

28 August 2020

Far North District Council  
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C/O Geoff Heaps  
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ref.15186.JBH

To whom it may concern,

**RE: NORTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL – AWANUI FLOOD SCHEME UPGRADE – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF APPLICATION FOR RESOURCE CONSENT**

The Northland Regional Council (NRC) is applying for resource consent from both the NRC and the Far North District Council (FNDC) to undertake flood prevention works along the Awanui River and Whangatane Spillway in Kaitaia.

The proposal

The township of Kaitaia is located on an alluvial floodplain drained by two rivers, Awanui River to the east and Tarawhataroa Stream to the west. Over time the town has developed, in places right up to the stopbanks. Near the northern urban limits, the Whangatane spillway channel diverts a significant proportion of the Awanui River flow, due to the low channel capacity of the Awanui River downstream. The Tarawhataroa Stream is significantly smaller than the Awanui River, but a stopbank breach still has the potential to inundate large urban areas within Kaitaia. The Kaitaia urban area is currently protected to the 1:30 year annual recurrence interval (ARI) event, well below what is expected under the Building Act, 2004.

The proposal is to undertake various works associated with the upgrading of the Awanui Flood Scheme. The general objective for the upgrade is to:

- To protect urban Kaitaia to a design standard equivalent to a 1:100 year ARI event with an allowance for climate change and freeboard; and
- To improve the safety of the riverbanks against slope failure.

In undertaking the above works, the area will also see a decrease in the frequency of flooding for surrounding rural areas, which are currently protected against the 1:5 year ARI event. The works will see this protection improved to approximately a 1:20 year ARI event. The 100yr Depth Difference plans demonstrate the changes in flooding levels the surrounding Kaitaia area (full copies of these plans are available on request).

In order to achieve the above objectives, channel capacity is proposed to be increased via the implementation of the following methods:

1. Channel widening (benching).
2. Adding spillways to divert floodwaters.
3. Raising/relocating stopbanks.
4. Constructing floodwalls.
5. Toe stabilisation works.

These works will be undertaken in general accordance with the NRC Scheme Design plans (full copies of these plans are available on request).

The application also includes the placement of extracted fill within adjacent flood plains to where the works were undertaken. Fill areas are generally demonstrated on the Preliminary Scheme Design and Fill Sites Plans (full copies of these plans are available on request).

#### Resource consents required

Resource consent is required under various rules set out within the Regional Water and Soil Plan (RWSP), the Proposed Regional Plan (PRP) and the Far North District Plan (FNDP). The rules infringed are set out in detail in sections 5.2 and 6.2 of the application report. Overall, the application requires resource consent under these plans as a **discretionary activity**.

#### Assessment

The adverse effects of the proposed works have been considered in Section 8 of this report. While the effects are largely positive (due to the reduction in flood risk to urban Kaitaia/Awanui), there are identified to be some localised minor effects on affected building and property owners. The adverse effects of the proposed construction works will be mitigated by adherence to a Construction Management Plan (CMP) (to control effects on surrounding properties), a Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan (CNVMP) (designed to minimise effects on residential amenity resulting from construction noise) and an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (ESCP) (to avoid adverse effects on the adjoining Awanui River).

Sections 5 and 6 of the application confirm that the proposal is in accordance with the objectives and policies of the Far North District Plan, Regional Water and Soil Plan and the Proposed Regional Plan, while Sections 7.2 and 7.3 confirm that the proposal is in accordance with the relevant high-order statutory documents being the Regional Policy Statement for Northland and Part 2 of the RMA, 1991. Section 10.1 confirms that the National Environmental Standard for Soil Contamination is not relevant to the subject proposal.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Henehan', with a stylized, cursive script.

Joseph Henehan  
*Planning Consultant*  
*Reyburn and Bryant Planners and Surveyors*

