

3. Upper Tukituki gravel



This proposal gets the gravel build-up out of the river system to improve flood protection in Central Hawke’s Bay.

Keeping the risk from flooding at a low level relies on our work in flood protection schemes around Hawke’s Bay. This is a key piece of the Regional Council’s active response to climate change.

Although some flood protection was built in the 1950s, the Upper Tukituki scheme was constructed in the late 1980s. A short stretch of stopbank was raised in 2008.

The scheme protects the productive land of Ruataniwha Plains and the towns of Waipawa and Waipukurau from being flooded by the Upper Tukituki River and four of its tributaries – the Waipawa, Makaretu, Mangaonuku and Tukipo Rivers. With a population increase in the area, many people receive a direct benefit from the flood control scheme.

The flood-carrying capacity of the main rivers were previously balanced with river-gravels being extracted at about the same rate the gravel was carried down from the ranges. Over the past 5 years, less demand for gravel means higher river beds. Removing the gravel from the river beds will help restore the flood carrying capacity of the rivers.

We’re talking directly to the community in Central Hawke’s Bay most affected by this and there is a strong desire to see this work done so that the Upper Tukituki Flood Control Scheme can continue to provide the level of service desired by the residents.

Why now?

In August 2020, the Government announced funding for four projects in Hawke’s Bay, including \$4.51 million for gravel extraction from the upper Tukituki River to counter the effects of climate change. With Government funding secured, the Regional Council needs to add \$2.54 million to cover the full cost of this work (\$8 million over a three year period) which will make the whole Tukituki River system more resilient to climate change and maintain current levels of protection for our community.

OPTION 1 (preferred option)	OPTION 2
<p>Go fast – remove the gravel build-up from the Upper Tukituki scheme riverbeds to keep the community safe from floods.</p> <p>Impact on levels of service: Meet the agreed standard of flood protection for the Upper Tukituki scheme.</p> <p>Total cost: \$2.54 million of capital for 2021-22 and 2022-23, added to the Government’s approved funding of \$4.51 million.</p>	<p>Status quo = go slow – rely only on funding from those who contribute to the Upper Tukituki Scheme and lose the central government funding. Carry out the work at a much slower pace, i.e. over years rather than months. People in the upper and lower Tukituki River areas will remain at greater risk of flooding for longer.</p> <p>Impact on levels of service: Meet the agreed standard of flood protection for the Upper Tukituki scheme, over a longer period. The rate of progress (gravel extraction) will continue to be subject to market conditions.</p> <p>Total cost: Nil</p>
<p>Impact on rates: included in the rates increase Year 1 \$ 31,000 0.1% increase Year 2 \$108,000 0.4% increase Year 3 \$152,000 0.4% increase A total of \$1.36 million over 10 years.</p>	<p>Impact on rates: Nil</p>
<p>Impact on debt: \$2.54 million in years 1 and 2.</p>	<p>Impact on debt: Nil</p>