A NEW APPROACH TO FLOOD RISK

Tauranga City has spent a lot of money on stormwater upgrades in the past, much of it following major flood events. The Council has decided that this is neither a financially prudent nor an effective way to continue. It would take up to 30 years and cost more than $300 million to flood-proof the entire city.

The Council's new approach will focus on reducing the risk to people's safety instead of trying to keep flood water away from habitable floors or protecting land from flooding.

This approach will be supported by a range of other initiatives which, over time, will help reduce flooding across the city.

HOW STORMWATER WORKS

Rainwater has to go somewhere. There are a number of ways to manage this for smaller rain events, such as the underground stormwater network and other systems like soak holes.

When this network gets full during heavier rain events, the water overflows and travels over land. In many cases these overland flow paths have been factored into the city’s layout. In some places the road corridor is designed to be part of this secondary system.

Overland flow paths are designed so that as much excess stormwater as possible will be directed safely along roads and drainage reserves to the harbour or stormwater ponds.

FLOODING PRIORITIES

People’s safety

- Tauranga City Council is identifying the areas in the city where flood water has flowed fast enough and deep enough on private property to pose a risk to people’s safety. Those areas will be given the highest priority for stormwater improvement projects.

- In some cases the Council may need to buy properties to completely remove the risk.

- The Council will not fund stormwater improvement projects in areas where flooding on private property poses low risk to people’s health and safety. Some flood improvement initiatives may be supported by the Stormwater Reactive Reserve Fund (see next page for details).

Emergency response

- Council will use a new Stormwater Reactive Reserve Fund to offer more emergency response and clean-up assistance during flood events.

Prevention

- Council will make more use of building and planning rules to ensure that flood risks are reduced when land is being altered or developed.

  - There will be more public education to help property owners address flood issues on their own properties.

www.tauranga.govt.nz
The recently established Stormwater Reactive Reserve Fund is part of Council's new approach to flood risk management. The fund was set up to help the community in a variety of ways as we respond to future flooding.

The **Draft Stormwater Reactive Reserve Fund Policy** provides guidelines to administer and implement the fund. We want your feedback on the draft policy.

**The draft policy proposes that the fund may be used for:**

- Helping with emergency response and recovery;
- Helping flood-affected land owners with clean-up;
- Initiatives on private and public land to help convey stormwater away from at-risk areas;
- Co-funding arrangements for stormwater projects;
- Potential property purchase under specific conditions.

**In particular we want to know your thoughts about:**

- **The whole-of-catchment approach taken by the policy.** This means that the fund would be used to help with clean-up of the flooded area in its entirety whether the damage is on private or public land.

- **The specific conditions around property purchase.** Tauranga City Council could consider using the fund to purchase a residential property if all of the following conditions apply:
  - the property is used principally for residential purposes;
  - flooding to a residential floor must have occurred more than once in the last 10 years;
  - flooding poses a risk to people’s safety or health.

Please give us your feedback. The full Statement of Proposal, draft Stormwater Reactive Reserve Fund Policy and the submission form are available online. You can also find copies are also at your local library or the Council customer service centre at 91 Willow Street.

**Submissions close 5pm, 23rd October, 2015.**