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**MARLBOROUGH
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

29 September 2023

Record No: 23204623
File Ref: D050-001-E01
Ask For: Nicole Chauval

Notice of Committee Meeting – Thursday 5 October 2023

A meeting of the Environment & Planning Committee will be held in the Council Chambers, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim on Thursday, **5 October 2023 commencing at 9.00 am.**

BUSINESS

As per Agenda attached.

**MARK WHEELER
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**



**Meeting of the ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING COMMITTEE
to be held in the Council Chambers, District Administration Building, Seymour Street,
on THURSDAY, 5 OCTOBER 2023 commencing at 9.00 am**

Committee	Clr G A Hope (Chairperson) Clr B A Faults (Deputy) Clr J A Arbuckle Clr A R Burgess Clr R J Innes Clr B J Minehan Clr T P Sowman Mayor N P Taylor Mr S Harvey (Rural Representative) Iwi Representative (to be advised)
Departmental Head	Mr H Versteegh (Environmental Science and Policy Group Manager) and Ms G Ferguson (Consents and Compliance Group Manager)
Staff	Nicole Chauval (Committee Secretary)

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1. Apologies

An apology from Cllr B J Minehan has been received.

2. Declaration of Interests

Members are reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as a member and any private or other external interest they might have.

3. Moawhиту Restoration Project – Securing the Mauri of Moawhиту Update

(Clr Burgess) (Report prepared by Peter Hamill)

E375-018-001

Purpose of Report

1. To provide an update to the Committee on the Moawhиту restoration project: Securing the Mauri of Moawhиту.

Executive Summary

2. The Moawhиту restoration project is a multi-partner restoration project on Rangitoto ki te tonga (D'Urville Island) led by Ngāti Koata and supported by the MFE Freshwater Improvement Fund. The purpose of this project is to restore and secure the ecological and cultural mauri of Moawhиту in a multi-partner initiative between Ngāti Koata, Department of Conservation and the Council.
3. Lake Moawhиту has an ongoing problem of algal blooms due to the internal cycling and release of nutrients from lake-bed sediments. Deforestation and modification of the surrounding landscape and riparian edge vegetation has caused a lack of in-lake woody habitat for fish.
4. Limited training and employment opportunities for iwi/hapū and youth are available to develop capacity and capability to restore this and similar environments. Restoration of these issues is achieved through a number of interventions. These include:
 - a) A targeted lake restoration treatment programme to prevent the release of nutrients is being developed, this will include sediment capping to reduce the internal cycling of nutrients (especially Phosphorus) within the lake. A resource consent application for the treatment of the lake with the capping material is aiming to be submitted by the end of 2023.
 - b) The re-introduction of woody habitat has enhanced structural habitat values for aquatic species especially taonga species such as Tuna, this will go some way to improving survival and the ongoing population health of this taonga species alongside other local native fish species.
 - c) An expanded revegetation programme provides resilience and connection with the local catchment, improve riparian vegetation, buffering from soil erosion and increase connectivity to indigenous vegetation corridors within the catchment. Over 60,000 trees have been established since the project's inception.
 - d) Opportunities for employment and training to build capability in freshwater restoration and management is an integral part of the programme. This includes active restoration (planting, maintenance, weed control, fish passage, monitoring and habitat development)
5. These interventions occur as part of close collaboration between the project partners and help build long term capacity to maintain these gains for future generations.

RECOMMENDATION

That the information be received.

Presentation

A short presentation will be given by Dam Moore, Moawhиту Project Manager (10 minutes).

Author	Peter Hamill, Team Lead Land and Water
Authoriser	Alan Johnson, Environmental Science and Monitoring Manager

4. Gravel Bed Rivers (GBR) National Research Project Update

(Clr Burgess) (Report prepared by Peter Davidson)

E345-007-001

Purpose of Report

1. To update the committee on the Gravel Bed Rivers (GBR) national research project findings and preview the remaining programme of work through to completion of the project.

Executive Summary

2. The main findings of the project so far with respect to the Wairau River are:
 - a) A subsurface extension of the Wairau River named the braid plain aquifer (BPA) controls the hydraulic exchange between the Wairau River and Wairau Aquifer. Wairau Aquifer recharge is extremely sensitive to changes in the BPA or riverbed levels.
 - b) A combination of flood protection works, gravel quarrying/depleted natural gravel supply since 1960 have lowered the river bed level, and reduced the number of braids in the critical aquifer recharge reach. This has entrenched the active Wairau River channel relative to the most permeable gravels forming the Wairau Aquifer, decreasing recharge rates.
3. The main outstanding pieces of work still to be completed are:
 - a) 3D computer modelling of the Wairau River bathymetry and braid plain aquifer to integrate the large amount of field data collected to improve hydrological understanding and test future management options.
 - b) Computer simulations to test the sensitivity of changing the current Wairau River flood protection works to enhance Wairau Aquifer recharge rates.
 - c) Economic modelling of the costs versus benefits of modifying flood protection works.
 - d) Summary of findings and roadshow.

RECOMMENDATION

That the information be received.

Background

4. The Gravel Bed Rivers (GBR) project is a national research project investigating the way braided rivers hydraulically interact with alluvial gravel aquifers based on three case studies: Waikirikiri - Selwyn River in mid Canterbury, Wairau River in Marlborough and the Ngaruroro River in Hawkes Bay. The work is funded by the Endeavour Fund with contributions from Marlborough District Council, Hawkes Bay Regional Council and Environment Canterbury.
5. The GBR project began in October 2020 and is scheduled to conclude in September 2024.
6. The project independently identified the indirect benefits of alternative approaches to managing the Wairau River, arriving at the same conclusions as the: "giving rivers room" movement that has evolved internationally and in New Zealand.
7. The genesis of the project was understanding the drivers of declining Wairau Aquifer levels and the findings have potentially major implications for the way the Wairau River is managed to accommodate a broader range of outcomes.

8. The GBR project recognises the overlapping interests of managing the Wairau River from a flood management and hydrological perspective. Ngāti Kahungunu iwi have taken considerable interest in the Ngaruroro River case study, and engagement continues with local Wairau iwi.

Next Steps

6. A focus will be engagement with Wairau iwi: Rangitane, Ngāti Rarua and Ngāti Toa recognising their relationship with Awarua - Spring Creek and the myriad aquifer fed springs located south to Blenheim, all of which rely on a continuation of current rates of Wairau River recharge.

Presentation

A short presentation will be given by Scott Wilson, Research Hydrogeologist - Lincoln Agritech Ltd, Canterbury. (15 minutes).

Author	Peter Davidson, Environmental Scientist Groundwater Quantity & Quality – MDC; Andy White, Rivers Group Manager – MDC; and Scott Wilson, Research Hydrogeologist - Lincoln Agritech Ltd, Canterbury
Authoriser	Alan Johnson, Environmental Science & Monitoring Manager - MDC

5. Eucalyptus Bronze Bug Update

(also refer separate report available on Council's website)

(The Chair) (Report by Jono Underwood)

E315-002-005-10, E315-002-005-11

Purpose of Report

1. To provide an update to the Committee on the background, impact and likely consequences with the relatively new arrival of the eucalyptus bronze bug (*Thaumastocoris peregrinus*) ("bronze bug") into the Marlborough region.
2. To highlight a report commissioned by the Marlborough Research Centre and prepared by the University of Canterbury investigating the biology, ecology, impacts and control options for the bronze bug.

Executive Summary

3. After numerous anecdotal reports of impacts (of a then unknown cause) to eucalyptus species, particularly *Eucalyptus viminalis*, the Marlborough Research Centre commissioned the University of Canterbury to conduct a preliminary investigation on the issue.
4. The report was finalised on 29 June 2023 and identified the bronze bug as the culprit.
5. As indicated in the report, this bronze bug was first detected in New Zealand on 10 March 2012 during surveillance activities in Auckland by Biosecurity New Zealand. A decision was made to not attempt eradication and since then, bronze bug has progressively dispersed through the North Island and now to the South Island.
6. *Eucalyptus viminalis* or 'mann gum' has shown to be particularly susceptible to the sap sucking attack of the bronze bug.
7. Currently, the bronze bug is widely established across Marlborough with impacts already noted by Council's Parks & Open Spaces Team as reported at the Assets & Services Committee meeting on 22 August 2023. Anecdotally, many other trees have clearly visible signs of ill health, likely a result of bronze bug attack.
8. With the current trend of a warming climate, it is highly likely that impacts from the bronze bug will become more apparent across the region.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received.

Context and Next Steps

9. As with many other invasive species issues that are widespread in nature, the option to attempt any form of coordinated or broadscale intervention by agencies is not feasible. Not only on the grounds of resource availability but also the technical feasibility given the established nature of the bronze bug in New Zealand and the fact it is clearly highly mobile.
10. Those in the community with susceptible eucalyptus trees will need to monitor trees as they see fit and make management decisions based on an asset management basis.
11. The University of Canterbury report highlighted a range of control options available should a tree owner/manager decide to intervene and reduce bronze bug impacts.

12. It needs to be noted that this does involve the use of insecticides which would become more difficult when dealing with large specimen trees or large areas of cropped trees.

Presentation

A short presentation will be given by Steve Pawson, University of Canterbury School of Forestry (15 minutes).

Attachment

Attachment 1 – Biology, ecology, impacts, and control options to protect *Eucalyptus viminalis* from bronze bug (*Thaumastocoris peregrinus*). The report is available on Council's website via the following link <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/meetings>

Author	Jono Underwood, Biosecurity Manager
Authoriser	Alan Johnson, Environmental Science and Monitoring Manager

6. Giving effect to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management – Report on feedback from the first round of community engagement

(also refer separate report available on Council's website)

(Clr Burgess) (Report prepared by Sarah Pearson)

N100-001-04-01

Purpose of Report

1. To provide details of the feedback received from the first round of community engagement relating to the implementation of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPSFM) 2020.

Executive Summary

2. The Essential Freshwater package, introduced by central government in 2020, creates additional requirements for the Council in respect of freshwater management and protecting freshwater ecosystem health. This includes substantial changes to the NPSFM that the Council is required to give effect to through the Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan (PMEP).
3. Council has undertaken the first round of community engagement which focused on freshwater management unit boundaries and finding out the community's visions and values for the region's freshwater. This occurred between December 2022 and June 2023 and received over 200 individual submissions each with multiple submission points.
4. Council proposed six draft Freshwater Management Units (FMUs) which correspond to Marlborough's main river catchments or groups of similarly characterised catchments. Most feedback agreed with using the hydrological catchments. Amendments suggested included incorporating the 'northern island' area of the East Coast Complex into the Awatere FMU, which Council staff support.
5. Other feedback noted the large scale of the FMUs and suggested further division. Council staff recognise that there is a requirement for management to occur across a variety of scales. A more agile and flexible option is proposed which would enable the additional use of management at the scale of smaller catchments and aquifer units. It is proposed that Catchment Care Units and Aquifer Management Units might be appropriate names for these smaller scale units which will sit within the large FMUs.
6. It must be highlighted that these feedback responses are those of Council staff and are without formal feedback from tangata whenua, for both these reasons the FMU boundaries are therefore still proposed.
7. It should also be kept in mind that as the Council, tanagta whenua and communities move together through the National Objectives Framework (NOF) process and/or gain further understanding of the freshwater environment for the region it may be necessary to amend and/or further subdivide the FMU boundaries and update values and visions.
8. Community freshwater visions / aspirations themes are presented for the whole region and for each FMU, similarly community values and activities are also summarised.
9. Responses are provided which were given by the community when asked about concerns or positives they had regarding current freshwater management.
10. Note that these are summaries of community feedback and do not at this stage include any tangata whenua visions or values.
11. From the feedback received in this first round of engagement, staff will prepare proposed visions for each FMU and environmental outcomes for each value identified. How these values will be monitored, known as attributes, will be identified.

12. The proposed visions and environmental outcomes will be presented to the community in a second round of engagement set to run from the beginning of November to the 15 December 2023.
13. During this second engagement round there will also be another opportunity to check in with the values that have already been identified, add additional values and find out further information relating to the FMUs.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received.

Background/Context

14. The Government's 2020 Essential Freshwater package created additional requirements for all councils in respect of freshwater management and protecting freshwater ecosystem health. This includes substantial changes to the NPSFM that the Council is required to give effect to through the Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan (PMEP).
15. The NPSFM Policies require that freshwater is managed in a way that gives effect to Te Mana o te Wai and upholds the hierarchy of obligations which prioritises the health and well-being of water bodies and freshwater ecosystems first, before the health needs of people (such as drinking water) and lastly the ability for people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural wellbeing, now and in the future.
16. The legislative timeframe requires councils to notify a variation/plan change by 31 December 2024 to give effect to the NPSFM. Councils are required to follow the National Objectives Framework (NOF) which provides a step-by-step process to implement the NPSFM including engaging with communities and tangata whenua at each step. Three rounds of community engagement have been scheduled to be undertaken between late 2022 through to late 2024 to complete these NOF steps.
17. In tandem, engagement with tangata whenua is also ongoing with the aim of understanding and establishing tangata whenua values including, but not limited to, Te Mana o te Wai (the fundamental health of water), ki uta ki tai (from mountains to sea, integrated management) and mahinga kai in a local Marlborough context. This is being undertaken through working groups with two tangata whenua groups.
 - Te Tau Ihu Iwi where Council is involved in an initiative with Tasman District Council and Nelson District Council in a Top of South working group known as Te Puna Kōrero ki Te Taihū (TPK).
 - Council has a separate working relationship with Ngāti Kuri and Ngāi Tahu.
18. The first round of community engagement took place between December 2022 and February 2023, but was extended to June 2023 to provide the public further time to engage.
19. This engagement round sought feedback on the division of the region into freshwater management units (FMUs) and to find out what the community valued about the region's freshwater as well as their aspirations/visions for it.
20. The community was provided multiple ways to engage including online surveys, community meetings across the region, online webinars with both the wider public and individual groups, provisions of hard copies of surveys, primary school webinar and library displays, and was advertised through the local papers, Facebook, Antenna and flyers.
21. In total over two hundred submissions were made across the various formats, each with multiple submission points (Table 1).

Engagement feedback / submissions	No. of individual submitters	Totals
Youth Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Library activity - Earth day activity - Primary school hui 	16 15 2	33
Teen Engagement	17	17
Individual / Organisation (Long form survey & email submissions)	37	37
GIS map-base short survey (included Garden Marlborough surveys)	98	98
Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Earth Day - Winer field days 	25 36	61
Feedback from face-to face meetings	17	17
Total Submissions = 226		

Table 1 – Number and format of submissions for Engagement 1.

Freshwater Management Units (FMUs)

22. Council proposed six draft FMUs which correspond to Marlborough's main river catchments or groups of similarly characterised catchments. These are Marlborough Sounds Complex, Te Hoiere/Pelorus, Wairau, Awatere, East Coast Complex and Waiau Toa/Clarence (Figure 1).

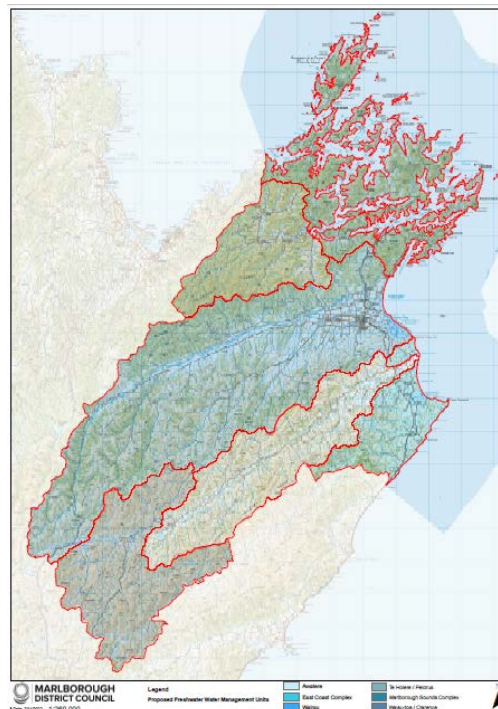


Figure 1 - Map of the proposed draft six Freshwater Management Units for Marlborough

23. Most of the submissions supported these FMUs boundaries, though there was clear feedback that the 'northern island' area of the East Coast Complex should be included in the Awatere FMU, which Council staff support.
24. Other feedback agreed that the hydrological catchments were a good starting point but noted that these resulted in large units and that there needed to be scope to identify and manage sub-areas with appropriate rules and restrictions that take into account the different characteristics of those sub-areas.
25. While these large-scale units support the ki uta ki tai / mountains to sea integrated catchment approach required by the NPSFM, Council staff recognise that there is a requirement for management to occur across a variety of scales. A more agile and flexible option is proposed which would enable the additional use of management at the scale of smaller catchments and aquifer units, and potentially even down to individual waterbodies within the context of the larger FMUs. This will enable finer scale management to be applied when necessary to protect values and / or address issues that have limited spatial scope.
26. This is seen to be in alignment with the recently enacted Freshwater Farm Plan Regulations 2023 requirement for catchment context, challenges and values that relate to the farm scale.
27. It is proposed that Catchment Care Units and Aquifer Management Units might be appropriate names for these smaller scale units which will sit within the large FMUs.
28. These feedback responses are those of Council staff and are without formal feedback from tangata whenua, for both these reasons the FMU boundaries are therefore still proposed. It should also be kept in mind that as the Council, tangata whenua and communities move together through the NOF process and/or gain further understanding of the freshwater environment for the region it may be necessary to amend and/or further subdivided the FMU boundaries.

