

4.13. Levels of Service Increases

Wairau River Rating Review

(Report prepared by A White/R Coningham)

R700-002-01

Purpose of Report

1. To request approval to complete a technical review of the Wairau River Rating Scheme and conduct public consultation on potential changes to the Scheme.

Executive Summary

2. The Wairau River Rating Scheme in general has been in place since 1960. The first review of the rating for this scheme was carried out in 1994, and it is now time to review the rating scheme again to look at including other areas in the rating scheme and the level of service provided currently for those areas.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approves the allocation of \$200,000 from the Forestry and Land Development Reserve to complete the technical review of the Wairau River Rating Scheme and conduct public consultation on potential changes to the Wairau River Rating Scheme.

Background/Context

3. The Wairau River Rating Scheme in general has been in place since 1960. The first review of the rating for this scheme was carried out in 1994, and it is now time to review the rating scheme again to look at including other areas in the rating scheme and the level of service provided currently for those areas.
4. With Climate Change Marlborough is expected to experience more frequent intense rain events meaning a wider focus on the rivers and drainage network for the Wairau River Rating Scheme is required.
5. A number of areas within the Wairau Plains post the July 2021 and August 2022 flood events have approached Council wanting to see a higher level of service on flood protection and drainage work carried out in their area.
6. Area's such as Wairau Valley Township have experienced higher levels of flooding in recent years than when the scheme was reviewed in 1994 meaning a level of service review for these areas is required to factor in the maintenance of assets such as the Andersons Floodway which has previously not been maintained under the current rating scheme.
7. The Cloudy Bay Industrial Park is another example of an area of Blenheim that did not exist when the last river rating review took place in 1994 meaning a review of the classification of the river rating for this type of area is also required.
8. With the growth in population and development occurring in Blenheim in particular, consideration also needs to be given for potential extensions in the current residential zoned areas beyond current boundaries.
9. Council Rivers section has also received requests for increased levels of service in areas outside of the Wairau River Rating Scheme, such as Okiwi Bay and the Flaxbourne area as examples. These areas are not a part of the Wairau River Scheme and as such would require their own review and a targeted rating system to be put in place to cover the costs of increased flood protection and drainage management by Council in those areas.

10. The review of the Wairau River Rating Scheme is a two-part process:
- 10.1 Part one of the process requires a technical review of the rating scheme itself, including:
- i) which areas are included;
 - ii) what rating level should be attached to each area; and
 - iii) how backlog maintenance should be funded for any new areas.
- Refer to the attached (as **Attachment 4.13.1**) for an example of the current Wairau River rating scheme areas.
- 10.2 Once the technical review is completed, the river rating document would be presented to Council for approval to go to public consultation.
- 10.3 Public consultation could involve several months of public meetings to provide further information to the public on proposed changes to river rating levels before a hearings process, deliberation and Council decision.
- 10.4 Funding from the Forestry and Land Development Reserve as compared to rates, is recommended because it is planned to be completed in a short two-year period.

Option One (Recommended Option) – That Council approves the allocation of \$200,000 from the Forestry and Land Development Reserve to complete the technical review of the Wairau River Rating Scheme and conduct public consultation on potential changes to the Wairau River Rating Scheme

Advantages

- 11. Will provide greater clarity to the wider community of what services are provided by their respective river rating.
- 12. Will set levels of service moving forward in the Wairau River Scheme area.
- 13. Will provide appropriate funding levels moving forward for the rated areas.

Disadvantages

- 14. Will incur an additional \$200,000 of unbudgeted costs to complete this work.

