

Lower Waitaki River

FLOOD SCHEME RECOVERY PROJECT

Following public engagement after the floods of 2019/20, Council approved an additional \$1.04 million funding on 22 October 2020, for physical works in the lower Waitaki River to be undertaken in 2020/21. A detailed work plan has been prepared for each site and works are about to begin.

What: We are commencing flood protection works to remediate damage in the lower Waitaki River following the extensive flooding of summer 2019/20.

Where: Twelve sites along the lower Waitaki River (see the map below).

When: We anticipate the majority of this work will be completed between May and October 2021 but acknowledge that at some sites the work may take longer. We aim to complete all works by February 2022.

The Waitaki River is the ancestral river of Ngāi Tahu and is recognised as a Statutory Acknowledgement Area in the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998. As such the Waitaki River is of paramount importance. The Waitaki catchment is an extensive and important mahinga kai area and is an important ara tawhito (traditional travel route).

Environment Canterbury coordinates work in the Waitaki River - downstream of the Waitaki dam - on behalf of the Lower Waitaki River Rating District (which includes Canterbury and Otago ratepayers) to reduce the impacts of flooding and erosion on people, property and infrastructure. The summer of 2019/20 saw a series of heavy rainfall events that resulted in significant erosion along the Waitaki River which increased the flood risk to the local community.

Following extensive investigation and public consultation, we identified twelve key sites where significant flood damage resulted in loss of land along the edge of the river that is continuing to encroach/worsen while the sites remain exposed.

Four of these sites (sites 1, 6, 7 and 9 - see the map below) are critical, with erosion threatening a community water supply, power pylons, urupā (Māori burial site), and an irrigation scheme race. Other high priority sites (sites 3 and 12) pose a risk to residential houses and the lower Waitaki huts community.

On 22 October 2020, the council approved an additional \$1.04 million funding for physical works in the lower Waitaki River to be undertaken in 2020/21. A detailed work plan has been prepared for each site (attached).

All works will be undertaken in accordance with the Canterbury Regional Code of Practice for defences against water and drainage schemes (the Code of Practice). The Code of Practice outlines various methods for erosion control, outlines the potential effects of each method, and describes how those effects will be avoided or minimised. Works within salmon spawning areas are undertaken in accordance with the conditions of the resource consent held for these areas.

The remediation works are 64 per cent funded by the central government's [Climate Resilience Programme of Flood Risk Management Projects](#) (initiated as part of the COVID-19 recovery response) which is administered by the Provincial Development Unit (PDU) of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) in a co-funding arrangement. The remaining 36 per cent of the cost will be co-funded by the Lower Waitaki River Rating District (Environment Canterbury and Otago Regional Council).

Waitaki Erosion Works Overview

Information has been taken from various organisations, including Environment Canterbury and the Canterbury Maps team. Secondary information is derived from Landmark Ltd Digital Cadastral and other sources. The Council is not responsible for any errors or omissions in the information presented in this map. Information from this map may not be used for the purposes of any legal dispute. The user should independently verify the accuracy of any information before taking any action in reliance upon it.



Scale: 1:150,000 @ A3
Map Created by Environment Canterbury on 10/03/2021 at 4:15 PM