Community Visions and Aspirations

29. Under NPSFM Clause 3.3 every regional council must develop long-term visions for freshwater in its region and include those long-term visions as objectives in its regional policy statement. These are goals with timeframes that are ambitious but reasonable (that is, difficult to achieve but not impossible).
30. The first step in this process is asking community what the future visions / aspirations / goals they have for the region's freshwater.
31. There were over two hundred feedback comments that had visionary, aspirational or future based comments. Table 2 provides a summary of this feedback which has been divided into region wide and specific FMU themes. Note that the vision / aspiration themes that have been identified across the region may not necessarily be repeated for each FMU, but where specific feedback has identified an FMU this has been captured.
32. Many submitters put immediate / short timescales to achieve their aspirations including as soon as possible, today, immediately, next year, next year or two, within 3-5 years. Others felt an immediate start should be made but wanted to ensure that there was continuous, long term / indefinite improvements and sustainability. Between these extremes submitters mentioned time scales of 5, 10, 15, and 20 years or provided dates such as from 2030 onwards. Several submitters said within in a generation, taken to mean a period of 20-30 years.
33. There was also feedback that related specifically to the NPSFM process, Te Mana o te Wai and freshwater management more generally, these have been collated separately, as have responses relating to factors which were seen as important when considering climate change have been reported together. (Table 3 and Figure 2 respectively). Note that these do not include tangata whenua visions.

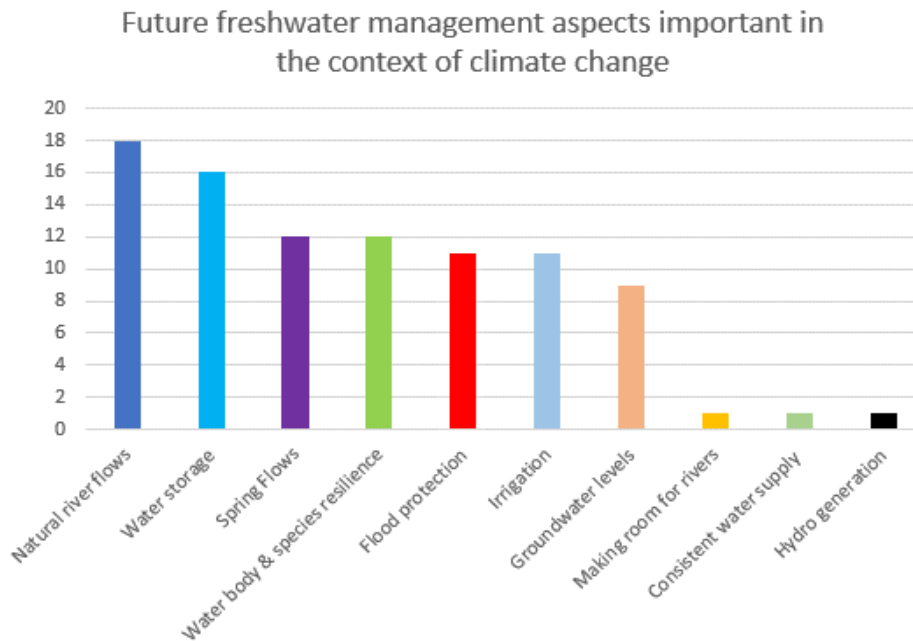


Figure 2 - Factors that were considered important for future freshwater management in the context of climate change.

Table 2 - Visions / aspirations themes split into region wide and per FMU.

Vision Themes	Region Wide	Marlborough Sounds Complex	Te Hoiere / Pelorus	Wairau	Awatere	East Coast Complex	Waiau-toa / Clarence
Clean, clear, pure, and safe, healthy, pollution free	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Safe water for drinking, swimming, fishing, and gathering food	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Maintain current state, no deterioration, and improve	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Protect upper reaches of the region's major waterways, restore lower reaches	Y	Y	Y	Y			Y
Access to freshwater bodies for all, particularly for recreation	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y
Removal of pest species and weeds (Including wilding pines)	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y
Increase native biodiversity, riparian habitats and species protection, diversity and populations	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Enable natural flows and behaviour	Y	Y	Y	Y			Y

Vision Themes (continued)	Region Wide	Marlborough Sounds Complex	Te Hoiere / Pelorus	Wairau	Awatere	East Coast Complex	Waiau-toa / Clarence
Traditional Māori tikanga acknowledgement and realisation	Y	Y	Y	Y			Y
Uphold Te mana o te Wai locally	Y		Y	Y			Y
Available for irrigation use.	Y			Y	Y	Y	
Tighter allocation controls				Y			
Water Storage				Y	Y	Y	
Food production valued in the region	Y						
Investigate large-scale hydro-electric generation, encourage small scale and domestic hydro	Y		Y	Y			Y
More stringent controls of forestry activities		Y	Y				
Diversity of land use and no over intensification of industries			Y				
Cohesive community/ stakeholder approach to restoration				Y	Y	Y	Y
Sustainable gravel management				Y	Y	Y	
Flood protection				Y			
Nature based solutions to climate change effects	Y		Y	Y			
Domestic water supply		Y			Y	Y	
Return to pre-European freshwater quality							Y

Table 3 – Future freshwater management themes

Future freshwater management
Given the highest priority, integrated approach, and be based on naturally occurring processes.
Application of the precautionary principle.
Users that cause degradation paying for this through levies, rather than the clean-up being paid by future generations.
Achieve a clear and informed balance amongst water takes, flows and volumes.

Future freshwater management
Complete overhaul not required focus on maintaining the current water quality within the region, while continuing to focus on / target certain 'hotspot' areas.
Tension between economic development and environmental values managed to favour environmental values with council enforcing the conditions of permitted water uses.
Sound, long sited management, not compromised by demands from water users motivated by shorter term economic perspectives.
When restriction levels are reached, a framework that permits graduated reductions in waters that provided for the survival of rural activities and businesses and their associated communities.
Support for ongoing development of adequate information on water volumes, flows and takes to improve knowledge with the aim of maximising the health of the rivers and aquifers.

Community Values and Activities

34. As part of the NOF (Clause 3.7) under Clause 3.9 values must be identified for each FMU. The policy statement provides four compulsory values at Appendix 1A which must be applied to all FMUs. These are Ecosystem Health, Human Contact, Threatened Species and Mahinga kai. Other values can also be considered, this includes nine values identified in Appendix 1B which councils must consider whether they apply to each FMU. Other values can be identified by either community and / or tangata whenua.
35. A total of 382 feedback points related specifically to values the community has relating to freshwater and freshwater ecosystems. These were divided into comments that were region wide and those that related to specific FMUs, some comments covered both region wide and specific FMUs or applied to multiple FMUs.

Table 4 - Number of Submissions per area/FMU

Area / FMUs	No of value related comments	% of total
Region Wide	75	19.63%
Marlborough Sounds Complex	50	13.09%
Te Hoiere / Pelorus	29	7.59%
Wairau	157	41.10%
Awatere	33	8.64%
East Coast Complex	31	8.12%
Waiau-toa / Clarence	7	1.83%

36. Previously identified and existing values and visions for freshwater in Marlborough are still considered to be relevant and as such have been included in the value identification process. These have been identified through other processes such as the PMEP and Rangitahi/Molesworth Reserve Management Plan review or active restoration projects within the region such as the Te Hoiere Restoration Project and the Lake Moawhitu Restoration Project which were also highlighted by some submitters to be specifically taken into account.
37. Table 5 provides a summary of the compulsory and other values that must be considered divided into region wide values and those identified specifically for each FMU. Similarly, Table 6 provides details of other values that community have identified. Note that these do not include tangata whenua values.

Table 5 – Summary of compulsory values and other values that must be considered across the region and per FMU.

Compulsory and Other must consider Values	Region Wide	Marlborough Sounds Complex	Te Hoiere / Pelorus	Wairau	Awatere	East Coast Complex	Waiau-toa / Clarence
Ecosystem Health	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Human Contact	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Threatened Species	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Mahinga Kai	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Natural Form and Character	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Drinking Water	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Wai Tapu	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y
Transport & Tauranga Waka	Y	Y		Y			
Fishing	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Hydroelectric power generation				Y			
Animal drinking water	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Irrigation/ Cultivation / Production of Food and Beverages	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Commercial and Industrial Use	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	

Table 6 – Summary of other values across the region and per FMU.

Other Values	Region Wide	Marlborough Sounds Complex	Te Hoiere / Pelorus	Wairau	Awatere	East Coast Complex	Waiau-toa / Clarence
Associated recreational activities	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Associated recreational activities (Incl.4WD)	Y			Y	Y	Y	Y
Spirituality + Mental Health	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Groundwater	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Amenity		Y	Y	Y			
Access	Y	Y	Y				
Education		Y					
Firefighting purposes	Y			Y			
Flood management and protection				Y			
Water Storage					Y		
Gravel Abstraction					Y		
Farming and rural activities	Y						
Production of medicinal plants/Rongoa/extracts and other products	Y						
Rivers for moving floodwaters from the land						Y	
Fossil hunting & geology					Y	Y	
Canadian Goose Hunting							Y

Community concerns and positives

38. The community were also asked to identify concerns / issues they had with the current freshwater management, and the positives.
39. Concerns centred around six main topics: river management, discharges and water quality degradation, water supply, access, general NPSFM process and resource management and equity / balance.
 - a) River management – two key areas of flood management primarily relating to keeping river fairways clear which included weed management, flood debris removal and gravel abstraction, and secondly riparian management again including weed management and lack of enhancement work.
 - b) Discharges and water quality degradation - discharges and leaching of contaminants from land use activities (primarily forestry and farming mentioned) including nitrogen, other contaminants, and sediment and general waste management across local industries.
 - c) Water supply - maintaining the long-term integrity of domestic and irrigation supply, particularly in the southern drier FMUs and source water protection and risk assessment and management.
 - d) Access - Levels of public accessibility to water bodies and its relationship to efficient and safe land management by private landowners.
 - e) NPSFM Process / Resource Management – hierarchy within the compulsory values, lack of past holistic and / or balanced approach to water management, recognition of the paradigm shift in water resource management, implementation with an understanding of the local context and local history.
 - f) Equity / Balance - relating to the use of and payment for the water resource, equity in the planning process through consideration of different community sectors' values and subsequent application of regulatory controls, through to the more general concepts and challenges on environmental versus economic balancing in resource management.
 - g) Other comments - Lack of adequate information requiring application of a precautionary approach to resource management including holistic considerations, integrating management and the associated recognition of how waters are interconnected.
40. Positive feedback included;
 - a) The Marlborough region had used water allocation for a “very long time” as compared to other regions and this process was felt to be well managed.
 - b) The region still contained rivers and lakes with healthy freshwater ecology and freshwater for drinking.
 - c) Positive advances towards improving water quality being made through the Te Hoiere Restoration Project.

What's Next

41. From the feedback received in this first round of engagement Council staff will draft proposed visions and environmental outcomes for each FMU (NPSFM CI 3.3 and NOF step 3 under CI 3.7(2)(c)).
42. Also, for each value, attributes, how we will measure if a value is being met, must be identified (NPSFM NOF Step 4 CI 3.7(2)(d) and CI 3.10). This includes using all relevant attributes identified in NPSFM Appendix 2A and 2B for the compulsory values listed and where practicable, attributes for all other applicable values.
43. Work to identify the baseline states of each value attribute is also being undertaken by the Council's science team, which will be used to inform target attributes states, environmental flows and levels, set

limits and prepare action plans to achieve the environmental outcomes which will be the subject of the third round of community engagement.

44. The proposed visions and environmental outcomes will be presented to the community in the second round of engagement beginning at the start of November 2023. Community will be asked whether these proposed visions and environmental outcomes reflect the communities' aspirations for the region's freshwater. If they don't agree they will be asked to provide further details and suggestions.
45. During this second engagement there will also be another opportunity to check in with the values that have already been identified and add additional values.
46. Further information on the FMU's is also being collated and will be available through the Council's website freshwater management pages, aiming to provide further context and current state information on freshwater in region.
47. The second round of community engagement will be undertaken in a similar way to the first utilising the Council's website to provide information and links to an online survey which will also be available in hard copy. Community and industry meetings will also occur but will be more of a drop in format where people can view information including the proposed visions and outcomes and provide feedback rather than just a presentation being given.
48. It is proposed that this second round of engagement will run for six weeks, finishing on 15 December. Council staff will then collate this feedback in January which will be reported back to the committee and be used to inform the next stage of the process.

Option assessment

49. The NPSFM sets out prescriptive steps councils must take to implement the legislation. These are detailed within the National Objectives Framework and require engagement with communities and tangata whenua at every stage. No other options have therefore been assessed.

Attachment

Attachment 1 – Giving effect to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 – Report on Community Engagement Round 1 – Proposed Freshwater Management Units, Visions and Values. The report is available on Council's website via the following link <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/meetings>

Author	Sarah Pearson, Strategic Planner
Authoriser	Pere Hawes, Manager of Environmental Policy

7. Proposed National Policy Statement for Natural Hazard Decision-making 2023

(also refer separate report available on the Ministry for the Environment website)

(The Chair) (Report prepared by Kim Lawson)

N100-001-09

Purpose of Report

1. To inform the Committee of the proposed National Policy Statement for Natural Hazard Decision-making 2023 (NPS-NHD) recently released for consultation.

Executive Summary

2. On 18 September 2023 the Ministry for the Environment (**Ministry**) released the proposed NPS-HD¹ for public consultation, as well as an associated discussion document.²
 3. The proposed NPS-NHD is intended to apply to decisions that result in or enable new development and aims to direct how decision makers consider natural hazard risks in making those decisions.
 4. The proposed NPS-NHD is out for public consultation until 20 November 2023.³ Council staff will review the proposed NPS-NHD and the associated discussion document and prepare feedback for consideration.
-

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received.

Background/Context

7. The Government recognises Aotearoa New Zealand is increasingly at risk from a range of natural hazards, and severe weather events that are becoming more frequent due to climate change.⁴ Accordingly it has developed a work programme to improve the management of natural hazard risks.
8. The Ministry is working closely with the Toka Tū Ake EQC to develop the proposed NPS-NHD as well as proposed comprehensive National Direction for Natural Hazards, which is currently under development.
9. The NPS-NHD is intended to be an interim measure, to be developed and implemented by early 2024, while the more comprehensive national direction is to be developed over the next one to two years. According to the information released by the Government, it is intended that the NPS-NHD will be ultimately included in the comprehensive National Direction for Natural Hazards and then transitioned into the National Planning Framework as part of the resource management reforms.

Proposed NPS-NHD summary

10. The proposed NPS-NHD directs decision makers to take a risk-based approach to natural hazards when making decisions on a plan, resource consent or designation relating to a new development.

¹ <https://environment.govt.nz/assets/publications/RMA/Proposed-National-Policy-Statement-for-Natural-Hazard-Decision-making-2023.pdf>

² Ministry for the Environment. 2023. *Proposed National Policy Statement for Natural Hazard Decision-making: Discussion document*. Wellington: Ministry for the Environment <https://environment.govt.nz/assets/publications/RMA/Proposed-National-Policy-Statement-for-Natural-Hazard-Decision-making-Discussion-document.pdf>

³ <https://environment.govt.nz/news/have-your-say-on-managing-natural-hazard-risk/>

⁴ Above n 2, at p 5

11. The proposed NPS-NHD requires decision makers to determine the level of natural hazard risk; high, moderate, or low. When determining that risk, decision makers are directed to consider first, the likelihood and the consequences of a natural hazard event occurring, and second the tolerance to a natural hazard event in relation to the proposed new development.
12. Based on that risk assessment, the proposed NPS-NHD then directs decision-makers to ensure:
 - a) in high natural hazard risk areas, new development is avoided unless the level of risk can be reduced to at least a tolerable level;
 - b) in moderate natural hazard risk areas, risk to new development is reduced to as low as reasonably practicable; and
 - c) in low natural hazard risk areas, enable new development.
13. The Government is proposing that once the proposed NPS-NHD is finalised, it will have immediate effect on commencement date. Decision makers would then need to have regard to it when making decisions on resource consents or designations and give effect to the NPS-NHD for any private plan change decisions on and from the commencement date. Local authorities would then need to give effect to the NPS-NHD through updating their planning instruments as soon as reasonably practicable.

