



Quarterly Update September 2022

Nau mai and welcome

The last month has been particularly challenging for those involved in flood protection, with widespread flooding throughout New Zealand. This month we look at how projects have been progressing, announce the professional development programme for river management teams and provide a snippet of the extensive news coverage in our 'in the news section'.



West Taieri Flood Protection Contour Channel Upgrade

Otago Regional Council

The Project

Overall, the project is progressing well, with stages 5 to 6 having been completed in April, despite weather events causing minor disruptions. The winter months have been focused on obtaining the remaining required consenting, landowner discussions, as well as getting the next package's RFP prepared to go to market ahead of the next construction window. This will be the largest work package within Otago Regional Council's Climate Resilience Programme. This work is scheduled to begin in Spring.

Wider Benefits

ORC have been engaging effectively with Aukaha, Kai Tahu's consultancy arm, to work towards positive social outcomes for the wider community, including working with potential contractors to create

employment opportunities for youth, Māori and Pasifika. For the next RFP, tenderers will be asked to demonstrate how they are increasing opportunities for these targeted demographics and enabling work within their companies. Aukaha will support ORC in evaluating this aspect of the tenderers submissions. To benefit potential employers, Aukaha have local expertise in providing services such as pastoral care, and ensuring their whanau are able to seize opportunities which arise.

Overall, Otago Regional Council is anticipating a busy construction season across the climate resilience programme and is enthusiastic about the positive economic, environmental and social outcomes that projects such as the Contour Channel bring to the Otago community.



Progress on the College Road Floodwall

Bay of Plenty Regional Council

The College Road section is the third and final stage to replace and upgrade the floodwalls along the Rangitāiki River, following the 2017 Edgecumbe flooding event.

The proposed design for the College Road floodwalls includes the installation of a new steel sheetpile wall into the stopbank, which will replace the existing concrete floodwall and provide more effective seepage control below ground.

Once the sheetpile wall is installed, it will be encased in concrete and a pool-style fence will be installed on top of the wall. This will enhance the look of the wall and provide security for neighbouring residents.

As part of the work with affected landowners, Bay of Plenty Regional Council Toi Moana will undertake some general landscaping to leave the newly upgraded area looking tidy.

Project Team Leader Peter Hay says all the landowners have been great to work with.

“Open and ongoing communication with all parties has been at the heart of the project,” says Peter. “We’ve particularly appreciated the great cooperation and kind feedback we’ve received from landowners.”

Once the project has obtained resource consent, the works will go out for tender later this year. Works are scheduled to commence around November 2022 for a mid-2023 completion.

The Rangitāiki River floodwalls is part of the Regional Council’s flood protection work along the Rangitāiki River Scheme, which includes the Rangitāiki Floodway and Spillway development and future work along the lower catchment.

For full details on Regional Council’s flood protection works along the scheme, Find out more [here](#).



Regional Sector River Managers Professional Development Programme Launched

The Regional Sector River Managers Professional Development Programme was launched online on 16 August.

This is the first such specialist upskilling programme developed to meet the needs of regional sector council staff and others working with them in river management to provide flood protection resilience for our communities.

The aim is to provide people coming into and as well as those already within this sector career development pathways, as well as helping to attract and retain quality people, with succession opportunities as team leaders, management and in senior leadership roles. This will ensure a strong sector that delivers for our communities as well as an enjoyable and rewarding sector to work in.

The development opportunities offered are the culmination of input from within the sector over the last two years. The first tranche is particularly aimed at entrants to the sector including graduates and experienced staff joining from other sectors. The success of this programme relies on making the most of participation!

The Regional Sector River Managers have partnered to develop and deliver this programme with the Rivers Group and Engineering New Zealand and Water New Zealand.

Those keen to participate can sign up to our webinars for the Cultural and Environmental Values Series. For those unable to watch a webinar live (we recommend you watch this live) there will be a recording available for those who have signed up. **Find out more [here](#)**

In the news:

Over the past few months there have been a number of media stories highlighting the need for ongoing flood protection around the country:

[Christchurch flooding: Small-scale fixes, investment in infrastructure needed – NZ Herald 28 July 2022:](#)

[Flood protection ‘most effective way’ Government can spend on climate change – Stuff 25 July 2022:](#)

[Dunedin weather: Flood fears ease as river levels fall – RNZ 27 July 2022:](#)



Horizons farewells valued river management staff member

Horizons Council

Horizons Regional Council is farewelling a valued river management staff member after 37 years of service dedicated to protecting communities and responding to flood events.

