

What should we do next to address stormwater flood risks?

More than a quarter of Kāpiti properties are at risk of being flooded during a 1-in-100-year event. As a result of several severe weather events since 2015, more than 800 locations have been flooded – and these events are likely to happen more often and be more intense in future.

The Council's stormwater system manages surface water run-off from properties, roads, driveways and footpaths in urban areas. It helps us to manage the risks of flooding and its impacts on the safety and health of Kāpiti people, but it doesn't always cope with the heavy rains and storms we're experiencing now.

The functioning of our stormwater network is also linked to the quality of our waterways. Streams and tributaries make up a large part of our stormwater network, so in managing the flow of our stormwater we also look after the health of our waterways. Through our partnership with iwi, our stormwater monitoring programme focuses on the effects of stormwater discharges, not just on human health, but also on ecosystem health, mahinga kai, recreation and Māori customary use.

The programme doesn't involve works on privately owned properties or buildings themselves. Our work involves making improvements to publicly owned assets, to address the risks to public and private properties.



Refocusing our *stormwater* management programme

Based on the funding allocated, the stormwater capital works programme in our 2015–35 long term plan would have taken 60 years to deliver.

After the two major floods in 2015 we undertook a districtwide investigation to better understand the degree of flood risks and the likely implications of floods happening around the district.

As a result we've developed a larger programme that we believe better addresses the risks of flooding and caters for our estimated population growth. It consists of projects in four priority categories (see the inset box on page 20) and also involves:

- creating large storage areas for water retention during peak flow periods, and slow, controlled releases;
- increasing the capacity of bridges, culverts and pipes that are restricting the flow of stormwater; and
- renewing existing assets as needed to maintain resilience across the entire network.

We'll be focusing first on areas where homes are at risk of flooding above floor level (these projects alone require a \$83m investment). The next priority is commercial buildings, followed by garages then flood-prone sections.

This new programme has a larger budget than previously, and therefore a greater impact on our borrowings. However, having considered whether we could deliver the programme in a shorter timeframe (25 or 30 years), we decided that 45 years was the most affordable option in view of our capital spending targets and borrowing limit (pages 10–11).

Given that this is a large-scale and expensive programme, we'd like your feedback on how we're proposing to deliver it.

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GWRC administers approximately 70km of our rivers and streams, such as the Waikanae and Ōtaki Rivers. Find out more at gw.govt.nz



Effective stormwater management contributes to healthy waterways.

What do you think? Should we...

Option A

Continue with the current programme?

The projects in the current stormwater upgrade and renewals programme are still valid and necessary. We'd continue to work our way through these projects as planned, addressing stormwater risks over 60 years.

- In the 20 years of this long term plan, we'd undertake 27 projects for approximately \$101m.
- The rates impact of continuing with the status quo stormwater programme would be a 0.06% reduction for 2018/19 and an average reduction of 0.08% over the next six years.
- Borrowings would be reduced by \$20m by the end of the 20-year period of the long term plan.
- We don't favour this option, because it doesn't adequately address the scale of the problem or reflect our latest view of priorities. It also doesn't include a systematic renewal of existing assets based on their age and condition.

Option B

Complete the expanded and prioritised programme over 45 years?



Our preferred option is to undertake the work required to protect flood-prone areas in Kāpiti within the borrowing limit of our financial strategy, which would mean spreading it over a significant period of time. We propose 45 years.

To ensure that we see improvement where it's most needed as soon as possible, we'd focus first on protecting properties where homes are at risk of flooding above floor level. This would be completed in the first 31 years of the 45-year programme, with section flooding projects from years 38 to 45.

- In the 20 years of this long term plan, we'd undertake 97 projects for approximately \$121m.
- In the 45 years we'd complete the full programme of approximately 240 prioritised projects, at a total cost of \$489m (\$239m in today's dollars).¹
- The rates and borrowings impact of carrying out the new stormwater programme in 45 years are included in our 4.7% proposed rates increase for 2018/19 and in our projected rates and borrowings on page 11.

Prioritisation order

The preferred option would see stormwater flood risks being addressed in the following order:

1. Habitable dwelling (home) flooding
2. Commercial building flooding
3. Garage flooding
4. Section flooding

¹ This difference is due to inflation.



Find out more about our stormwater programme and tell us what you think

kapiticoast.govt.nz/kapiti2038