Next Steps

14. Council staff will review the proposed NPS-NHD and associated discussion document and prepare feedback for the Committee's consideration at the next Committee meeting on 16 November 2023.

Attachment

Attachment 1 – NPS-NHD report is available via the following link

<https://environment.govt.nz/publications/proposed-national-policy-statement-for-natural-hazard-decision-making-2023/>

Author	Kim Lawson, Strategic Planner
Authoriser	Pere Hawes, Manager Environmental Policy

8. Draft Transitional National Planning Framework Proposal

(The Chair) (Report prepared by Kim Lawson)

N100-004-01

Purpose of Report

1. To inform the Committee of the draft transitional National Planning Framework proposal (**transitional NPF proposal**) recently released for targeted engagement.

Executive Summary

2. On 11 September 2023 the Ministry for the Environment (**Ministry**) released a draft transitional NPF proposal for targeted engagement,⁵ as well as an associated guidance document.⁶
3. The Minister for the Environment and the Minister of Conservation (the **Ministers**) are now carrying our pre-notification engagement on the draft transitional NPF proposal with specified groups, including individuals or organisations they consider representative of the local government sector, to assist in its further development before public notification. This pre-notification engagement period will last until December 2023.
4. Council staff will review the draft transitional NPF proposal and the associated guidance document and provide a further update to the Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received.

Background/Context

5. The Natural and Built Environment Act 2023 (**NBEA**) requires pre-notification engagement of the transitional NPF proposal before it is publicly notified, including with individuals or organisations the Ministers consider representative of the local government sector.
6. Accordingly, the Ministry has released a draft transitional NPF proposal for the purpose of this pre-notification engagement, albeit publicly on its website.⁷ This targeted engagement period runs from September 2023 to December 2023.
7. Essentially, the transitional NPF will be secondary legislation, made under the NBEA, and is the first iteration of the NPF that combines both existing and new national direction into a single source of national planning direction.
8. Following the pre-notification engagement period, the transitional NPF proposal will be finalised and expected to be publicly notified in or around April 2024. All interested parties will have the opportunity to make submissions on the proposal. A Board of Inquiry will consider those submissions and provide recommendations to the Minister on the transitional NPF proposal. The Ministry anticipates decisions on the transitional NPF proposal to be made, and the transitional NPF to come into force, in 2025.⁸

⁵ See <https://environment.govt.nz/publications/targeted-engagement-draft-nbe-npf-regulations/> and <https://environment.govt.nz/assets/publications/RM-system-2023/Engagement-draft-Natural-and-Built-Environment-Transitional-Nation-v34.0.pdf>

⁶ Aotearoa New Zealand's new resource management system: Developing the transitional National Planning Framework | Te pūnaha whakahaere rawa hou o Aotearoa: Te whakawhanake i te Anga Mahere ā-Motu whakawhiti. Wellington: Manatū Mō Te Taiao | Ministry for the Environment.

⁷ <https://environment.govt.nz/what-government-is-doing/areas-of-work/rma/resource-management-system-reform/planning-and-consenting-in-the-new-system/pre-notification-engagement-of-a-draft-transitional-npf-proposal/>

⁸ Above n 2, at p 46

Next Steps

9. Council staff will review the draft transitional NPF proposal and the associated guidance document and provide a further update to Committee.

Author	Kim Lawson, Strategic Planner
Authoriser	Pere Hawes, Manager Environmental Policy

9. Port Otago Ltd v EDS – Supreme Court decision

(also refer separate report available on Council's website)

(The Chair) (Report prepared by Kim Lawson)

L150-013-05-17

Purpose of Report

1. To update the Committee on the Supreme Court decision in *Port Otago Limited v Environmental Defence Society Incorporated* [2023] NZSC 112 (**Port Otago**).

Executive Summary

2. The Marlborough District Council (**Council**) supported Port Otago Limited (**Port Otago**) in opposing the Environmental Defence Society Incorporated's (**EDS**) arguments through the appellate courts in *Port Otago* concerning the interpretation of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (**NZCPS**) and the scope of local authorities' obligation to implement the directions.
3. The case raised important issues regarding the relationship between Policy 9 of the NZCPS (the **Ports Policy**) and Policies 11, 13, 15 and 16 addressing indigenous biodiversity, natural character, natural features and natural landscapes, and surf breaks of national significance (the **Avoidance Policies**), and how those policies should be reflected in lower-order planning documents. It required the Supreme Court to re-examine the principles it had set in *King Salmon*⁹ in this context.¹⁰
4. The Supreme Court upheld Port Otago and Council's arguments. The decision recognised that the Avoidance Policies in the NZCPS do not automatically trump other directive instructions in national policy. They must be interpreted in light of what is sought to be protected, including the relevant values and areas and, when considering any development, whether measures can be put in place to avoid material harm to those values and areas.¹¹ Mitigation and remedy may serve to meet the "avoid" standard by bringing the level of harm down so that material harm is avoided.¹²
5. The Supreme Court decision confirmed that reconciliation of any conflict between the NZCPS Avoidance Policies and the Ports Policy should be dealt with at the regional policy statement and plan level as far as possible.¹³ The decision recognised that regions possess better information than national policymakers to address and reconcile the tensions inherent in managing natural and physical resources. Strategic planning at the regional scale remains an important exercise.

RECOMMENDATION

The information be received.

Background/Context

6. In October 2016 the Otago Regional Council (**ORC**) issued a decision on its Proposed Otago Regional Policy Statement. It did not contain any express provision for the two ports. Port Otago consequently appealed the decision seeking an additional policy providing for port activities at Port Chalmers and Dunedin.
7. Port Otago put forward a proposed port policy. The Environmental Defence Society Incorporated (**EDS**) and others opposed part of the proposed policy as it contained an option to "avoid, remedy or

⁹ *Environmental Defence Society Inc v The New Zealand King Salmon Co Ltd* [2014] NZSC 38, [2014] 1 NZLR 593 (**King Salmon**).

¹⁰ *Port Otago Limited v Environmental Defence Society Incorporated* [2023] NZSC 112, at [1].

¹¹ Above n 2, at [68].

¹² Above n 2, at [65].

¹³ Above n 2, at [72].

mitigate adverse effects as necessary”, which EDS argued failed to give effect to the Avoidance Policies of the NZCPS.

8. The Avoidance Policies of the NZCPS require adverse effects to be avoided in certain circumstances to protect specified values. They require avoiding adverse effects on areas of indigenous biodiversity with certain high biodiversity characteristics, in areas of outstanding natural character and in areas of outstanding natural features or landscapes and ensuring activities in the coastal environment do not adversely affect the surf breaks.¹⁴
9. The Ports Policy in the NZCPS directs persons exercising functions and powers under the Resource Management Act 1991 (**RMA**), including Council, to “*Recognise that a sustainable national transport system requires an efficient national network of safe ports, servicing national and international shipping...*” (emphasis added).
10. The Environment Court issued an interim decision recommending a port policy that allowed adverse effects from the operation or development of Port Otago in areas of outstanding natural character to be “avoided, remedied or mitigated”. EDS appealed the decision, which was supported by Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Inc and ORC.
11. EDS’s position, which it retained through the senior courts, was that the Environment Court erred because:
 - a) Protection of marine sites of significance is an environmental bottom line.
 - b) Protection of Avoidance Policies in NZCPS directs non-interference.
 - c) Protection and Avoidance Policies are the strongest instruction in the NZCPS and prevail over all other policies.
 - d) Protection and avoidance should not allow opportunities for coastal permits unless the effects are negligible on the protected resources.
 - e) All of the above flows from the Supreme Court’s decision in *King Salmon*.
12. The Council became concerned with EDS’s argument in the High Court, its position on *King Salmon* and the potential consequences that would follow from it for Marlborough and other regions. As a result, it sought to join the proceedings, with the High Court granting the Council’s application in November 2018. The Council supported Port Otago opposition to EDS’s appeal, in the High Court and beyond to the Supreme Court. The principal reasons were twofold:
 - a) There are tensions between policies in the NZCPS that can arise from regional circumstances, for example, where sites of ecological significance are located close to ports, and the practicability of managing the interface between these natural and physical resources to secure the continued operation of key infrastructure. For example, shipping logistics may dictate requirements beyond the Port’s control. These circumstances are critical in evaluating the appropriate response to managing natural and physical resources. The NZCPS did not resolve these tensions. Instead, the tensions needed to be addressed and resolved at a regional scale where better information about the resources, their location and the needs of ports exist.
 - b) Determining the precedence of policy and hence the appropriate sustainable outcome purely on the strength of the verb phrases in national policy instructing a particular course of action is too formulaic and unreasonable, given the complexity of choices and effects of trade-offs when managing large infrastructure and did not reflect the plan making structure of Part 5 of the RMA.
13. The Council’s arguments before the Courts were essentially as follows:

¹⁴ See Policies 11(a), 13(1), 15(a) and (b) and 16 of the NZCPS.

- a) While the text of policies provides an important indication of the priorities and actions required by decision-makers, conflicts may arise where the appropriate course of action is also shaped by the region's circumstances and the consequences of particular choices.
- b) In those circumstances, the tensions between achieving a strong policy successfully requires a careful evaluation of the available choices and the consequences of particular steps.
- c) In some cases, interference may amount to protecting the core values of the protected resource and hence the gist of the protection policy if the level of interference has appropriate sophistication supported by ecological science.

Port Otago decision

14. The High Court and the Court of Appeal both held that the proposed port policy, as worded by the Environment Court, did not give effect to the Avoidance Policies of the NZCPS. In applying the principles in *King Salmon*, the Court of Appeal held the NZCPS contained its own directive hierarchy. In that, the Ports Policy was subordinate to the Avoidance Policies, which contained relatively clear environmental bottom lines, requiring adverse effects to be avoided, which could not be substituted with "avoid, remedy or mitigate".¹⁵
15. The Supreme Court overturned the Court of Appeal's decision and upheld Port Otago and Council's arguments. In contrast to the Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court considered the Ports Policy to be directive. It broadly agreed with the Environment Court and the dissenting judgment in the Court of Appeal, that "require" is a key verb in the Ports Policy, and in combination with the verb "recognise" meant that the decision maker is being directed to recognise that a port network is required.¹⁶ The Ports Policy also had to be interpreted in light of the existence of an established port network, which ORC had no choice but to provide for, including the need to maintain its safe and efficient operation.¹⁷
16. The decision recognises that the Avoidance Policies in the NZCPS do not automatically trump other directive policies. They must be interpreted in light of what is being sought to be protected, including the relevant values and areas and, when considering any development, whether measures can be put in place to avoid material harm to those values and areas.¹⁸ Mitigation and remedy may serve to meet the "avoid" standard by bringing the level of harm down so that material harm is avoided.¹⁹
17. The Supreme Court decision confirmed that reconciliation of any conflict between the NZCPS Avoidance Policies and the Ports Policy should be dealt with at the regional policy statement and plan level as far as possible.²⁰ The decision recognised that regions possess better information than national policymakers to address and reconcile the tensions inherent in managing natural and physical resources. Strategic planning at the regional scale remains an important exercise, thus affirming *King Salmon*.
18. Where conflicts cannot be resolved at the plan-making stage, then decision makers at the resource consent level will need to undertake a structured analysis to determine whether the policies can be reconciled, or which policy should prevail, or the extent to which a policy should prevail in the particular circumstances of the case.²¹ While the Supreme Court in its decision specifically made comment that this structural analysis was not the same as the "overall broad judgment" approach,²² it arguably enables a more contextualised approach to be taken. For an avoidance policy to be breached it now appears that the harm to the values being protected must be *material* which seems to be a shift from the more than minor or transitory effects in *King Salmon*. It means materially safeguarding the values sought to be protected.

¹⁵ *Port Otago Limited v Environmental Defence Society Inc* [2021] NZCA 638, at [79], [82].

¹⁶ Above n 2, at [69].

¹⁷ Above n 2, at [70].

¹⁸ Above n 2, at [68].

¹⁹ Above n 2, at [65].

²⁰ Above n 2 at [72].

²¹ Above n 2 at [78].

²² Above n 2 at [81].

19. The *Port Otago* decision will arguably have broader significance than just the reconciliation of policies in the NZCPS. There are many national policy statements with directive policies affecting regional and district planning to which the reasoning in *Port Otago* will apply, particularly where there is regionally significant infrastructure, which for functional or operational reasons cannot always avoid sensitive areas. Councils will be required to confront the inherent tensions in these national policies when seeking to implement them in the regional context and must do so through structured decision-making.

Attachment

Attachment 1: SC 6-2022 Port Otago Ltd v Environmental Defence Society Inc. The report is available on Council's website via the following link <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/meetings>

Author	Kim Lawson, Strategic Planner
Authoriser	Pere Hawes, Manager Environmental Policy

10. National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023

(also refer separate report available on Council's website)

(The Chair) (Report prepared by Kim Lawson)

N100-001-05-01

Purpose of Report

1. To update the Committee on the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023 (**NPS-IB**) and implications for the Marlborough District Council (**Council**).

Executive Summary

2. The NPS-IB was gazetted on 7 July 2023 and came into force on 4 August 2023. It places significant responsibilities on Council, in partnership with tangata whenua, to protect, maintain and restore indigenous biodiversity.
3. The NPS-IB provides specific direction as to timeframes, which will prioritise the work going forward. Council must:
 - a) Commence preparation of a Regional Biodiversity Strategy within three years and complete it within ten;
 - b) Publicly notify changes to its Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan (**PMEP**) to give effect to the requirements relating to Significant Natural Areas (**SNAs**) and additional information requirements for consenting within five years; and
 - c) All other changes to the PMEP required to give effect to the NPS-IB must be publicly notified within eight years.
4. Successful implementation of the NPS-IB will not only require effective and meaningful collaboration with iwi, landowners, central government agencies, including the Department of Conservation (**DOC**), and other stakeholders, but also increased resourcing and funding.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received.

Background/Context

5. The Government has recognised that biodiversity is in crisis both globally and in Aotearoa New Zealand. It has consequently developed Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2020 to provide the strategic framework for the protection, restoration and use of biodiversity and support New Zealand to meet its international obligations. The NPS-IB is intended to be one of the key tools for achieving Te Mana o te Taiao.²³
6. In November 2019 the Ministry for the Environment (**Ministry**) released a draft NPS-IB and then an Exposure Draft on 9 June 2022. Council made submissions on both.²⁴ The Council's submissions raised concerns with the nature and breadth of the proposed NPS-IB. It placed significant responsibilities on local government to action within limited timeframes, without clear resourcing and supporting measures from central government to enable successful implementation.
7. The finalised NPS-IB was gazetted on 7 July 2023 and came into force on 4 August 2023. While it has been revised following submissions on the Exposure Draft, including the removal of the

²³ See *Te Mana o Te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2020*, <https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/conservation/biodiversity/anzbs-2020.pdf>

²⁴ https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:2ifzri1o01cxbymxkvwz/hierarchy/documents/your-council/meetings/2022/planning-finance-community-2022-list/Item_3-Submission_MDC_NPSIB_Exposure.pdf

fundamental concept of “Te Rito o te Harakeke”²⁵, extensive obligations on Council remain. Council must give effect to the NPS-IB as soon as reasonably practicable. The NPS-IB provides specific direction as to timeframes, which will prioritise the work going forward:

- a) Council must initiate preparation of a Regional Biodiversity Strategy within three years, by August 2026, and must complete it within 10 years, by August 2033.
 - b) Council must publicly notify changes to its PMEP to give effect to the requirements relating to SNAs and additional information requirements for consenting within five years, by August 2028.
 - c) All other changes to the PMEP required to give effect to the NPS-IB must be publicly notified within eight years, by August 2031.
8. The NPS-IB requires local authorities to involve tangata whenua as partners in the management of indigenous biodiversity and the implementation of the NPS-IB. This will involve collaboration with tangata whenua at an early stage, in developing the regional biodiversity strategy, amending the PMEP to give effect to the NPS-IB and enabling mātauranga Māori to be applied at all stages of managing indigenous biodiversity. Working in partnership with tangata whenua is a fundamental element of the NPS-IB. Funding will be required to enable iwi to effectively engage in this process. Accordingly, the Ministry is developing an iwi/Māori implementation plan to consider direct support to assist iwi/Māori to engage with the NPS-IB processes, which is due to be released by the end of the year.
9. It is clear the successful implementation of the NPS-IB will not only require collaboration with central government agencies, tangata whenua, landowners, stakeholders, and the community, but also further funding and resourcing. Council staff will prepare a work programme for the NPS-IB, which will include budget implications, for Council’s consideration during the Long-Term Plan process.
10. Further funding from central government will also be required. The NPS-IB Implementation Plan released by the Ministry sets out existing and new support measures that will be provided.²⁶ For Council, additional measures include communication support and support for SNA identification (although priority will be given to those councils yet to identify any SNAs). These measures are to be delivered within the first year following gazettal of the NPS-IB. The Government is also currently consulting on the design of a biodiversity credit system to help incentivise the protection and restoration of biodiversity through investment from the private sector.²⁷

NPS-IB Summary

11. The NPS-IB provides national direction to local authorities on their responsibilities for protecting, maintaining, and restoring indigenous biodiversity under the Resource Management Act 1991.
12. The NPS-IB applies to indigenous biodiversity on all land – public, private and Māori land. Subject to certain exceptions, including for specified highly mobile fauna, restoration of natural inland wetlands and regional biodiversity strategies, the NPS-IB does not apply to indigenous biodiversity in the coastal marine area or water bodies. Renewable electricity generation and electricity transmission network assets and activities are now specifically excluded from the application of the NPS-IB.²⁸
13. The NPS-IB no longer contains the fundamental concept of “Te Rito o te Harakeke”. Instead, its elements have been reformulated and contained as “decision-making principles” as follows, which must inform the implementation of the NPS-IB:²⁹
 - (a) *prioritise the mauri, intrinsic value and wellbeing of indigenous biodiversity:*
 - (b) *take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi):*

²⁵ A framework to achieve an integrated and holistic approach to maintaining indigenous biodiversity.