Horizons group manager catchment operations Dr Jon Roygard says Ian McMahon joined the Catchment Board, which later became the Regional Council, in August 1985 as an engineering assistant.

“During his time with us Ian has predominantly worked on Horizons’ Lower Manawatū Scheme, which offers flood protection to approximately 320km² of land from Ashhurst to the sea,” says Dr Roygard.

“This included two stints as area engineer which saw him oversee key upgrades for the scheme and gain a team of staff who he mentored. While he eventually decided to take a step back from the formal management side of things, Ian has continued to be an extremely valuable source of guidance for our river management staff – to the point that when he started making noises about retiring a few years ago we worked hard to convince him to stay in the role to continue his work and training our team.

“The wealth of knowledge Ian holds for the lower Manawatū area is extensive and his commitment to doing the best for our communities is admirable. An example of this is when he spent five months after the February 2004 floods working over 12 hour days, 7 days a week, to ensure that all emergency repairs were made to protect people and property.”

When asked why he stayed with Horizons for so long, Ian McMahon says he felt the responsibility of providing flood protection to the community and that it was rewarding work.

“Highlights of my career include being one of only five people who have had the opportunity to manage the Lower Manawatū Scheme in its 65 year existence,” says Mr McMahon.

“I’m proud to have been part of the team responsible for the upgrades that provide 500 year protection for Palmerston North and 100 year protection for the rural community. My working career has been very interesting and our work is generally really appreciated by the community.

“Horizons has been so supportive of me throughout the years and I’ve found it to have a great culture overall. I encourage anyone planning a career in the environmental or engineering space to consider the council as an employer, it’s somewhere you’ll always be given opportunities to upskill and advance.”

Dr Roygard says while Ian will be missed, he leaves behind a legacy in the staff he has trained and work completed.

“On the behalf of Horizons, and the communities that he has served so faithfully, I’d like to thank Ian for his dedication to the region and wish him all the best for his retirement.”



**Resilient River
Communities**

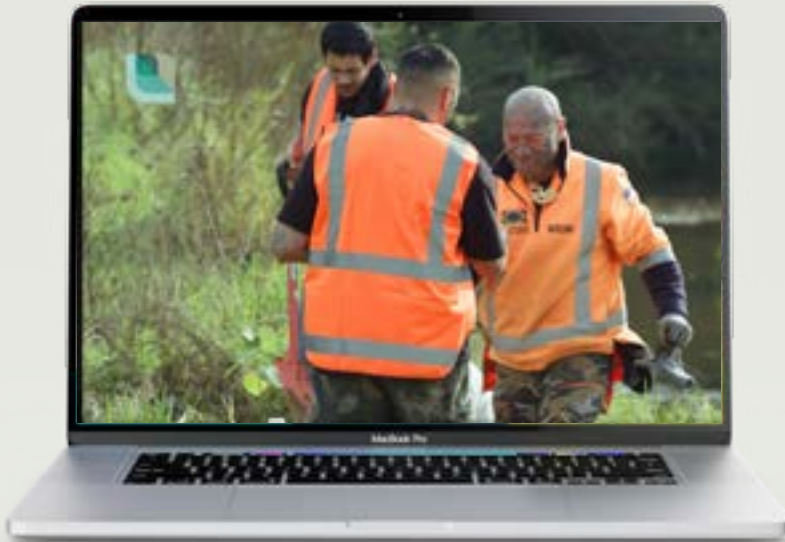
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Resilient River Communities

Video Launch

This short clip looks at the projects that are taking place around Aotearoa, why the Resilient River Communities programme was established and the people who are passionate about its success. Hear more about the effects of flooding on communities, as well as insurance implications and social outcomes from those directly impacted around New Zealand.

[Watch the clip here.](#)

Growing the network

We're growing the distribution of this newsletter. If you know someone who would like to be in the loop on Resilient River Communities please forward this to them and they can subscribe [here](#).

