



# Decision Report

**To:** Mayor and Councillors

**From:** Adrian de Laborde – Group Manager Engineering Services

**Date:** Wednesday, 21 August 2019

**File reference:** Document: 2613124  
Appendix A: Summary of Feedback M2613106  
(Further reference Council Agenda 2564150 and Report 2560045)

**Portfolio holder:** Councillor Harris

**Meeting date:** Wednesday, 28 August 2019

**Subject:** **Feedback received on proposed Kaiaua Haurahi streamworks and the cost recovery impact on rates**

## Recommendation:

THAT the report be received, and

THAT the Council approve the proposed works, and

THAT the Council approve the budget estimate of \$95,000 for these works, and

That the works be undertaken over a 2-year period, and

That the Council approve the recovery of 85% of these costs through a targeted stormwater rate and 15% being a district wide stormwater rate over a period of [5 / 10] years.

## 1 Purpose

This report provides a summary of feedback received on the proposed Kaiaua Haurahi streamworks and the cost recovery impact on rates and the recommendations regarding this feedback.

The matter or suggested decision does involve a new activity, service, programme, project, expenditure or other deliverable.

## 2 Background

Kaiaua has been subject to regular flooding from the Haurahi Stream. Waikato Regional and Hauraki District Councils have worked collaboratively with the community to identify some options to assist with reducing the effects of rainfall events on the community of Kaiaua.

During a significant rainfall event in the Huarahi Stream catchment, the stream can rise very quickly and cause flooding throughout the township of Kaiaua. The size of the event will determine the extent of the flooding, as was experienced by the community in March / April 2017 and January 2018.

The proposed scope of the remedial activity was focused on undertaking stream works within the Huarahi Stream that will increase the flow capacity of the stream and thus reduce the effects of a significant rainfall event. The proposed work will help manage the effects of storm water, but it will not prevent flooding altogether, or address coastal hazards. These works were detailed in the Council Agenda dated 24 April 2019 and contained in the report titled "Huarahi Stream Works".

It was proposed that the cost of the stream work is recovered by a targeted rate over a five or ten-year period. To recover the rates over:

- 10 years would result in an average annual rates increase of approximately \$70.
- 5 years would result in an average annual rates increase of approximately \$130.

The proposed area for the increased rate includes about 150 properties that would benefit most from the work, which is most of Kaiaua township. Either way there would be no rates increase until 1 July 2020.

On 24 April 2019 Council adopted a report (M2560045) to consult with the Kaiaua community on the proposed Huarahi Streamworks and the associated costs with the intention of implementing a targeted rate on the area of benefit to fund the works.

On 8th June 2019, a joint community consultation session was hosted by HDC and WRC in the Kaiaua Community Hall to explain the proposed streamworks and the targeted rate recovery options. Kaiaua ratepayers within the proposed area of benefit were requested to submit their feedback on the proposal either online or in hard copy format by 5th July 2019.

### **3 Issue and options**

This section outlines the consultation process and feedback received. It also provides considerations for Council's decision making on the policy.

#### **3.1 Community engagement process**

Notice of the Kaiaua drop-in session on 8<sup>th</sup> June and the proposed streamworks was:

- released on Council's website and eNewsletter
- advertised in the Compass paper
- emailed to 5 iwi representatives
- notified by letter to 153 ratepayers and 6 business owners deemed to be within the benefit area (22 of the ratepayers for whom HDC had email addresses, were emailed as well)<sup>1</sup>

The consultation period ran from 8 June to 5 July 2019.

#### **3.2 Feedback received**

A summary of the feedback received is attached (Attachment B). 43 online and hardcopy feedback forms were received and collated with the responses from 1 phone call (44 submissions in total). 8 responses were ineligible, as 1 was a duplicate submission from the same person and 7 were additional responses from 6 rate-paying properties. In total, there were therefore 36 legitimate submissions.

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<sup>1</sup> 3 of the email addresses proved to be incorrect

All of the feedback received is supportive of the proposed work at Haurahi stream going ahead. There was a mixed view on the period for the recovery of the costs. 16 submitters supported a 5 year period with 18 supporting a 10 year period.

Note that these works will be undertaken over a 2 year period in order to accommodate consenting requirements.

#### **4 Significance and Engagement Assessment**

This decision does not trigger the Significance and Engagement Policy Assessment Tool and therefore is not considered significant under the Significance and Engagement Policy 2017.

Extensive consultation with the community has taken place. This culminated in submissions being sought from the community (Appendix B). The community actively engaged in the process. The outcome of the submissions and the Council resolution will be communicated back to the community.