²⁶ <https://environment.govt.nz/assets/publications/biodiversity/NPSIB-Implementation-plan.pdf> at Table 3.

²⁷ <https://environment.govt.nz/what-government-is-doing/areas-of-work/biodiversity/biodiversity-credits-an-incentive-to-support-conservation-efforts/>

²⁸ Clause 1.3 of the NPS-IB.

²⁹ Clause 1.5 of the NPS-IB.

- (c) recognise the bond between tangata whenua and indigenous biodiversity based on whakapapa relationships:
- (d) recognise the obligation and responsibility of care that tangata whenua have as kaitiaki of indigenous biodiversity:
- (e) recognise the role of people and communities (including landowners) as stewards of indigenous biodiversity:
- (f) enable the application of te ao Māori and mātauranga Māori:
- (g) form strong and effective partnerships with tangata whenua.

14. The objective of the NPS-IB has been revised:

(1) The objective of this National Policy Statement is:

- (a) to maintain indigenous biodiversity across Aotearoa New Zealand so that there is at least no overall loss in indigenous biodiversity after the commencement date; and
- (b) to achieve this:
 - (i) through recognising the mana of tangata whenua as kaitiaki of indigenous biodiversity; and
 - (ii) by recognising people and communities, including landowners, as stewards of indigenous biodiversity; and
 - (iii) by protecting and restoring indigenous biodiversity as necessary to achieve the overall maintenance of indigenous biodiversity; and
 - (iv) while providing for the social, economic, and cultural wellbeing of people and communities now and in the future.

15. There are still 17 policies listed to achieve this objective, however some have been revised, including:

Policy 1: Indigenous biodiversity is managed in a way that gives effect to the decision-making principles and takes into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

Policy 2: Tangata whenua exercise kaitiakitanga for indigenous biodiversity in their rohe, including through:

- (a) managing indigenous biodiversity on their land; and
- (b) identifying and protecting indigenous species, populations and ecosystems that are taonga; and
- (c) actively participating in other decision-making about indigenous biodiversity.

Policy 4: Indigenous biodiversity is managed to promote resilience to the effects of climate change.

16. Other policies remain intact from the Exposure Draft, including:

Policy 6: Significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna are identified as SNAs using a consistent approach.

Policy 7: SNAs are protected by avoiding and managing adverse effects from new subdivision, use and development.

Policy 8: The importance of maintaining indigenous biodiversity outside SNAs is recognised and provided for.

Policy 13: Restoration of indigenous biodiversity is promoted and provided for.

Policy 14: Increased indigenous vegetation cover is promoted in both urban and non-urban environments.

Policy 15: Areas outside SNAs that support specified highly mobile fauna are identified and managed to maintain their populations across their natural range, and information and awareness of highly mobile fauna is improved.

Policy 16: Regional biodiversity strategies are developed and implemented to maintain and restore indigenous biodiversity at a landscape scale.

Policy 17: There is improved information and regular monitoring of indigenous biodiversity.

17. Part 3 of the NPS-IB sets out a non-exhaustive list of things that must be done to give effect to the objective and policies. These are discussed in more detail below.

Assessment/Analysis

Regional Biodiversity Strategy

18. The Council is required to prepare a regional biodiversity strategy that promotes the landscape-scale restoration of the region's indigenous biodiversity. The strategy must comply with the requirements set out in Appendix 5 of the NPS-IB and be prepared in collaboration with tangata whenua, the community, and other stakeholders.³⁰
19. The regional biodiversity strategy must record actions and methods to promote the maintenance and restoration of indigenous biodiversity in Marlborough, actions that will be taken by local and central government and the community, and how those actions will be resourced and monitored. The Council must then have regard to the strategy when developing restoration provisions for the PMP.
20. The Council will need to start preparing its strategy within the next three years. Good work has already been started by the Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance. Through this Alliance, Council, together with other top of the South Councils, iwi and DOC have produced a high level, co-designed strategy to facilitate collective action to enhance and protect te Taiao.
21. It is envisaged that Marlborough's regional biodiversity strategy will align with this strategy and provide benefits for our community. It will set an overarching strategic framework for restoration that addresses the issues facing Marlborough, including building resilience to climate change, biosecurity and pest management, and set tangible goals for improving biodiversity outcomes for Marlborough in a prioritised way.

Assessing, identifying, and managing SNAs

22. The Council is required to carry out a district-wide assessment to identify significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna as SNAs using the criteria set out in Appendix 1 of the NPS-IB.³¹ It must notify a plan change to include the location, attribute description and map of each SNA in the PMP.³² This is required to be carried out within five years.
23. Where SNAs have already been identified in the PMP, of which there are a limited number, the Council is not required to carry out a full assessment, but rather it can engage a suitably qualified ecologist to assess and confirm the methodology used to identify the area as an SNA and that its application is consistent with the NPS-IB, within four years, by August 2027.³³
24. There is also now a streamlined regime for identifying SNAs on Crown land. An area of Crown land may qualify as an SNA without the need for the assessment using Appendix 1, if the land is managed by DOC, the Council is reasonably satisfied that all or most of the area would qualify as an SNA under Appendix 1, and the area falls into one of four categories listed, including a nature reserve or a well-defined landscape or geographical feature.³⁴
25. As set out in our previous report to the Committee on the NPS-IB Exposure Draft dated 28 July 2022,³⁵ since 2001 the Council has implemented the "Significant Natural Areas Project", a voluntary programme involving extensive survey work to identify and map SNAs on private land. Council has worked in partnership with landowners to protect those areas. While there has been a high uptake of the programme, not all landowners have chosen to participate and there are other areas yet to be surveyed. To give effect of the NPS-IB, Council will need to reassess both those

³⁰ Clause 3.23 of the NPS-IB.

³¹ Clauses 3.8 of the NPS-IB.

³² Clause 3.9 of the NPS-IB.

³³ Clause 3.8(5) of the NPS-IB.

³⁴ Clause 3.8(8) of the NPS-IB.

³⁵ Item 3 https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:2ifzri1o01cxbymxkvwz/hierarchy/documents/your-council/meetings/2022/planning-finance-community-2022-list/PFFC-28_July_2022-Agenda.pdf at pp 2-8

areas that have already been identified through the voluntary programme as SNAs and assess new areas that meet the significance criteria.

26. Council will need to engage early with landowners regarding the now mandatory assessment of SNAs and share information about indigenous biodiversity, management options and any support and incentives that may be available, including for example the SNA assistance programme and the grant scheme: Working for Nature/Mahi mō te Taiao that Council already operates. In time there may also be additional central government funding, or the provision of a biodiversity credit system.
27. The NPS-IB provides a framework for managing effects on SNAs and on indigenous biodiversity outside SNAs.³⁶ Any changes to the PMEP to ensure consistency with this management framework must be made within five years.³⁷ In the meantime, resource consent applications will need to have regard to these provisions where there are identified SNAs in the PMEP and where there are adverse effects of new activities on indigenous biodiversity outside of SNAs.
28. The NPS-IB sets out that the following adverse effects on SNAs from any new subdivision, use or development must be avoided unless an exception applies:
 - (a) *loss of ecosystem representation and extent:*
 - (b) *disruption to sequences, mosaics, or ecosystem function:*
 - (c) *fragmentation of SNAs or the loss of buffers or connections within an SNA:*
 - (d) *a reduction in the function of the SNA as a buffer or connection to other important habitats or ecosystems:*
 - (e) *a reduction in the population size or occupancy of Threatened or At Risk (declining) species that use an SNA for any part of their life cycle.*
29. There are exceptions to this avoidance requirement in certain circumstances, including for example, the construction or upgrade of specified infrastructure that provides significant national or regional benefit or if the use or development is related to a single residential dwelling on an allotment created before 4 August 2023 and there is no practicable alternative location for that dwelling.³⁸ For exempted activities, and effects to indigenous biodiversity outside SNAs, the NPS-IB establishes an effects management hierarchy to manage adverse effects. This hierarchy essentially prioritises the sequence of actions required to address an adverse effect of a new activity: avoid, minimise, remedy, biodiversity offset, biodiversity compensation,³⁹ and avoid if mitigation measures cannot be achieved.
30. The NPS-IB also provides specific direction regarding the management of adverse effects on SNAs from certain activities, including plantation forestry activities, established activities that are in, or affect an SNA, as well as maintenance of improved pasture for farming where it may affect an SNA. Again, changes to the PMEP to give effect to these provisions must be notified within five years.

Specified Māori land

31. The general effects management provisions of the NPS-IB, those set for managing adverse effects on SNAs, do not apply to specified Māori land, including Māori customary land, Māori freehold land, and Treaty settlement land.⁴⁰ Instead, the NPS-IB requires councils to work in partnership with tangata whenua and owners of specified Māori land to develop and include provisions in the PMEP to enable development and use of that land to support the social, economic and cultural wellbeing, while at the same time maintaining and protecting indigenous biodiversity and identified taonga.
32. The Council will need to work together with tangata whenua to develop new objectives, policies, and methods for specified Māori land, and notify changes to the PMEP within eight years, by August 2031.

³⁶ See clauses 3.10-3.17 of the NPS-IB.

³⁷ Clause 4.2 of the NPS-IB.

³⁸ See clause 3.11 of the NPS-IB.

³⁹ Appendices 3 and 4 of the NPS-IB set out the principles for biodiversity offsetting and biodiversity compensation.

⁴⁰ Clause 3.18 of the NPS-IB. See also the definition of "specified Māori land" in clause 1.6 of NPS-IB.

Acknowledged and Identified taonga

33. Council must work in partnership with tangata whenua, using an agreed process, to determine the indigenous species, populations and ecosystems that are taonga, these will be “acknowledged taonga”.⁴¹ Council must also develop processes to manage information provided about taonga species and to ensure confidentiality where required by tangata whenua.⁴²
34. If tangata whenua agree, Council must identify acknowledged taonga in the PMEP as “identified taonga”, by describing the taonga, and to the extent agreed by tangata whenua, mapping their location, describing their values and the historical, cultural and spiritual relationship of tangata whenua with the taonga.⁴³ Before taonga are identified in the PMEP, the Council must notify the relevant landowner of the presence of the taonga.⁴⁴
35. Council must work with tangata whenua to protect both acknowledged and identified taonga, as far as practicable, and to involve tangata whenua in the management of identified taonga to the extent they wish to be involved.⁴⁵ Council must also change the PMEP to ensure that the sustainable customary use of identified taonga by tangata whenua in accordance with tikanga and in a manner consistent with the protection of the identified taonga is provided for.⁴⁶
36. Changes to the PMEP required to give effect to these directions must be notified within eight years, by August 2031. To effectively implement this direction, as with other directions in the NPS-IB, Council will need to engage early with iwi and work collaboratively to set out an agreed process for implementation, and to work together, with assistance from DOC, to incorporate a framework for acknowledged and identified taonga into the PMEP.

Specified highly mobile fauna

37. The NPS-IB retains specific requirements for Council in respect of the specified highly mobile fauna listed in Appendix 2.
38. The NPS-IB requires the Council to record specified highly mobile fauna areas outside SNAs where that information is available, by working together with tangata whenua, landowners, and DOC. If it will help manage adverse effects on specified highly mobile fauna, the NPS-IB requires the Council to include in the PMEP, where practicable, a map and description of each highly mobile fauna area in the region.⁴⁷
39. Council must then include objectives, policies, or methods in the PMEP for managing the adverse effects of new subdivision, use and development on highly mobile fauna areas in order to maintain viable populations of specified highly mobile fauna across their natural range. Council must also provide information to the community about highly mobile fauna and their habitat and best practice techniques for managing adverse effects on any specified highly mobile fauna and their habitats in their region.⁴⁸
40. The NPS-IB’s requirements to record and manage highly mobile species has been slightly softened since the Exposure Draft. In that, it is only where information is available that the Council is required to record highly mobile fauna areas, and map where practicable, as opposed to where possible. However, Council would only ever be able to record areas if there was information. The question really is the quality and extent of that information, who holds it, and whether it provides enough

⁴¹ Clause 3.19(1) of the NPS-IB.

⁴² Clause 3.3(6) of the NPS-IB.

⁴³ Clause 3.19(3) of the NPS-IB.

⁴⁴ Clause 3.19(8) of the NPS-IB.

⁴⁵ Clause 3.19(4) of the NPS-IB.

⁴⁶ Clause 3.19(7) of the NPS-IB.

⁴⁷ Clause 3.20(1) and (2) of the NPS-IB.

⁴⁸ Clause 3.20(3) and (4) of the NPS-IB.

baseline information about the species for Council to be able to map and manage adverse effects effectively to maintain viable populations of specified highly mobile fauna across their natural range.

41. The requirement for regional councils to record and manage highly mobile fauna is a shift in responsibility from DOC to Council and puts the burden on Council to provide additional resourcing and expertise. There are approximately 30 specified highly mobile fauna in Marlborough listed in Appendix 2 of the NPS-IB, including for example, the kārearea falcon, black-fronted tern and red-billed gull. The Council will need to work closely with DOC to implement this direction effectively.

Restoration

42. The restoration of indigenous biodiversity is required to be promoted and provided for. The Council must include provisions in the PMEP to promote the restoration of indigenous biodiversity, including through the reconstruction of areas. Those provisions must prioritise all the following for restoration:⁴⁹
- (a) *SNAs whose ecological integrity is degraded:*
 - (b) *threatened and rare ecosystems representative of naturally occurring and formerly present ecosystems:*
 - (c) *areas that provide important connectivity or buffering functions:*
 - (d) *natural inland wetlands whose ecological integrity is degraded or that no longer retain their indigenous vegetation or habitat for indigenous fauna:*
 - (e) *areas of indigenous biodiversity on specified Māori land where restoration is advanced by the Māori landowners:*
 - (f) *any other priorities specified in regional biodiversity strategies or any national priorities for indigenous biodiversity restoration.*
43. Council must also consider providing incentives for restoration in those priority areas listed above in particular where those areas are on specified Māori land, in recognition of the opportunity cost of maintaining indigenous biodiversity on that land.⁵⁰ As set out above, the Council currently operates the SNA assistance programme and the grant scheme, but further consideration will be needed as to whether the funding is sufficient going forward, and whether any additional funding will be provided from central government.
44. For activities being carried out in areas prioritised for restoration, the Council must consider requiring resource consent conditions for restoration or enhancement and recommending conditions on any new designations.⁵¹ Council must also promote the resilience of indigenous biodiversity to climate change, including by considering the effects of climate change when making decisions on restoration proposals.⁵² Indigenous biodiversity will play a key role in promoting resilience to, and mitigating the effects of, climate change, and needs to be managed accordingly.

Increasing indigenous vegetation cover

45. The NPS-IB requires the promotion of increased indigenous vegetation cover in both urban and non-urban environments. Council must assess the percentage of indigenous vegetation cover in each of these environments in collaboration with tangata whenua (to the extent they wish to be involved)⁵³ and:
- a) set a target of at least 10% indigenous vegetation cover for any urban or non-urban environment that has less than 10% cover of indigenous vegetation; and
 - b) consider, in consultation with tangata whenua, setting higher targets for urban and non-urban environments that already have at least 10% coverage of indigenous vegetation; and

⁴⁹ Clause 3.21(1) and (2) of the NPS-IB.

⁵⁰ Clause 3.21(3) of the NPS-IB.

⁵¹ Clause 3.21(4) of the NPS-IB.

⁵² Clause 3.6 of the NPS-IB.

⁵³ Clause 3.22(1)-(2) of the NPS-IB.

- c) include any indigenous vegetation cover targets in in the PMEP.⁵⁴
46. Council must promote the increase of indigenous vegetation cover in the region through provisions in the PMEP having regard to any targets set and giving priority to the following: those priority areas listed above at paragraph 42, ensuring indigenous species richness appropriate to the ecosystem, restoration at a landscape scale across the region and using species, and seed from species, that are local to the area.⁵⁵ Changes to the PMEP must be notified within eight years, by August 2031.