Option Two – Status Quo

Advantages

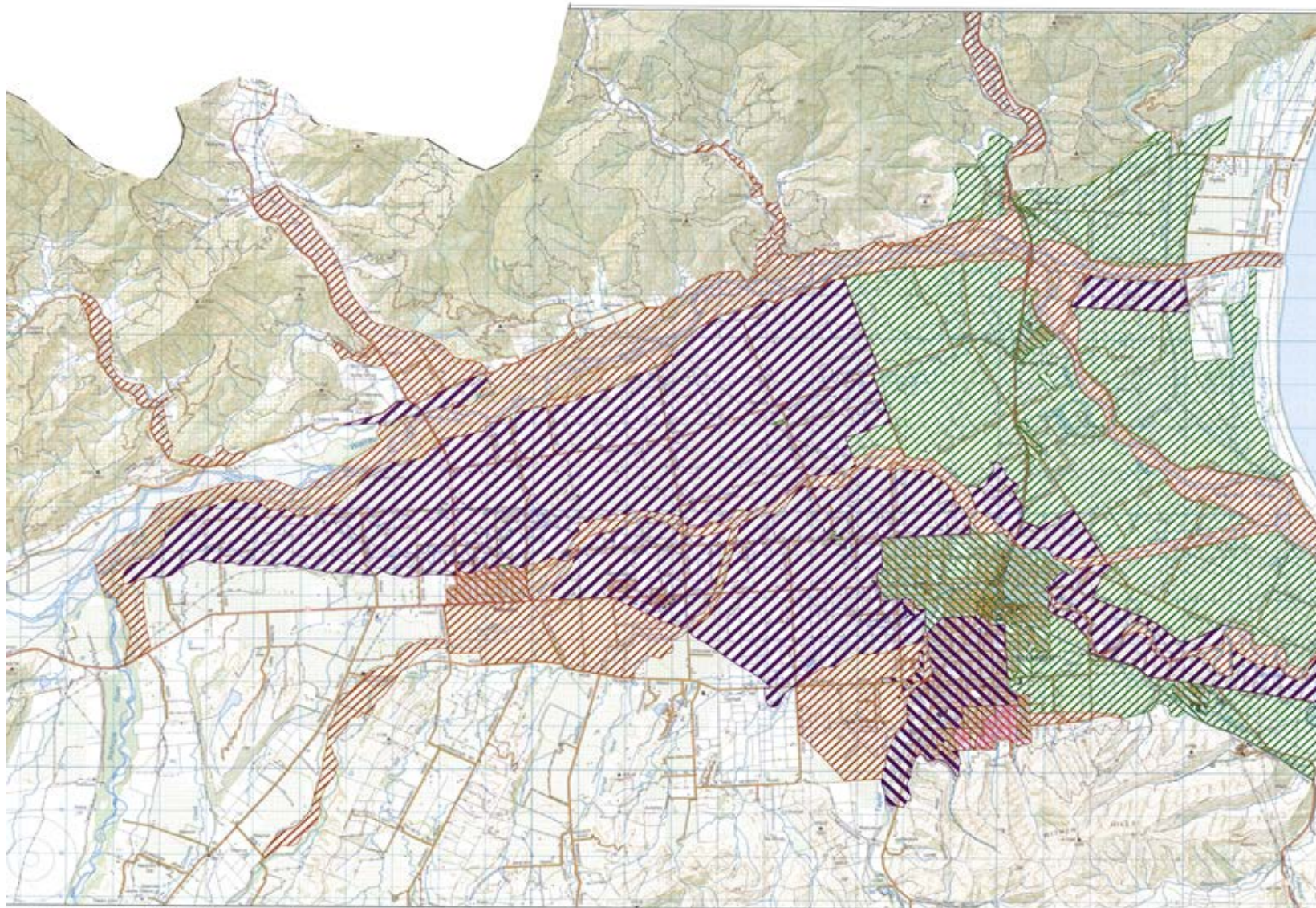
- 15. Will not incur an additional \$200,000 of unbudgeted costs to complete this work.

Disadvantages

- 16. Will not provide greater clarity to the wider community of what services are provided by their respective river rating.
- 17. Will not set levels of service moving forward in the Wairau River Scheme area.
- 18. Will not provide appropriate funding levels moving forward for the rated areas.

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Summary of decision-making considerations			
Fit with purpose of local government			
The proposal enables democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of communities and relates to providing a public service and it is considered good-quality and cost effective.			
Fit with Council policies and strategies			
X	<i>Contributes</i>	<i>Detracts</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>
LTP / Annual Plan	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Financial Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Infrastructure Strategy	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social well-being	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Environment & RMA Plans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Arts & Culture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
3 Waters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Land transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Parks and reserves	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
This proposal contributes to the categories identified above as it will provide greater clarity on the levels of service for river and drainage protection for the Wairau River Rating Scheme			
Nature of the decision to be made			
Option one involves a significant decision in relation to land or a body of water as this will set levels of service in relation to the Wairau River flood protection system in particular. The relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral land, water, sites, wahi tapu, valued flora and fauna, and other taonga have been identified. Mana whenua Iwi will be consulted at the start of the process in relation to the Wairau River Rating Scheme Review.			
Financial considerations			
This proposal is currently not included in existing budgets and will be an addition to existing budgets			
Significance			
The decision is considered of low significance under Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.			
Engagement			
A communications plan will be developed as the technical review is completed for the consultation portion of the work required.			
Risks: Legal / Health & Safety etc			
There are no known significant risks or legal implications as this is a technical review and consultation process following Local Government public consultation guidelines.			
Climate Change Implications			
In assessing the preferred option, staff have considered the effects of climate change. The setting of levels of services with this review moving forward will help to address adaptation requirements needed in relation to the expected effects of climate change in the future to flood protection and drainage network of the Wairau River Rating Scheme.			



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Figure 3 Main Floodplain Area
Existing Wairau River Rating Differential Areas

Hatched green - Rural A	Reverse Hatched green - Urban and Urban 2
Hatched brown - Rural B	Reverse Hatched navy - Urban
Hatched red - Rural C	Reverse Hatched brown - Urban 3 and Urban 4
Clear - Rural D	Reverse Hatched red - Urban 4