Wairau River Flood Protection Scheme

July 2020

Provincial Growth Fund contribution:	$3m
Marlborough District Council contribution:	$1m
Jobs created:	15
Start date:	October 2020; two to three years to completion.

The funding will provide additional major river edge protection upgrade works for the Wairau River near Blenheim. This includes stopbank strengthening work in the area upstream from Renwick and beside the Council's Southern Valleys Irrigation Scheme river intake that is critical for supply to a large area of vineyards along the south bank of the Wairau River, east from the Waihopai River confluence.

The protection works are aimed at reducing the risk of flood spills as occurred in 1983 for much of the developed lower floodplain of Marlborough, including many hectares of vineyard, parts of Renwick and Blenheim.

The funding will enable this critical protection work to be fast-tracked. Implementation will involve significant contracting and material resources, including supply and placement of large armour rock rip-rap.

This work will include:

- Construction of three new major strong head groynes and strengthening or altering a further five adjacent to 3.5km of Wairau River stopbanks and Council's Southern Valleys Irrigation Scheme river intake

- Construction of a series of smaller intermediary groynes in between

- Total rock rip-rap placement in order of 20 to 40,000 tonnes plus bulk fill placement to form groynes cores

- Realignment of at least 700m and up to 1,400m of stopbank

- Planting to replace lost buffer zone

- Enhancing the area that has open public access.

Photos above and below of the flooding at Renwick in July 1983. The first is of two Renwick residents. The second shows State Highway 6 to Nelson running through middle/foreground and looking east.

Wairau River – showing an area of the river on which there will be new bank protection work.

Showing a stretch of river with a rock rip-rap protection groyne and associated plantings to protect the edge of the riverbank and adjoining vineyard.