Improved information and monitoring

47. The NPS-IB requires improved information and regular monitoring of indigenous biodiversity.
48. Council must update the PMEP within five years to incorporate the additional reporting requirements required by the NPS-IB for resource consent applications, where a proposed activity would have more than minor effects on indigenous biodiversity.⁵⁶
49. To enhance monitoring of indigenous biodiversity, the Council must work with tangata whenua, relevant agencies and stakeholders to develop a monitoring plan. Every monitoring plan must establish methods and timeframes for monitoring:
- a) the maintenance of indigenous biodiversity in, and the ecological integrity and physical extent of, SNAs; and
 - b) the maintenance of identified taonga; and
 - c) the achievement of restoration objectives; and
 - d) the percentage of indigenous vegetation cover in urban and non-urban environments in the region.
50. Amongst other things, the monitoring plan must use best practice methods, or nationally agreed standards or methods for monitoring, and to the extent possible, where tangata whenua agree, use scientific monitoring methods and mātauranga Māori and tikanga Māori monitoring methods equally. The plan must also establish methods, such as action plans, for responding to monitoring that indicates objectives of the NPS-IB will not be met.⁵⁷

Next Steps

51. Council staff will prepare a work programme, including resourcing and budget implications, for Council’s consideration during the LTP process.
52. Council staff will also be working on enabling effective partnerships arrangements to implement the requirement of the NPS-IB.

Attachment

Attachment 1 – National-Policy-Statement-for-Indigenous-Biodiversity. This report is available on Council’s website via the following link <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/meetings>

Author	Kim Lawson, Solicitor/Strategic Planner
Authoriser	Pere Hawes, Manager Environmental Policy

⁵⁴ Clause 3.22(3) of the NPS-IB.
⁵⁵ Clause 3.22(4) of the NPS-IB.
⁵⁶ Clause 3.24 of the NPS-IB.
⁵⁷ Clause 3.25 of the NPS-IB.

11. Marlborough District Sea Level Rise Assessment

(also refer separate report available on Council's website)

(The Chair) (Report prepared by Jamie Sigmund)

I100-004-P267, E320-003-001

Purpose of Report

1. To provide the Council with the results of a District Assessment of Sea Level Rise for Marlborough.

Executive Summary

2. Council contracted the National Institute of Water and Atmosphere (NIWA) to undertake an Assessment of Sea Level Rise (SLR) for the Marlborough District.
3. The SLR assessment has used the latest international and national sea level rise projections, vertical land movement data, and the latest national 'interim' SLR guidance material (MfE, August 2022).

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council:

1. **Receive the Marlborough District Sea Level Rise Assessment Report.**
2. **Adopt the NIWA recommendations to undertake hydro-dynamic modelling for the Lower Wairau Plain.**
3. **Undertake a process of sharing the report findings with iwi, industry groups and the community.**

Background/Context

4. On the 9 March 2023 Council staff presented to the Environment Committee an agenda item outlining the engagement of NIWA to undertake Sea Level Rise modelling for the region. The agenda item identified the relationship of this contracted work to a specific action within Council's 'Climate Change Action Plan'.
5. This initial work or 'first pass' modelling assessment is now complete, this agenda item reports back on the findings of the assessment, including a presentation by NIWA (Connon Andrews) on the report findings.
6. The Marlborough SLR assessment leverages the NIWA national inundation assessment (Paulik et al. 2023) that quantified extreme sea levels, including the effects of wave setup around Aotearoa New Zealand. The national assessment quantifies extreme sea level that includes astronomical tide, storm surge and an estimate of wave setup while considering various levels of future sea level rise.
7. The assessment utilises the latest sea level rise projections (IPCC, 2021), the latest estimates of vertical land movement from the NZ Sea Rise Programme⁵⁸ and MfE (2022) interim guidance on sea level rise scenarios⁵⁹. Council acknowledge that these scenarios may change over time, and that future work to keep this information current will be required.
8. The projections of absolute SLR incorporate the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 2021 AR6 assessment⁶⁰. The assessment uses the projections within the report to demonstrate a range of potential socioeconomic futures, termed Shared Socioeconomic Pathways (SSP).

⁵⁸ <https://www.searise.nz/maps-2>

⁵⁹ <https://environment.govt.nz/publications/interim-guidance-on-the-use-of-new-sea-level-rise-projections/>

⁶⁰ <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-working-group-i/>

9. The SSP pathways range from SSP1-2.6, a very low greenhouse gas emission future to SSP5-8.5, a very high emissions future. SSP2-4.5 is an intermediate emission scenario that closely aligns with current global emissions reduction commitments via the Paris Agreement⁶¹. *Table 2-3 on page 13* of the NIWA assessment contains a translation of SSP scenario to absolute sea level rise 'm'.
10. Recommended use of SLR scenarios is identified within the MfE interim guidance (2022), under our resource-management plan scenario (MEP, a plan close to being operational, containing specific Climate Change Objectives, Policies relating to the creation of Dynamic Adaptive Pathway Planning [DAPP] process and related DAPP strategy) the guidance recommends Council use five selected SSP scenarios in combination with allowance for potential Vertical Land Motion (VLM) and a planning timeframe out to 2130. Including both MHWS and 1% AEP storm-tide + wave-setup events, plus projected relative sea-level rise over a 100-year planning timeframe.
11. The use of these scenarios forms an initial planning response in the wider context of developing dynamic adaptive plans for communities and infrastructure along the coast, these scenarios cover the period until a DAPP strategy has been developed with the community, iwi / hapu and other stakeholders.
12. It is important to note that these SLR scenarios and interim guidance are not intended to become de-facto recommendations as the community driven DAPP process and resultant outcomes created with the Marlborough 'community' will replace these in time with more appropriate locally driven policy content and potential operational responses.
13. In the intervening period while a DAPP strategy is being developed the MfE guidance material provides minimum transitional planning and consenting considerations, these are clearly identified by *Table 3* of the MfE interim SLR guidance, (pages 18 and 19).

District Assessment

14. This assessment quantifies relative sea level rise (RSLR) for the district by providing information specifically using the following scenarios.
 - a. Two high-level Inundation Scenarios
 - i. Permanent Mean High-Water Springs (MHWS)
 - ii. Intermittent Inundation (1% Annual Exceedance Probability – 1%AEP) extreme sea level, equivalent to a 1 in 100-year event.
 - b. Three time periods
 - i. 2050
 - ii. 2090
 - iii. 2130
 - c. Five future SSP scenarios
 - i. SSP1-2.6,
 - ii. SSP2-4.5,
 - iii. SSP3-7.0,
 - iv. SSP5-8.5
 - v. and SSP5-8.5 H+
15. The output of the assessment is a series of digital GIS features for each time period (3), inundation level (2), and sea level projection (5), a total of 30 layers. For community information sharing and engagement these GIS files will be made available via Council's 'Smart Map' service which many in the community can easily access, the map is structured around the scenarios identified at para 14.
16. Inundation extent was further refined to be "direct inundation", being inundation directly linked to the sea, or "indirect", where land area is lower than the inundation level but not directly connected to the sea. While not likely to be directly inundated, areas shown as indirect inundation are likely to be subject to secondary effects from climate change such as increasing groundwater levels or increased susceptibility to catchment-based flooding due to higher coastal water levels.

⁶¹ <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement>

17. The assessment uses a “**bathhtub**” model to produce inundation maps that show the spatial extent. The inundation data is generated by projecting an extreme sea-level value across land, with any land that lies below the extreme sea-level deemed to be inundated.
18. However, this simplified bathtub approach does come with caveats. Storm-tide peaks may typically last for only 1–3 hours around the time of high tide. This duration may not provide sufficient time to inundate large land areas, particularly if seawater ingress rates are affected by narrow constrictions, such as drainage channels and culverts. Therefore, bathtub type models do not fully capture the dynamic and time-variant processes that occur during an inundation event, usually resulting in an over estimation of coastal inundation.
19. For approximately 90% of the Marlborough assessment area (including the Marlborough Sounds, and the East Coast south of White Bluffs / Te Parinui o Whiti) NIWA have high confidence that the report and spatial modelling is an appropriate representation of future SLR scenarios.
20. For the remaining area, specific to the Lower Wairau Plain (including Blenheim, Rarangi to Te Pokohiwi / Boulder Bank) NIWA recommend undertaking further refinement work via more robust hydro-dynamic modelling to improve the confidence in the modelling under future SLR scenarios.
21. This is because both the Wairau and Ōpaoa Rivers and Vernon Lagoon heavily influence the tidal ebb and flow, hydro-dynamic modelling is expected to greatly improve the confidence in representing future SLR scenarios.
22. Council is currently scoping this work with NIWA, once a brief has been confirmed this work should proceed as soon as practical, the results of this work will be reported back to this Committee, with the data from the subsequent hydro-dynamic modelling intending to replace the data found in this initial report.

Recommendations

23. The following are NIWA recommendations to refine future inundation hazard and to improve the supporting information and confidence around the Marlborough SLR assessment, cross Council business units agree with the direction of these recommendations, with a work programme to be developed to support these items:
 - a) A review of the managed waterway network, specifically for location and operation of stop gates, be completed to ensure static mapping captures the current flood protection infrastructure.
 - b) Review of localised stop bank breach locations highlighted in the mapping that result in inland flooding. These locations should be reviewed to ensure that the LIDAR resolves land levels in these areas adequately.
 - c) Following refinement of the managed waterway infrastructure, refresh the inundation maps for the Lower Wairau environ.
 - d) Develop a dynamic 2D hydrodynamic model of the Lower Wairau to simulate permanent and extreme time varying coastal inundation. It is recommended that the SSP2-4.5, SSP5-8.5 and SSP5-8.5 H+ scenarios be adopted as a minimum for future inundation delineation. The 2D hydrodynamic modelling should be completed with a model such as X-Beach-GPU that resolves complex wave breaking processes in combination with simulation of tidal flow over complex bathymetries.
 - e) The Lower Wairau is susceptible to catchment-based flooding which may be exacerbated by RSLR. It is recommended that a joint probability assessment is completed for the Wairau River discharge and coastal tidal levels. Inundation extent from both catchment-based inputs and coastal inundation should be quantified for the Wairau River catchment via 2D hydrodynamic modelling.

- f) The potential effects of RSLR on groundwater, particularly for the Wairau River environ, should be assessed including salinisation to assist land use planning.
- g) As further VLM information becomes available it is recommended to update inundation assessments accordingly.

Communication and Engagement

- 24. Council has developed a high-level 'Communication and Engagement Plan' for the District SLR assessment, this identifies key early steps to undertake in communicating the assessment.
 - a) Begin engagement on the SLR assessment with Marlborough's nine Tanagata Whenua iwi, this will include discussions with all iwi on what this might mean for Whanau, hapu and Iwi, including 'next steps' and 'future involvement'.
 - b) Begin engagement on the assessment with the wider Marlborough community, this will also include relevant stakeholders, including the identification of what this might mean for them, including next steps and future involvement. The focus will be on affected property owners and businesses, in both rural and urban environments.
 - c) Internal workshops with relevant Council business units to discuss the SLR assessment are being scheduled, this effort looks to gain context around immediate business implications of the assessment, including a review of other climate change considerations (see para 29 below).
 - d) Supporting material and resources for the community can be found via Councils web content⁶² including 'the SLR Assessment Report, Smart Map (spatial inundation extents), LIM and Property information, and useful FAQ's.
- 25. Council recognises that keeping the community involved in the work associated with climate change will be a longer-term effort, with future key steps and messaging to be developed in conjunction with Iwi and the community.

What is happening next?

- 26. This initial project focused on SLR and the initiation of **Step 1** from the DAPP process (What is happening? preparation and context) and considers information collection needs for **Step 2** (Hazard and Sea-level Rise Assessments) this comes from the MfE ten-step decision cycle guidance.



Table 1: The 10-Step Decision Cycle / Dynamic Adaptive Pathways Planning (DAPP)

⁶² <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/environment/climate-change>

27. Council staff are conscious of looking at SLR / Climate Change hazards from a holistic and collective perspective, potential and emerging hazards will continue to arise in the future not just through short term storms and severe weather events.
28. Rather than respond to these hazards individually, potentially leading to poor future outcomes Council is instead intending to collect additional information to inform a more thoughtful and considered response.
29. In considering additional information collection needs, MfE guidance indicates several elements which Council should consider, see a-c below.
 - a) Coastal erosion caused by storms, sea-level rise and changes in long-term sediment processes and budgets (Coastal morphology).
 - b) Coastal inundation caused by storms and changed climate conditions, or gradual persistent inundation from high tides due to sea-level rise, direct and indirect flooding.
 - c) Rising groundwater and salinisation in coastal lowlands caused by sea-level rise, including land-use impacts.
30. Additional to this list provided for in guidance Council in engaging with Iwi, community, and stakeholders on the SLR assessment intend to take on board feedback in considering other additional emerging issues which may also need to be investigated in longer term planning and operational responses. This will ensure Council's response to building a future DAPP process and DAPP strategy is better 'prepared' with a more informed future considered 'context'.

Presentation

A short presentation will be given by Jamie Sigmund and NIWA (15 minutes).

Attachment

Attachment 1 – Marlborough District Sea level Rise Assessment. The report is available on Council's website via the following link <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/meetings>

Author	Jamie Sigmund, Strategic Planner, Implementation & Review
Authoriser	Pere Hawes, Manager Environmental Policy Team

12. Appeals on the PMEP

(The Chair) (Report prepared by Pere Hawes)

M100-09-01

Purpose of Report

1. To inform the Committee of progress with resolving appeals made to the Environment Court on the PMEP.

Executive Summary

2. 51 notices of appeal on the PMEP were lodged with the Environment Court.
3. Environment Court mediation on all topics has now been completed.
4. Good progress has been made in resolving appeals. Since the last report to the Environment and Planning Committee on 24 August 2023, five further consent memoranda have been submitted to the Environment Court. A further consent memorandum is in preparation. There are now seven consent memoranda currently being considered by the Court.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received.

Background/Context

5. The PMEP Hearings Panel publicly notified their decision on the PMEP on 22 February 2020.
6. The Environment Court received 51 notices of appeal. The list of appellants is attached as Attachment 1. The full notices of appeal are available on the Council website: <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/resource-management-policy-and-plans/proposed-marlborough-environment-plan/decisions-on-the-pmep/appeal-process/appeals-received>. There were a total of 1307 appeal points.
7. The Environment Court manages all appeal processes in accordance with their Practice Note 2023. There are typically three options. The matters subject to appeal can be resolved between the parties (informal mediation), they may be resolved through Court assisted mediation (formal mediation), or they may proceed to Court hearing (in which case the Environment Court determines the outcome). Appellants may also withdraw their notice of appeal.
8. In accordance with Council's Instrument of Delegation, any agreed settlement between the parties achieved through mediation must be approved by either the Manager of Environmental Policy or the Manager of Environmental Policy, Science and Monitoring, or otherwise deferred back to the Committee. The Managers are required to consult with the Chair as part of the process of reaching agreement.
9. An agreement to resolve appeals from either formal or informal mediation is referred to as a "consent memorandum". If the Court agrees to the mediated agreement, it confirms the agreement by way of a Court decision called a "consent order".
10. Given the number of appeal points (1307), the resolution of appeals has been a focus of the work programme of the Environmental Policy Group and continues to be so. However, given the progress with the resolution appeals documented in previous reports to the Committee, being able to make the PMEP operative or operative in part is getting closer.

MEP Appeals Version

11. An appeals version of the PMEP has been produced, identifying provisions that are subject to appeal. This is available on the Council website: <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/resource-management-policy-and-plans/proposed-marlborough-environment-plan/decisions-on-the-pmep/appeal-process/appeals-version-of-the-pmep>. The PMEP Appeals Version is being updated on an ongoing basis as appeals are resolved and consent orders are issued by the Environment Court.

Progress with resolution of appeals

12. To date, 11 appeals have been resolved in full and five appeals have been withdrawn. The status of all appeals is recorded in Attachment 1. There are a total of 36 notices of appeal remaining.
13. As introduced at the Committee's meeting on 24 August 2028, progress with resolution of appeals by topic is included in Attachment 2.
14. A total of 43 consent orders have been issued by the Environment Court.
15. Since the last report to the Environment and Planning Committee on 24 August 2023, no new consent orders have been issued by the Court.
16. Five further consent memoranda have been submitted to the Environment Court for its consideration in that time.
17. One further consent memorandum is in preparation (see below).
18. Discussions during mediation have been positive and outcome focussed, and substantial progress has been made on resolving appeals. See Attachment 2 for further information.
19. At this point in time, only nine appeal points are to be heard by the Environment Court, likely in two fixtures.
20. Where there are outstanding appeal points, either workstreams are in place to progress resolution or the appeal points are on hold pending other processes. The details are set out below.

