key action: “river and catchment management” work programme (next slide)
- This requires a funding policy specifically for river and catchment management.
- The outcome of the funding policy will be formally consulted as part of the WRC 2025/26 Annual Plan process.



# Background continued

## Wharekawa Coast 2120 Community Plan

<p>communicate findings, proposed works and timeline to the community.</p>		<p>be through public meeting at Kaiaua and through Kaiaua Compass.</p>			<p>and repaired if necessary, so they function as designed to prevent flooding.</p>
<p><i>River Management Work Programme</i> includes a comprehensive list of rivers and streams where management actions are needed now to increase resilience to frequent weather events.</p> <p>Options include a range of maintenance and management actions including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Upper catchment stability control through planting, erosion control and pest control</li> <li>2. General river management works including regularly clearing of blockages in streams and culverts, works to maintain channel stability and capacity</li> <li>3. Stream mouth clearance/opening</li> <li>4. Technical Advice to landowners and management techniques</li> <li>5. Assessment of integrity, functionality and stability of existing assets</li> <li>6. Investigation of improvement plans.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Waikato Regional Council</b> with <b>Hauraki District Council</b> (for Land Drainage Districts)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular inspections of streams (WRC) and bridges/culverts (HDC) will be undertaken and blockages to be cleared as needed. The scope of works and nature of the works proposed requires Council endorsement.</li> <li>• Regular channel inspections will be undertaken, and necessary maintenance carried out as needed. The scope of works and nature of the works proposed requires Council endorsement.</li> <li>• Stream mouth clearing/opening requires investigation by HDC.</li> </ul>	<p>Frequency will be subject to the LTP process.</p>	<p>Subject to LTP process with agreed level of service determining the amount to be paid for by the community through targeted rates.</p>	<p>The community are confident that active ongoing management of rivers in the Wharekawa Coast results in improved resilience to weather events.</p>
			<p>Scheduled for 2023/2024 financial year by HDC (1-5 years)</p>	<p>Investigation - \$</p> <p>Works – Unknown (to be costed as required)</p>	



# In scope

- Upper catchment stability control through planting, erosion control and pest control
- Regular clearing of blockages in streams and culverts, works to maintain channel stability and capacity
- Stream mouth clearance/opening
- Information and technical advice to landowners



# Out of scope

- Flood protection assets
  - stopbanks
  - floodgates
  - pump stations
  - spillways/channels.
- Land drainage schemes and associated outlets administered by Hauraki DC
- Assets owned by other agencies





# Whose responsibility is it?

- Regional councils have primary role for management of rivers and streams.
- Both regional councils and district councils have powers and responsibilities relating to river management, drainage, flood control and natural hazards.



# Landowner responsibilities

- Small-scale river/stream works.
- Stock exclusion.
- Culvert and drain clearing (private).
- Riparian planting and fencing.



# What is river and catchment management?

Supporting/improving the natural capacity of rivers to retain/move water and reduce the frequency and impacts of damage:

- erosion protection
- gravel management
- obstruction removal
- removal of 'risky' trees
- planting



# Benefits

- Partnerships with landowners/local communities.
- Reduced risk of soil erosion and flooding.
- Improved water quality and river stability.
- Improved river environments/habitat.
- Improved cultural, recreational and aesthetic values.



# What does it involve?

- Planting: riparian, wetland, steep slopes.
- Retirement of land.
- Removal of obstructions.
- Stabilising stream channels.
- Riparian restoration and management.
- Erosion control structures.
- Pest control.
- Community support.

















# How are our works funded?

- General and targeted rates.
- General rate contribution recognises the public benefit.
- Targeted rates recognise local benefit.
- Differential consideration.
- Landowner contribution.



# Proposed rating area

- Waharau
- Wharekawa
- Whakatīwai
- Kaiaua
- Pūkorokoro/Miranda



# Example funding model

- Based on a potential river and catchment work programme of \$150k per annum
- 70% targeted rate (TR) & 30% general rate (GR)
- TR Scenario 1: Single approach based on capital value across the whole area

OR

- TR Scenario 2: Two tier, with higher targeted rate for flat coastal area



# What could that look like for me?

Scenario	Per \$100k cv	Per \$500k cv	Per \$1m cv
<b>Scenario 1:</b> <i>Targeted Rate costs only</i>			
Single CV rate	\$8.70	\$43.50	\$87.00
<b>Scenario 2:</b> <i>Targeted Rate costs only</i>			
Coastal plain rate	\$15.82	\$79.09	\$158.17
Upland rate	\$4.24	\$21.22	\$42.22

# Legislative requirements

- Council must provide a Statement of Proposal and Funding Impact Statement:
  - what rates will be charged
  - how they will be calculated
  - what they will be used for
- Rates set by resolution of Council.
- Timing of any targeted rate is subject to formal consultation outcome

**F10** FORWARD  
YEARS What matters most

**Mahere Whānui  
2024-2034  
Long Term Plan**



# Where to from here?

## **October to December 2024**

- Early engagement
- Draft funding policy/rating options.

## **January to March 2025**

- Update stakeholders
- Statement of proposal/draft policy to council.

## **April to July 2025**

- Formal consultation (annual plan)

***Works commence once adopted by Council and rate struck***



# In summary

- WRC has overall responsibility for river and catchment management in the region.
- Landowners are responsible for normal maintenance of rivers and streams on and around their property (riparian management).
- We will undertake work collectively. It's a joint effort.
- As part of a council river and catchment management programme, and depending on the rating policy, landowners may be eligible for subsidies for voluntary work done on their property
  - For example, Environmental Protection Agreement (EPA).
- We want your feedback and input.

# Thank you

Any questions?

You can also submit a service request at:  
**[waikatoregion.govt.nz/request](https://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/request)**