#### **5 Budget Implications**

It is proposed that the cost of the works (total estimated cost \$95,000) be recovered through a rate over a 5 to 10 year period. The proposed area for the increased rate is shown in Appendix A. There are approximately 150 properties in the area outlined in Appendix A. To recover the costs over 10 years would result in an average annual rates impact of approximately \$70 per property. A 5-year recovery period would result in an average impact of approximately \$130 per property. The rates will be applied on a valuation basis as per the current model. 85% of the cost will be recovered from the proposed area of benefit and the balance – 15% - from the district generally.

If the community approves the works and associated budgets, the rates increase will be effected 1 July 2020.

#### **6 Recommendation**

The Council should make its decision on which option to choose based on that option being the most cost effective, and good quality option for the Hauraki District (s10 of the Local Government Act 2002).

It is recommended that:

1. THAT the Council approve the proposed works, and
2. THAT the Council approve the budget estimate of \$95,000 for these works, and
3. That the works be undertaken over a 2-year period, and
4. That the Council approve the recovery of 85% of these costs through a targeted stormwater rate and 15% being a district wide stormwater rate over a period of [5 / 10] years.

Adrian de Laborde  
GROUP MANAGER – ENGINEERING SERVICES



**Appendix A: Area of Benefit of proposed targeted rates**



### Appendix B: Summary of Responses on Online and Hardcopy Feedback Forms – Kaiaua Hauarahi streamworks (details redacted)

The feedback summarised below has been received through the following channels:

1. Online feedback forms
2. Hard copies of the feedback form
3. A telephone call

Please note that all comments are copied verbatim including grammatical and typo errors.

Respondent's name:	Respondent's Organisation	Do you agree with the proposed work at Hauarahi stream, Kaiaua?	If not, please explain your response with further comments.:	Would you prefer that the cost of Hauarahi stream works be recovered by a targeted rate over a five OR a ten year period?	Any comments?	Any other comments?
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	Yes		5 years		As long as by doing these works its not going to flood other areas that at the moment don't flood .
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	Yes		10 years		
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	Yes		5 years		Just do it
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	Yes		5 years		Great idea! should be done / great idea just do it

Respondent's name:	Respondent's Organisation	Do you agree with the proposed work at Hauarahi stream, Kaiaua?	If not, please explain your response with further comments.:	Would you prefer that the cost of Hauarahi stream works be recovered by a targeted rate over a five OR a ten year period?	Any comments?	Any other comments?
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Yes	Our property at [REDACTED] is outside the designated area of benefit and the proposed rating area but looking down on the coastal plain from above does give the impression that the proposed works might well reduce the risk of spill over flooding to us as well. Then again we aren't engineers so that may just be wishful thinking.	10 years	We would be willing to contribute towards any works that would reduce the flood risk to our property and we'd certainly support the plans for the Hauarahi Stream which look to be a cost-effective way of reducing flooding in Kaiaua village.	We, and our neighbours on the northern fringe of Kaiaua, would be very pleased to hear of a proposal specifically aimed at reducing the flood risk to us, such as upgrading the culvert for the drain alongside the school and reinstatement of the wetland which used to run north from our property and until it was blocked by earthworks was able to take a lot of the surface water which is now funneled into our properties
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Yes		5 years	Our rates are already awfully high and there is very little infrastructure in Kaiaua. But thank you for the dropin, it was highly informative	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Yes		10 years		

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[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Yes	<p>I do not live in the directly affected area of flooding although my access in and out of Kaiaua can be affected by extreme flooding events. Assuming that expert reports have been obtained that suggest that the flooding will be reduced by the proposed work, I agree with the proposed work.</p>	10 years	<p>I acknowledge that my rates are not directly affected by the targeted rate. I believe that a ten year recovery period would suit the majority of affected ratepayers. I would add that because of Council credibility issues the targeted rate should not be imposed until AFTER the proposed work is completed. There is a strong lack of trust in the community and a concern that targeted funds will be used for other purposes. This issue is critical to the success of getting support for the proposed work.</p>	None.