Environment Court Mediation

21. Matters discussed during mediation are confidential to the parties to allow discussions to occur on a without prejudice basis. For this reason, an update on progress with resolution of the specific appeal points or the detail of the resolution is unable to be provided to the Committee as part of this agenda item. As per the Council delegation, the Chair of the Environment and Planning Committee was briefed about the general course of the mediation to date and on the specific agreed outcomes from that mediation.
22. The mediation process is overseen by an Environment Court Commissioner.
23. Environment Court mediation has now been completed for all 22 topics. In total, there were more than 80 days of mediation over a period of two and a half years.
24. All consent orders issued by the Environment Court referenced in this report can be accessed here: <https://eservices.marlborough.govt.nz/programmes/ListProgrammeEvents?id=2621046#info-2677877>.
25. As recorded above, all consent orders are incorporated into the PMEP Appeals Version.

Natural Character

26. Mediation on the Natural Character Topic has involved lengthy mediation and discussions between the parties since February 2021, as set out in previous reports to the Committee.
27. Progress has also been made with two appeal points relating to the natural character overlays as they apply in Cook Strait and a consent memorandum was submitted to the Court on 28 February 2023 to

resolve these appeal points (in part for one of the appeal points). The Court issued a consent order for these appeal points on 24 May 2023. There is one outstanding appeal point (in part) on this sub-topic, and a work programme on this matter is in progress.

28. Appeals on Policies 6.2.1 and 6.2.2 have now been resolved and a consent memorandum has been submitted to the Court.
29. Many of the remaining appeal points in the Natural Character Topic are on hold pending the outcome of Variation 1 (see below).

Indigenous Biodiversity

30. Mediation on the Indigenous Biodiversity has involved lengthy mediation and discussions between the parties since June 2021, as set out in previous reports to the Committee.
31. There are outstanding appeal points in this topic that were deferred pending the gazettal of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPSIB). The NPSIB was gazetted on 7 July 2023 and it came into effect on 4 August 2022. Work has commenced to consider the content of the NPSIB and any implications on the outstanding matters of appeal.
32. There are proposals put forward by Council currently in circulation to resolve outstanding appeal points on identification of SNA within the PMEP and on offsetting/compensation provisions. These proposals follow consideration of the implications of the NPSIB.
33. There is one outstanding matter for indigenous vegetation clearance rules yet to be resolved relating to clearance in the Coastal Living Zone. Following further informal mediation, this appeal point has been resolved and a consent memorandum is in preparation.
34. Further mediation on appeals to Appendix 3, criteria for ecological significance, occurred on 17 May 2023. There remain differences between some of the parties, but discussions continue. Those discussions include the effect of the NPS, which also contains criteria for ecological significance for terrestrial environments. The Court has allowed the parties a further two months to consider the implications of the NPSIB.
35. As previously reported, evidence has been exchanged for the appeal point related to King Shag habitat and Important Bird Areas that was not resolved through mediation. Friends of Nelson Haven and Tasman Bay are seeking a consenting regime apply to bottom trawling and dredging in the Marlborough Sounds Important Bird Area. The parties are awaiting Court directions regarding the timing of a hearing.

Transportation

36. Appeals relating to temporary damming were resolved through further mediation on Topic 2: Water Allocation and Use and are now subject to a consent memorandum (see below).
37. There remain two workstreams for outstanding appeal points in the transportation topic. These relate to managing reverse sensitivity effects adjoining State Highway and the Main North Line rail; and to Policy 13.15.2 (which manages adverse effects on marine transportation). Progress is being made on these workstreams.

Natural hazards

38. The outstanding appeal point in this topic relates to the status of maimai. The appellant has now confined the relief requested to one location. The outstanding appeal point is on hold pending the outcome of another non-RMA planning process that applies to that location.

Waste and discharge of contaminants to land

39. The only outstanding appeal point in this topic relates to the discharge of stormwater to land. There is an ongoing workstream seeking to resolve this appeal point.

Forestry

40. The remaining two appeal points are on hold pending the gazettal of the NPS for Indigenous Biodiversity. The proposals highlighted above for the Indigenous Biodiversity topic may influence the outcome of these appeal points.

Coastal

41. The only remaining appeal in this topic is on coastal occupancy charge provisions. The appellants, the Marine Farm Association/Aquaculture NZ and New Zealand King Salmon and Council were able to reach agreement on the relief sought. This would have seen the charges included within the PMEP for certainty. The charges would be based on the background material that was prepared for the notification of the PMEP. The S274 parties do agree with the methodology by which charges are set. The appeal would therefore be confined to the question of appropriate methodology. Timetabling directions have been issued by the Court and the parties are in the process of implementing those directions.

Water Quality

42. All but five appeal points were resolved at mediation. A consent memorandum was lodged with the Environment Court on 11 July 2023. A consent order is now pending.
43. Of the five outstanding appeal points, four have subsequently been resolved through informal mediation and consent memoranda have either been submitted to the Court or are in preparation. Progress is also being made to resolve the last outstanding appeal point.

Water Allocation and Use

44. All appeal points were resolved at mediation. A consent memorandum was lodged with the Environment Court on 19 July 2023. A consent order is now pending.

Other topics

45. Mediation has previously resolved all appeal points for the following topics: Topic 1: Cultural Matters, Topic 11: Rural, Topic 12: Air Quality, Topic 14: Soil Quality and Land Disturbance, Topic 17: Energy, Topic 17: Climate Change, Topic 18: Nuisance, Topic 20: Zoning.

Relationship with Variation 1: Marine Farming

46. A significant number of appeal points made by marine farmers were placed on hold during mediation pending the notification of a decision on Variation 1. This was especially the case for appeal points in Topic 3: Natural Character, Topic 4: Landscape and Topic 5: Indigenous Biodiversity.
47. The decision on Variation 1 was publicly notified on 19 May 2023.
48. The Court issued a minute setting out a formal period by which appellants were to confirm appeals to be withdrawn or otherwise pursued. A comprehensive response was provided by Aquaculture Interests on 28 July 2023 and a significant number of appeal points have been formally withdrawn.
49. Council subsequently prepared a case management memorandum on 11 August 2023 seeking further time to better understand the nature of the relationship between outstanding PMEP appeal points and Variation 1 appeals.
50. In response to a further Court minute dated 23 August 2023, the Council has proposed a structure to the mediation of Variation 1 appeals. However, Council has reiterated that it needs to understand the relationship between the Variation 1 appeals and outstanding PMEP appeals and this requires engagement with the appellants.
51. It is possible that some outstanding appeals may be able to be mediated conjunctively with appeals on Variation 1.

Next Steps

52. A total of seven consent memoranda are now with the Court for consideration and a further consent memorandum is in preparation. Any resulting consent orders issued by the Court will be reported to the Committee through future updates.
53. Informal mediation on outstanding matters is ongoing. The results will be reported to the Environment Court in accordance with the Court's directions.
54. A significant focus of future effort will be addressing the relationship between outstanding PMEP appeals and Variation 1 appeals.
55. Progress with the resolution of appeals will continue to be regularly reported to the Committee through future agenda items.

Author	Pere Hawes, Manager Environmental Policy
Authoriser	Hans Versteegh, Manager of Environmental Policy, Science and Monitoring

13. Biosecurity - Operational Plan Report 2022/2023

(also refer separate report available on Council's website)

(Clr Faults) (Report prepared by Jono Underwood)

E315-002-005-10, E315-002-005-11

Purpose of Report

1. For Council approval of the Biosecurity Operational Plan Report for 2022/2023.
2. For Council approval of amendments to the Biosecurity Operational Plan contained within the 2022/2023 report.

Executive Summary

3. A final report has been prepared on the Biosecurity Operational Plan at the completion of the 2022/2023 financial year, covering the activities of Council's Biosecurity Section.
4. A review of the Biosecurity Operational Plan 2018-2028 was also carried out by Biosecurity staff on 24 August 2023. Proposed amendments are contained within Part Four of the report.
5. It has been a successful year for the Biosecurity Section with 100% of the operational delivery targets achieved.
6. In terms of the progress of the pest programmes, many continue to be on track. Of particular importance, there continues to be no establishment of all of the pests under Exclusion Programmes within the Regional Pest Management Plan.
7. For those programmes not on track, this often reflects the biological challenges and realities of managing invasive species and even those at low incidence.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **That the report be received.**
2. **That the annual report on the Biosecurity Operational Plan for the 2022/2023 financial year be approved by the Council in accordance with section 100B(2) of the Biosecurity Act 1993.**
3. **That the amendments proposed within Part Four of the 2022/2023 Biosecurity Operational Plan Report, as a result of the annual review of the Operational Plan, be approved by the Council in accordance with section 100B(1)(b) and (c) of the Biosecurity Act 1993.**

Background/Context

8. Council's Biosecurity Section delivers a wide range of services with respect to the management of invasive species threats. This is mandated by section 12B of the Biosecurity Act 1993 where Council must provide leadership for pest management within its region.
9. A major instrument used by Council is the making of a Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) prepared under the Biosecurity Act 1993. This is a regulatory instrument which outlines several programmes targeting the most strategic threats to our region. These range from high threat species not in our region but elsewhere in NZ (e.g. wallabies, fanworm), high threat/low incidence species already in our region (numerous pest plant species), high threat/widespread BUT manageable species (e.g. nassella tussock).
10. Other key services include oversight or involvement in specific projects such as the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme, or biological control agent research initiatives. In the background, Biosecurity staff are also continually keeping up to date on, assessing or investigating new potential threats.

11. The Biosecurity Operational Plan 2018-2028 was prepared to meet the requirement under section 100B of the Biosecurity Act 1993 in relation to the Regional Pest Management Plan. However, given the Biosecurity Section's range of services plans a lot wider than just the RPMP, it also outlines plans for those other components of work delivered by the Biosecurity Section.
12. In accordance with section 100B(2) of the Biosecurity Act 1993, a management agency implementing a RPMP must prepare a report on the Operational Plan and its implementation not later than five months after the end of each financial year. This report on the Operational Plan is intended to meet this obligation.
13. In accordance with sections 100B(1)(b) and (c), the Operational Plan must also be reviewed annually, and a decision made on appropriate amendments, if necessary.
14. Biosecurity staff conducted a review of the Operational Plan on 24 August 2023, with a small number of proposed amendments identified. These amendments primarily reflect some of the shifts in the background context of non-regulatory components of the Biosecurity Section's work.
15. The proposed amendments to the Operational Plan do not result in any further demands with respect to resourcing levels for the Biosecurity Section.

Highlights from 2022/23

16. As outlined in the report, the work of the Biosecurity Section in 2022/23 is wide-ranging and has continued to be of high quality. This has certainly been through committed implementation by the team, but also trend in outcomes that many programmes are delivering for the region.
17. For exclusion programmes such as wallabies and Mediterranean fanworm – there continues to be no evidence of these highly invasive species being established in Marlborough.
18. For numerous pest plant programmes where the long term objective is to suppress populations to low levels – these are tracking very well and in many instances, tracking downwards. With the infestation of woolly nightshade found in Squally Cove, this programme will likely see a substantial spike in coming years before that is bought under sustained management.
19. Council has continued to fulfil its role in implementing the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme here in Marlborough. The total scale of the programme was ~\$5.6M in 2022/23 with active operations spanning from Rangitoto ki te Tonga/D'Urville Island through to Molesworth Station. While Council directly oversees some of these programmes, others are delivered by excellent community-led organisations in the Marlborough Sounds Restoration Trust and South Marlborough Landscape Restoration Trust.
20. While the coordinated wilding programmes cover large areas, they do not cover the entire region. It is also heartening to then see the work being undertaken by landholders or even other projects targeting wildings occurring in their local 'patch'.
21. The Biosecurity Section has also continued to investigative and early intervention work is being delivered to simultaneously get a handle on the threat's; wild kiwifruit and bomarea and remove what is found. Both of these are shaping up for viable long term management programmes supported through the Regional Pest Management Plan.

Option One (Recommended Option)

22. Council approves the Operational Plan Report 2022/23 and amendments proposed to the Biosecurity Operational Plan 2018-2028.

Advantages

23. Council will be meeting the requirements of sections 100B(1)(b) and 100B(2) of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

Disadvantages

24. Nil

Option Two

25. Council does not approve the Operational Plan Report 2022/23 and amendments proposed to the Biosecurity Operational Plan 2018-2028.

Advantages

26. Nil

Disadvantages

27. Council will not be meeting the requirements of sections 100B(1)(b) and 100B(2) of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

Next Steps

28. If approved, both the Biosecurity Operational Plan Report 2022/2023 and amended Biosecurity Operational Plan 2018-2028 will be made publicly available on the Council website.

Attachment

Attachment 1 – Biosecurity Operational Plan Report 2022/23. The report is available on Council's website via the following link <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/meetings>

Author	Jono Underwood, Biosecurity Manager
Authoriser	Alan Johnson, Environmental Science and Monitoring Manager

Summary of decision-making considerations			
Fit with purpose of local government			
The proposal enables Council to fulfil statutory obligations under sections 100B(1)(b) and 100B(2) of the Biosecurity Act 1993.			
Fit with Council policies and strategies			
	<i>Contributes</i>	<i>Detracts</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>
LTP / Annual Plan	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Financial Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Infrastructure Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Social well-being	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Economic development	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environment & RMA Plans	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arts & Culture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
3 Waters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Land transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Parks and reserves	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
This proposal contributes to the implementation of Council's Biosecurity Strategy, Regional Pest Management Plan and Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan.			
Nature of the decision to be made			
The options do not involve a significant decision in relation to land or a body of water.			
Financial considerations			
There are no known financial implications.			
Significance			
The decision is considered of low significance under Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.			
Engagement			
No engagement is proposed.			
Risks: Legal / Health & Safety etc			
There are no known significant risks or legal implications as the annual reporting and review requirements are statutory requirements under the Biosecurity Act 1993.			
Climate Change Implications			
There are no known climate change implications to this decision.			

14. State of the Environment River Health Monitoring Report 2023

(also refer separate report available on Council’s website)

(Clr Burgess) (Report prepared by Steffi Henkel)

E375-001-03

Purpose of Report

- To present the ‘River Health - Monitoring 2023’ report.

Summary of Results

- The report provides results for various parameters using data from the most recent five years of monitoring (2018-2022).
- Where available, attribute states based on the limits outlined in the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) are provided for sites and parameters with sufficient data.
- While more than 72% of the states are in the A or B-Band, out of the 34 sites, 19 (56%) exhibit at least one attribute in the D or E band (refer to Table 2). For most attributes, the D band signifies a state below the national bottom line. However, the NPS-FM does not specify a national bottom line for some of the attributes, including the E. coli attribute, which registers the highest number of sites in the lower bands.

Attribute	Ronga Rv	Opouri Rv	Rai Rv	Upper Pelorus	Wakamarina Rv	Lower Pelorus	Kaituna Rv	Cullen Ck	Linkwater Stm	Waitohi Rv	Graham Rv	Kenepehu Rv	Upper Wairau	Goulter Rv	Branch Rv	Mill Ck	Mid Waihopai	Lower Waihopai	Ohinemahuta Rv	Are Are Ck	Tuamarina Rv	Lower Wairau	Spring Ck	Omaka Rv	Mid Ōpaoa	Doctors Ck	Murphys Ck	Taylor Rv	Lower Ōpaoa	Black Birch Stm	Mid Awatere	Lower Awatere	Flaxbourne Rv	Waima Rv		
Periphyton	B	C				B				C	B									A	A														B	A
MCI	B	B	C	B	B	C	C	C	B	C	C	B	B	B	B	C	C	C	C	C	D	C	D	C	D	D	D					B	B	C	D	C
ASPM	B	B	B	A	B	B	B	B	B	C	B	B	B	A	B	B	B	B	B	B	D	C	D	B	C	D	D					B	B	B	D	B
E. coli	D	C	D	A	A	B	D	D	E	C	D	D	A	A	A	D	A	B	B	D	A	B	A	A	D	E	A	D	B	A	A	B	D	A		
Water Clarity	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	D	A	A	A	A	A	A	C	C	A	B	D	D	A	A	A	D	D	A	B	A	A	D	D	A	A		
Nitrate	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Ammonia	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
DIN	C	C	C	A	A	B	C	B	C	A	A	A	A	A	A	D	A	A	A	A	C	B	A	A	A	B	C	D	C	C	A	A	A	B	A	
DRP	B	B	B	A	B	A	B	C	C	B	C	B	A	B	A	C	B	A	A	A	B	C	A	B	A	A	D	B	C	C	B	C	C	B	A	

Table 2: NPS-FM states for the 34 long-term river health monitoring sites.

- For attributes featuring a national bottom line, 10 sites (29%) display at least one attribute in the D band. Some of these sites exhibit poor attribute states likely due to natural catchment characteristics, such as low Water Clarity in the Awatere River and low Macroinvertebrate scores (MCI and ASPM) in springs.
- The stringency of limits varies significantly among different attributes. While attribute states for Ammonia and Nitrate largely fall within the A-band, none of the monitoring sites qualify for the A-band under the MCI attribute, including sites with nearly 100% native vegetation cover, such as the Goulter River.
- Comparing NPS-FM states for sites within Marlborough and the rest of New Zealand reveals that Marlborough boasts comparatively good river health (see Table 3).

