

## Whirinaki flood mitigation project

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

#### What is Hawke's Bay Regional Council doing?

This project aims to provide Category 2A properties on Pohutukawa Drive and along parts of North Shore Road with the flood mitigation they need to move into Category 1. When this happens, these homeowners will have more certainty about their future. This project will also give the community and key industrial areas more resilience in the face of future flood events.

To achieve this, we will:

- Upgrade the existing Whirinaki stopbank to provide flood protection to a 1-in-500-year likelihood flood level event.
- Install a new 880m stopbank to provide flood protection to a 1-in-500-year likelihood flood level event. This stopbank will start at the Esk River mouth and run across privately owned land next to North Shore Road and Pohutukawa Drive.
- Improve the SH2 culvert and increase the capacity of Whirinaki Stream downstream of SH2.

#### How will this project affect property owners?

Most properties in Whirinaki will not be directly impacted by this project. However, this work will likely have impacts for the area in general as it will require a significant amount of earth moving, heavy machinery and roadworks.

Further engagement with property owners will be required to determine the full impact as we narrow down designs. We aim to minimise disruption to the community, so will give as much notice as possible regarding any works being carried out.

#### How will we find out if our property will be affected by this project?

Anybody who will be directly affected will be contacted by Hawke's Bay Regional Council in the first instance to discuss potential impacts to their property.

#### How long will this work take?

Construction will start in summer 2024-25 and end in August 2025.

#### How do I find out about the progress of this project?

We will send out updates via email newsletters, and regularly update our [project page](#) (HBRC website). If you, or anyone else, would like to stay informed, please email us at [project.enquiries@hbrc.govt.nz](mailto:project.enquiries@hbrc.govt.nz) or [click here](#) to request more information.

**Who is the ultimate decision maker for this project?**

While the final decision sits with Hawke's Bay Regional Council, Chief Executive Dr Nic Peet wants to build a relationship with the community, hear your feedback, and work towards a solution for Whirinaki that has your support.

**Will this project protect Whirinaki from a Cyclone Gabrielle-level event?**

These works will provide the greatest protection for the largest proportion of the community. However, it should be noted that with any flood scheme there is always a risk of a large event, such as Cyclone Gabrielle, exceeding this level of protection.

**Who will pay for this flood mitigation?**

This project is one of six major flood-mitigation projects Hawke's Bay Regional Council is undertaking. These works are possible due to \$203 million worth of Crown funding from Central Government, and HBRC funding of \$44 million over the next four to five years.

**Will a land categorisation change affect my insurance?**

Each situation will be different. Please contact your insurance company for more information.

**Will a land category change affect my property details?**

Land category status will be recorded on a property's Land Information Memorandum (LIM). A Land Information Memorandum is a report prepared by Hastings District Council at your or a potential purchaser's request. It provides a summary of the current property information held by the different departments at the council, including special land features such as flooding and other natural hazards.