<p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>5 years</p>	<p>I am hugely in favour of this work. Not only does it help HDC and the WRC fulfil their obligations to reduce known natural hazards under the various Acts of Law but with Climate change the situation is only getting worse and more frequent. The cost is very little when compared to rising insurance premiums with each claim due to flooding etc. I will be very disappointed if this works program is not carried out. I believe a shorter payment period would help position the community to either do additional works of this type or foreshore work in the future using this type of funding arrangement. "Just do it" is what I hear around the township.</p>	<p>Well done to whichever individuals within the HDC/WRC had the idea to create this funding arrangement in an area which has no targeted rates for river management or flood protection under the WRC but which is in the interest of the residential community. I believe the attitude towards paying to get works done in Kaiaua has now changed with the benefit of hindsight after the two latest major flooding events. So this is very timely! Once again well done, great to see this.</p>
<p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>5 years</p>		
<p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>10 years</p>	<p>10 years</p>	



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[Redacted]	[Redacted]	yes		10 years		
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	Yes		10 years	The streamworks are long overdue. Please make a start and do as much as funding allows	Well done on taking the initiative and hopefully reducing the impact of flooding on Kaiaua. On a daily basis, the full tide comes right up to our back boundary fence and spring / king tides cause flooding at the rear of the section. We have a substantial stand of mangrove growing on the land behind our property which possibly influence the amount of water that accumulates there
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	Yes		5 years	Or one off payment	Hauraki Council should pay because it is a lack of maintenance
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	Yes		5 years	Get on and do it	Just do it

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[Redacted]		Yes	Our decision is based on the decision report, outlining the works involved and reasoning behind those works, the assumption is that suitably qualified consultants with the necessary expertise have developed the best solution , both economically and practically to address the flooding both immediately and long term.	5 years	Five years is the cheapest option but happy with however the majority decide as long as something is done to prevent constant flooding from Hauarahi Stream.	We understand that works are required and as such anyone who does not support this proposal should consider that generally insurance will have clauses stating you must do all practical steps to prevent a claim having to be made. Surely for any insured party (private dwelling/baches) opposing this would not be in line with those requirements.
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	Yes		5 years		<sup>2</sup> Comment removed

<sup>2</sup> Address of ratepaying property has been removed for privacy reasons

Respondent's name:	Respondent's Organisation	Do you agree with the proposed work at Hauarahi stream, Kaiaua?	If not, please explain your response with further comments.:	Would you prefer that the cost of Hauarahi stream works be recovered by a targeted rate over a five OR a ten year period?	Any comments?	Any other comments?
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Yes		10 years	We believe that a ten year period would suit the majority of the ratepayers affected. We see instances of Council work not completed in the time frame originally advised. This creates suspicion as to whether the funds are being applied for the agreed purpose. We also are strongly of the view that the targeted rate should not be imposed until after all of the proposed work is completed.	None
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Yes		10 years	This just has to be done!!!	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Yes		5 years		
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	yes		10 years		
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Yes		No response		

Respondent's name:	Respondent's Organisation	Do you agree with the proposed work at Haurahi stream, Kaiaua?	If not, please explain your response with further comments.:	Would you prefer that the cost of Haurahi stream works be recovered by a targeted rate over a five OR a ten year period?	Any comments?	Any other comments?
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Yes		5 years	Would be prepared to pay all up front	Go for it!
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Yes		5 years		
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Yes		10 years		
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Yes		No response	Neither I prefer a one off lump sum	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Yes		10 years		
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Yes		10 years		

<p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>5 years</p>	<p>In my opinion if the Council make sure all outlets ( flood gates etc) into the Firth are open and flowing with no build up of water behind them before a storm arrives would solve a great deal of the flooding problems. Not try and clear them after the storm.                  Just yesterday 4/07/2019 I put a request on your Fix it site to clear the flood gates at the southern end of Kaiaua where the the tip used to be. As the flooding at the rear of our property got worse I rang and told your staff of the flooding. I did get a call back to say contractor had been called and would check the situation shortly. Has he been yet? I don't think so, there is still a build up of water back to Kowhai Ave.                  [REDACTED]                  Simple things can solve big problems.</p>	<p>As above</p>
<p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>5 years</p>	<p>5 years</p>	<p>Simple things can solve big problems.</p>	<p></p>



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██████████		Yes		5 years	Maintenance must be kept up after the work is done	
██████████		Yes		10 years		Re- See attached photo As you can see on attached photo, The digging that was undertaken recently at the southern side of the bridge was, to my opinion, a very incomplete job because they left a "finger" of mud + mangroves jutting out into the river bed, pointing towards the pontoon launching area & retaining earth wall protecting the launches moored there. See "A" on photo. Why did they leave this peice of land jutting out, rather than carry on in a straight line? Is it possible to have this remedied as it will restrict the flow of water. I am happy for you to ring me to discuss this.

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[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Yes		10 years		
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Yes		10 years		
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Yes		10 years	However, do not feel this will be of benefit to our property and would therefore prefer no to pay it. Can some-one explain how this will benefit us specifically?	

<sup>3</sup> Feedback captured by telephone call