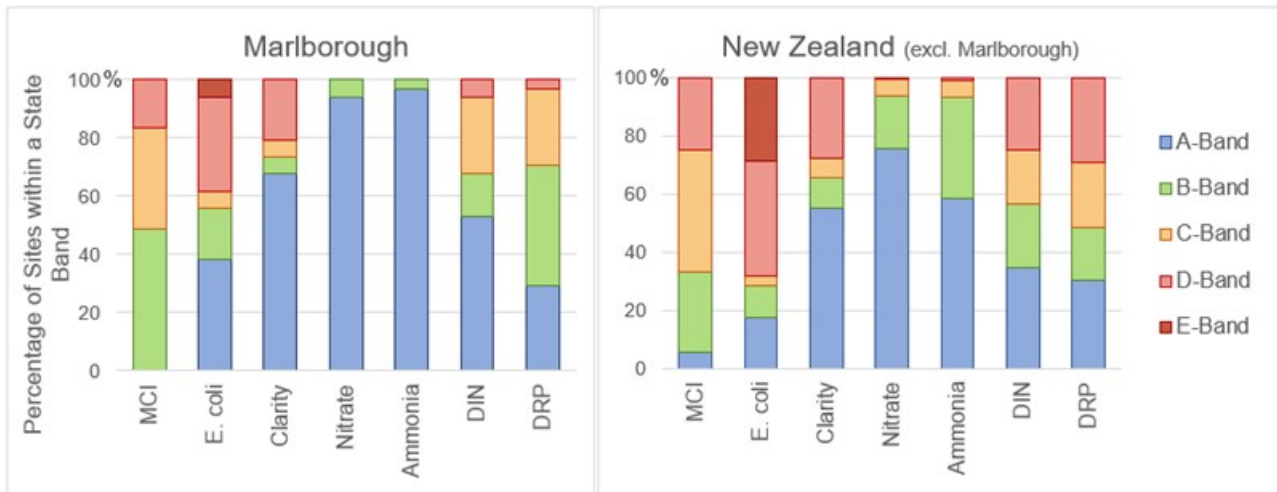


Table 3: The percentage of sites within the NPS-FM state band for the Marlborough region (left) and the rest of New Zealand (right)

8. The percentage of sites with states in the A or B-band is higher for the Marlborough Region across all attributes.
9. The report also presents a Water Quality Index (WQI) for the monitored rivers and streams. The index calculation uses NPS-FM limits where available or limits developed for the NPS-FM but not currently listed as attributes. The Water Quality Index is thus closely aligned with the NPS-FM.
10. The Index facilitates straightforward comparisons of water quality in various waterways and allows for the ranking of rivers. It serves as a valuable tool for identifying degraded waterways and prioritising improvement actions.
11. Table 4's left side displays the WQI for the 34 monthly monitoring sites. While the majority of sites demonstrate good or fair water quality, sites at the bottom of the ranking exhibit degraded (marginal) water quality.

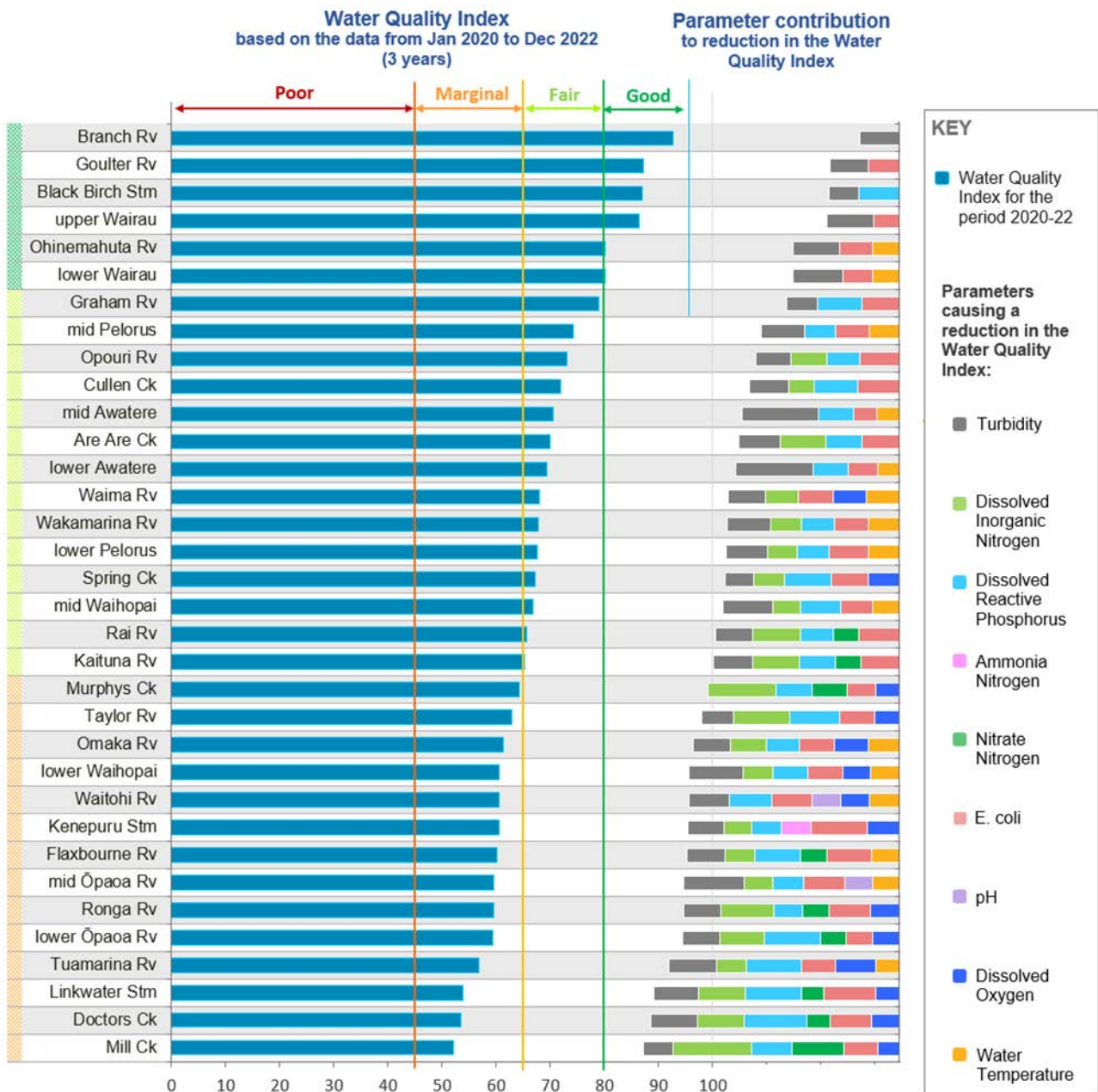


Table 4: Water Quality Index for the SoE sites for the period 2020-2023 (dark blue bars on the left side of the graph). Also shown are the parameters that cause a reduction in the Water Quality Index (right side of the graph).

12. The right side of the graph in Table 4 reveals the parameters contributing to water quality degradation at individual sites. Sites in the marginal category generally exhibit multiple parameters indicative of degradation.
13. In rural areas, some primary causes of degraded water quality include livestock access to waterways, erosion, and nitrogen leaching from fertilizer application and animal droppings.
14. In urban areas, contamination from sewage due to damaged infrastructure stands as a major cause of degradation, although sewage contamination is also observed in some semi-rural areas.
15. Rivers with poor NPS-FM states also exhibit low Water Quality Indices and are listed in Tables 15.1 and 15.2 of the PMEP, which identify waterways that are degraded or at risk of degradation. Many of these rivers and streams already have ongoing improvement actions in their catchments through the council's Catchment Care programme or the multi-agency Te Hoiere Project.

16. Long-term records enable the analysis of changes in water quality over time (trends). For this report, trend analysis assessed changes over the last 5, 10, and 14 years.
17. NPS-FM requirements mean that deteriorating trends necessitate action from councils to reverse them. To enhance the likelihood that reported trends reflect actual changes due to human activity within the catchment, rather than weather phenomena, a more sophisticated adjustment for flow and rainfall was conducted.
18. The trend analysis reveals increasing trends in nitrogen concentrations for Linkwater Stream and Mill Creek but decreasing trends for Doctors Creek and the Blenheim Springs. Over the last five years, decreasing trends were also observed in the Rai Catchment and the Kaituna River.
19. Changes in Dissolved Reactive Phosphorus concentrations were relatively small across all monitored sites, but significant decreases in Total Phosphorus were identified for Linkwater Stream, the Tuamarina River, and Awatere over the last 5 years.
20. E. coli concentrations improved in numerous rivers and streams, including the Kaituna River, Cullen Creek, Doctors Creek, and the Taylor River. The waterway with the most significant increase in E. coli levels is Linkwater Stream.
21. For most monitored sites, turbidity exhibited comparatively minor changes, but clear decreases were noted in Linkwater Stream, Tuamarina River, and the Mid Waihopai Rivers. In the Awatere River, the trend analysis indicates decreasing turbidity in the mid reaches but increasing turbidity in the lower part of the river.

RECOMMENDATION

That the information be received.

Background/Context

22. Good water quality is a cornerstone of a thriving region, as our rivers and streams hold a pivotal role in the social, cultural, and economic well-being of our community.
23. Regular and long-term monitoring of water quality is crucial for the management of our freshwater resources. It enables us to assess the effectiveness of plan rules and focus improvement efforts where water quality is currently degraded. Council conduct monthly monitoring at various river and stream sites to gauge the water quality of the region.
24. In recent years, water quality has been the focus of increased attention from central government policies. This includes the introduction of a new National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) and new National Environmental Standards in 2020.
25. The NPS-FM introduces limits for several parameters, known as attributes. These limits categorise attribute states from A to D/E, serving as indicators of stream health. Attribute states in the D- or E-band are generally considered "below the national bottom line" and unacceptable unless attributable to natural sources.
26. A recent monitoring network review prompted an increase in water quality monitoring across the region. This expansion was necessary to align with the requirements of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) and to enhance regional coverage, especially in the South-Western part of the region.
27. However, we currently lack sufficient data to report on most of the new monitoring efforts. Consequently, this report centres on the 34 long-term monitoring sites established in 2007/2008 (refer to Table 5).

28. Among the new additions to our programme is the monitoring of lakes within the region. However, lake health will be the subject of a separate report planned to be presented to the committee at the start of 2025.

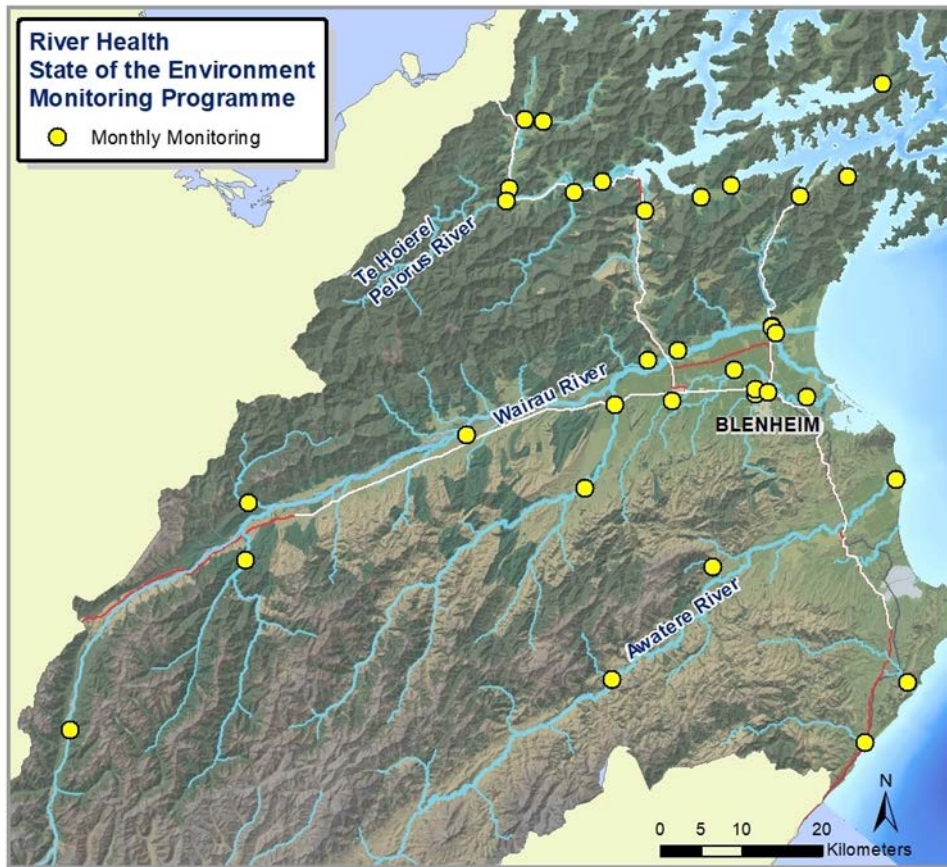


Table 5: Long-term river and stream monitoring sites within the Marlborough region.

29. Monitoring activities comprise field measurements and laboratory analysis of samples gathered during site visits. This report presents results for 16 parameters monitored.
30. In addition to our monthly monitoring, which predominantly focuses on chemical and physical parameters, we sample macroinvertebrates at 49 sites annually across the region. Macroinvertebrates serve as reliable indicators of the ecological health of rivers and streams and are assessed using MCI and ASPM scores.

Presentation

A short presentation will be given by Steffi Henkel, Council's Environmental Scientist Water Quality (15 minutes).

Attachment

Attachment 1 – State of the Environment River Health Monitoring Report 2023. The report is available on Council's website via the following link <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/meetings>

Author	Steffi Henkel, Environmental Scientist Water Quality
Authoriser	Peter Hamill, Team Leader, Land and Water

15. GNS Storm Report Recommendations

(Clr Burgess) (Report prepared by Matt Oliver)

E355-015-003-02, E355-015-003-02-03

Purpose of Report

1. To consider options for delivery of the recommendations contained in the GNS Report *Phase II: Remote mapping of Landslides triggered by the July 2021 and August 2022 Marlborough storms and selected field investigations of landslide impact.*

Executive Summary

2. The 13 July 2023 Environment Committee received the GNS report *Phase II: Remote mapping of Landslides triggered by the July 2021 and August 2022 Marlborough storms and selected field investigations of landslide impact.* This report makes several recommendations for further science investigations and modelling work around landslide risk assessment for the Marlborough Sounds.
3. The Committee decided to adopt the report's recommendations to improve landslide hazard risk assessment.
4. Further that staff develop a landslip hazards programme to be incorporated into the Long Term Plan and that the programme be referred to the Environment Committee with some urgency.
5. This report provides further details of the timeframes and cost of the proposed landslide hazard risk assessment work.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council consider the options set out and provide a decision on the preferred option.

Background/Context

6. The 13 July 2023 Environment committee received the GNS report *Phase II: Remote mapping of Landslides triggered by the July 2021 and August 2022 Marlborough storms and selected field investigations of landslide impact.*
7. This report makes several recommendations for further science investigations and modelling work around landslide risk assessment for the Marlborough Sounds. These include:
 - a) Undertake multivariate statistical analysis to clarify causative factors in landslide initiation. Causative factors include rainfall amount and intensity, land use and cover, geology and soils. The Rainfall-Induced Landslide (RIL) forecast tool, a multivariate statistical susceptibility tool developed by GNS Science, would be used for this work.
 - b) Improve mapping of near-surface geology and relic landslides to have a better understanding of the roles that soil, regolith, colluvium, and bedrock play in landslide initiation.
 - c) A quantitative analysis of the risks posed by landslides in this area. Such investigation should include application of the RIL forecast tool, in combination with landslide runout analyses and engineering data on dwellings.
 - d) Development of Trigger Action Response Plans (TARPs) in appropriate locations to address the results of landslide risk analysis.
8. Following the Committee decision to adopt the recommendations, Staff requested a quotation and work proposal from GNS to carry out the recommended work. These are divided into work packages and the details of this are:

WP	Content	Cost Estimate (NZD)
1	Multivariate Analysis and RIL retraining	30,000
2	Relict landslide and geomorphology mapping	150,000
3	Vulnerability functions update	40,000
4	Regional risk assessment	175,000
	TOTAL	395,000

- a) Work Package 1: Undertaking deeper statistical analysis of the data obtained from the 2021 and 2022 storms. Additional data will be included such as data from the Sounds Future Access Study. This work will be carried out by incorporating the storm data into the Rainfall Induced Landslide Model. Outcomes will include a better understanding of landslide causative factors within the Marlborough Sounds and identification of higher risk areas. This could lead to improved landuse practice.
- b) Work Package 2: Mapping of near-surface geology and relic landslides. This work package will refine the existing geological mapping in the area utilising LiDAR, radiometric and geomorphic analysis to identify sites where underlying geology may be highly weathered, overlying susceptible basement rocks, or have a history of prior movement. To some extent this work needs to occur alongside WP1.
- c) Work Package 3: Establishing vulnerability functions determines the likelihood of damage occurring when landslides occur. This helps to inform the hazard risk identification where hazard is determined by product of the likelihood of occurrence and the impact of occurrence. For example, a hazard would be high risk with a high likelihood of occurrence and high impact. A hazard with low likelihood but extreme impact might also be rated high.
- d) Work Package 4: Applying the 3 previous WPs into a coherent assessment of risk. The intent of this would be to clearly identify where risk exists and the likely impacts of this. Similar work has been produced elsewhere in NZ including recently in Kaikoura.
9. GNS indicate that the work would take two years to complete and they have capacity to do the work in this timeframe.

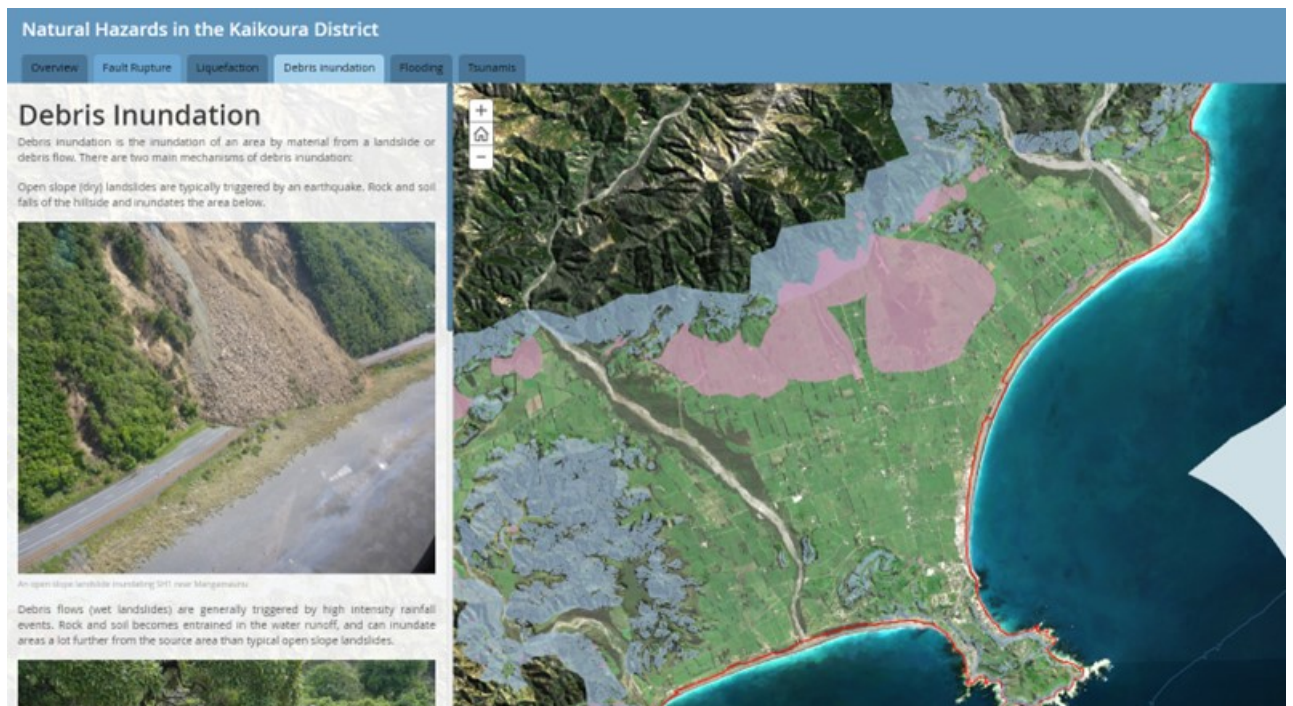


Table 6: Screen grab from Kaikoura District Council Debris inundation hazard map.

Assessment/Analysis

10. There are several implications arising from conducting this work:
 - a) Section 6 of the RMA requires the management of natural hazards as a matter of national importance. Section 30 provides councils with the function to control the use of land for avoidance and mitigation of natural hazards. Section 35 requires that every local authority keeps information records of natural hazards *“to the extent that the local authority considers appropriate for the effective discharge of its functions”*. Council also holds other obligations and functions related to natural hazards under the RMA.
 - b) Developing understanding of potential landslide hazards has far reaching implications with regards to Land Information Memoranda, insurance of at-risk properties and potentially issues of managed retreat depending on the final outcome of upcoming Government legislation.
 - c) Developing understanding of potential landslide hazards will also support the existing approach in the PMEP with respect to managing instability hazards and also support the implementation of the Building Act 2004, which contains specific direction with respect to processing building consent applications where the building work is subject to natural hazards.
 - d) The cost for this work is significant. The work packages are arranged to follow a sensible workflow with the later work packages dependant on completion of earlier packages.
11. As the Committee requested some urgency with this work, staff have investigated the reprioritisation of current FY23/24 Land Resources budget to enable work to commence. Postponement of two budgeted items (A review of PMEP Soil Sensitive Areas and Soil quality improvement workshops) would allow \$30,000 to be reallocated to WP1.
12. No other budget reprioritisation items are available within the Land Resources budget so WP 2-4 will need to go to LTP.

Option One (Recommended Option) – Reprioritisation plus LTP application

13. Option one will reprioritise \$30,000 of existing budget to WP1
14. The remaining WP will be presented to the Long Term Plan over 2 years.

- a) WP 2 & 3 (\$190,000) to start FY 24/25, WP 4 (\$175,000) to start FY 25/26

Advantages

- 15. Enables immediate start to the work.
- 16. Meets GNS capacity.
- 17. Provides multivariate analysis by June 2024.
- 18. Improved risk assessment identifies at risk properties.

Disadvantages

- 19. Defers two existing Land Resources projects, one of these (review of PMEP Soil Sensitive areas) was requested by the PMEP Hearing committee.
- 20. Improved risk assessment identifies at risk properties resulting in LIM, insurance considerations for landowners.

Option Two – Defer to LTP

- 21. Defer all costs to LTP across 2 or 3 years.

Advantages

- 22. Retains budgeted projects.
- 23. Spreads cost.

Disadvantages

- 24. Delays understanding of risks.

Option Three – Status Quo

- 25. Do nothing.

Advantages

- 26. Retains budgeted projects.
- 27. No additional cost.

Disadvantages

- 28. Fails to meet Council RMA and Building Act requirements.
- 29. Fails to provide improved risk assessment.

Next Steps

- 30. Following a decision staff will action the appropriate option.

Presentation

A short presentation will be given by Matt Oliver (10 minutes).

Author	Matt Oliver, Senior Environmental Scientist Land
Authoriser	Alan Johnson, Environmental Science & Monitoring Manager

16. Completion of PGF LiDAR Programme

(Clr Burgess) (Report prepared by Matt Oliver)

C315-19-071

Purpose of Report

1. To provide an update on the completion of the Provincial Growth Fund LiDAR programme.

Executive Summary

2. The PGF LiDAR programme has been completed with the receipt of final approval from LINZ of the acceptability of the final block of data.
3. The PGF LiDAR project has taken over 3 years but is completed within the timeframe and budget.
4. The resulting LiDAR data has been used across multiple Council sections and by many external users as well. It represents a major upgrade in the mapping of Marlborough land surface and has allowed the implementation of many advanced spatial tools to improve land management, planning, and policy outcomes.

RECOMMENDATION

That the information be received.

Background/Context

5. During the 2018 LTP process, Council approved funding for a 4-year programme of LiDAR capture. This funding unlocked a two-thirds subsidy for province-wide LiDAR funded from the Provincial Growth Fund via Land Information New Zealand.
6. A detailed procurement process followed with capture commencing in late 2019. The COVID lockdowns occurred at a fortuitous time for the capture programme. The restrictions on travel meant the normally crowded airspace over the Marlborough Sounds was empty. The contractor Aerial Surveys Limited was granted special permission to fly capture missions provided they took off and landed at the same airport. Fortuitously they are based in Nelson and so were able to fly nearly continuously due to the happy coincidence of excellent weather and tidal windows at the same time.
7. As a result, the first two blocks were captured well ahead of schedule. The remaining two blocks were subsequently captured in accordance with the schedule.
8. LiDAR captures extremely high volumes of base data and this requires post-capture processing to create a usable visual mapping product. During the course of processing both LINZ and Council staff (Malcolm Jacobson and Matt Henderson) were involved in Quality Assurance checking.
9. The QA process is a laborious one that seeks to identify flaws in the mapped product. During this process each of the four capture blocks failed its initial assessment. However, none of the identified flaws were serious enough to require re-flying and all could be corrected in post-processing.
10. The resultant data set is a high-resolution map of the land surface that far exceeds previous digital maps of Marlborough. Resolution of the LiDAR data is 1 square metre pixels. Each pixel is supported by data from (nominally) an average of 4 individual point measurements per square metre. Previous data sets were either derived from 20 metre topographic maps or satellite imagery with 8 square metre pixels the best resolution available.

Assessment/Analysis

11. The resolution of the LiDAR data and the nature of the digital systems that can utilise it (Geographic Information Systems) mean that the data is a key enabler of advances in land management, natural hazard assessment, planning and policy development.
12. The most important aspect is the ability to perform calculations upon the pixel data. By using algorithms on the LiDAR pixel values, it is possible to derive a huge array of products. These can include the ability to “strip away” vegetation, identify vegetation height, calculate relationships between pixels providing information about slope, aspect and surface morphology. Products such as slope maps and slope contours are easily derived using standardised tools. With further effort, more complex data sets can be created.
13. LiDAR can be easily combined with other digital data sets such as geology mapping, rainfall, road maps,
14. Some of the more specialised data sets produced from Marlborough LiDAR to date include:
 - a) Debris flow mapping
 - b) Landslide size and volume
 - c) Refined Land Use Classification
 - d) Relative elevation models for:
 - i) River geomorphology and
 - ii) Soil mapping
 - e) Slope connectivity
15. External agencies including LINZ, CRIs and forestry companies have also accessed the data to use for their own work programmes. LiDAR has proven to be a major game changer in forest harvest planning in the region with a notable upswing in the use of more accurate forest engineering tools resulting from access to this improved data.
16. Currently (and into the future), LiDAR is being utilised in the development of more complex resource management tools including:
 - a) Flood modelling
 - b) Land management tools for assessing surface erosion risk, critical source area delineation, digital stream networks and tree cover.
 - c) Water quality modelling
 - d) Landslide risk assessment
 - e) Digital soil mapping and modelling
17. Often the data derived from LiDAR is intended to meet Council’s regulatory needs and it is an amazing tool for this. However, it does have some limitations:
 - a) In places, the data is coarser resolution than four points per square metre. This results from the specifications developed for the LiDAR capture. Where slopes faced away from the flightpath of the survey plane and these slopes were heavily vegetated, the required 4 points per square metre were not able to be captured. To capture sufficient points would have required multiple overflights and point density upwards of 20-100 points /m². In the context that the majority of these slopes are isolated, densely forested native bush, it was felt that the additional cost of

capturing this was not warranted. The resulting data is still an improvement on the previous best 8m² data.

- b) The data capture was scheduled to occur within 2 hours of low tide to ensure maximum coverage of coastal margins. However, this still means a narrow strip of unmapped sub-tidal seafloor exists between the LiDAR coverage and the Marine multi beam coverage. Mapping of this may become important in future under sea-level rise but gathering this data would require use of specialist bathymetric LiDAR. The same applies to mapping of river beds. These were also not captured by the PGF LiDAR.
- c) It should be recognised that the LiDAR represents a snapshot in time. Land surfaces change from factors such as erosion, sediment deposition, land disturbance or river movement. Much of the region is unlikely to need re-capture (for example Molesworth) for a long period of time, there will be areas where increased rates of change will warrant recapture.

18. Final costs for the PGF LiDAR project are \$271,000 from Council, \$961,000 from the PGF via LINZ.

19. Malcolm Jacobson should be acknowledged for his careful stewardship of this project from the start.

Presentation

A short presentation will be given by Matt Oliver (10 minutes).

Author	Matt Oliver, Senior Environmental Scientist Land
Authoriser	Peter Hamill, Team Lead, Land and Water

17. Working for Nature/ Mahi mō te Taiao Grant

(Clr Minehan) (Report prepared by Zeke Hoskins)

E390-003-23-01

Purpose of Report

1. To inform Council on the decisions made by the grant subcommittee regarding which applicants were to be successful in the Working for Nature/ Mahi mō te Taiao 2023-2024 grant round.
2. To provide an update on the 2022-2023 grant round which has concluded.

Executive Summary

3. Applications for the 2023-24 Working for Nature/ Mahi mō te Taiao grant were open from 1 April to 30 April 2023.
4. The grant sub-committee assessed each application and formed a decision on which projects were to receive funding.
5. Requested funding during this period totalled \$184,393.50, surpassing the \$111,500 budget.
6. 14 of the 24 applicants received either partial or full funding for their projects and have since agreed to the conditions of the grant.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the report be received.
 2. That Council ratify the decisions made by the Grant Sub-Committee.
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Background/Context

7. Since 2020, Marlborough District council has been running the Working for Nature/ Mahi mō te Taiao grant to support community involvement with restoring and protecting native species and habitats throughout the region. The grant is open to community organisations, businesses, landowners, and individuals.
8. Each application is assessed based on its own merits; benefits to a healthy environment, project viability, level of collaboration from outside sources, ongoing maintenance of the project, and how well it aligns with the goals of the grant scheme guidelines. Projects that have part-funding from other sources are also looked upon favourably.
9. The grant is split into three categories:
 - a) **Protecting Marlborough:** These projects aim to control animal and plant pests which threaten native flora and fauna, with a maximum of \$15,000 per application in any one-year period.
 - b) **Habitat Marlborough:** These projects help restore native habitats and improve biodiversity and freshwater quality. This is accomplished through the planting of native species which historically would have grown in the project area. This category incorporates the Tui to Town and Greening Marlborough programmes. A maximum of \$10,000 can be received per application in any one-year period.
 - c) **Environmental Advocacy:** These projects seek to promote environmental awareness within the community. A maximum of \$2,000 can be received per application in any one-year period.

10. To achieve the goals of the grant, \$111,500 has been allocated for the 2023-2024 funding round, increasing from \$110,000 available in the previous year.
11. Applications for the grant round opened from Saturday 1 April and closed Sunday 30 August. A total of 24 projects were applied for, 10 for Habitat Marlborough, 12 under Protecting Marlborough, and 2 under Environmental Advocacy.
12. Funding requested through this round totalled \$184,393.50.
13. Partial or full funding was provided to 14 applicants in support of their projects. These decisions were handled by the grant sub-committee which comprised of Councillors Minehan, Hope and Burgess.
14. This year, there were nine projects which received full funding. The remaining five applicants received partial funding and would therefore need to find alternative funding or reduce the project scope.
15. The following applications received either partial or full funding:

Habitat Marlborough:

Brawn Vineyards Opaoa River Restoration.....	\$319.78
Growing Trees, Growing Children	\$3,210.00
Harvey Bay Stream Rewilding Project	\$2,700.00
Te Ara Restoration	\$3,590.00
Waikawa Stream Habitat Enrichment.....	\$5,000.00
Total	\$14,819.78

Protecting Marlborough:

Hinepango Wetland Restoration	\$12,820.88
Kaipupu Sanc. & Mabel Island Weed Control	\$7,003.00
Lake Elterwater Willow Control	\$14,020.00
Pest Free Ngakuta Bay	\$9,250.03
Ungulate Contro	\$10,000.00
Wattle Control – Waikawa	\$15,000.00
Wild Waikawa Restoration	\$10,000.00
Total	\$78,093.91

Environmental Advocacy:

Kaipupu Signage Project.....	\$2,300.00
Marlborough SNA's Learning	\$2,000.00
Total	\$4,300.00

16. Correspondence was sent to all applicants in July, advising of the outcome of their application.
17. Success grantees received an agreement form alongside their grant acceptance letter, which highlighted the conditions of the grant. Each applicant has accepted these conditions and have since returned a signed copy of this form in agreeance.

Next Steps

18. The grant round closes on 1 June 2024, with invoicing and the accountability form to be handed in by this date.

19. The accountability form will include evidence of expenditure, photographs and a description of the work undertaken, which will be assessed ensuring funding has succeeded in accomplishing the goal of the project.
20. Applications will reopen in April 2024 for the Working for Nature 2024-25 grant round.

Presentation

A short presentation will be given by Zeke Hoskins (5 minutes).

Author	Zeke Hoskins, Environmental Science Technician
Authoriser	Alan Johnson, Environmental Science and Monitoring Manager

18. Information Package

RECOMMENDATION

That the Regulatory Department Information Package dated 5 October 2023 be received and noted.
