

2 December 2024

File Ref: OIAPR-1274023063-33622

Mike Fisher - Chairperson Petone Community Board  
By email: [Mike.Fisher@huttcity.govt.nz](mailto:Mike.Fisher@huttcity.govt.nz)

Tēnā koe Mike,

### **Request for information 2024-298**

I refer to your request for information dated 7 November 2024 which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) on 7 November 2024. You have requested the following:

*“Concerns have been raised with the Petone Community Board about the potential flood risks from the Hutt River impacting on areas of Petone and Alicetown.*

*The recent severe flooding events following Cyclone Giselle have brought these concerns to the fore. We have had feedback noting various issues which could contribute to increased adverse effects of a major rainfall event including accumulation of debris, stop bank design and placement of structures along the river south of Ewen Bridge.*

*In particular the area around the Ava rail bridge, Wakefield St and immediate environs are of concern, and the potential for any severe flooding impacting on the wider Petone community.*

*We would appreciate an update as to the situation regarding flood protection plans and any associated work proposed in this area, including what coordination there is with KiwiRail and WREMO.”*

### **Greater Wellington’s response follows:**

Greater Wellington is aware of increased interest from the community in flood risk from Te Awa Kairangi / Hutt River in the area around the Ava Rail Bridge. The information below has been provided via responses to those who have raised concerns and sought information from Greater Wellington.

## **Ava Rail Bridge**

Greater Wellington is in the process of investigating the area around the Ava Rail Bridge. This investigation will take into account updated flood hazard modelling for Te Awa Kairangi / Hutt River, which is nearing completion, and will consider the capacity of the Ava Rail Bridge and defences in the immediate vicinity, as well as options to address any issues identified including emergency plans, or changes to infrastructure. Greater Wellington has been in discussions with KiwiRail over bridge refurbishment and erosion protection.

Both the modelling and investigation are programmed for completion by July 2025.

Greater Wellington would like to reassure the community that the flood wall and defences through Ava Park are not designed to operate as a weir during flood events, but to provide protection to the community in Alicetown.

## **Hutt Valley**

From a broader perspective we are in progress of re-modelling and analysing the flood risk from Te Awa Kairangi / Hutt River. This project will produce updated flood hazard mapping for Te Awa Kairangi / Hutt River, an assessment of existing stop banks (and other flood protection assets), performance against the design flood, and updated emergency management protocols. We will work closely with Hutt City Council and Wellington Region Emergency Management Office (WREMO) on any updated emergency management protocols for this area.

Further information on the management of flood risk from Te Awa Kairangi / Hutt River can be found on our website:

- <https://www.gw.govt.nz/your-region/emergency-and-hazard-management/flood-protection/our-work/rivers-and-streams/te-awa-kairangi-hutt-river/>

The Riverlink/Te Awa Kairangi project is also increasing the resilience of stop banks protecting Hutt City Centre.

- <https://teawakairangi.co.nz/>

## **Regionally**


Greater Wellington is working with WREMO on a regional flood warning and response improvements programme. This programme is looking at all aspects of our flood incident management protocols and is learning lessons from the recent North Island Severe Weather Events (NISWEs). This programme has delivered automated warnings systems for the Wairarapa, new flood forecasting models across the region, comprehensive training for Flood Incident Duty Officers and a regular flood exercise cycle with local Emergency Management staff. This programme is being jointly delivered with WREMO.

We would be more than happy to meet with you and the Petone Community Board to explain the flood protection measures in the Greater Petone Area and to hear any concerns the wider community has.

If you have any concerns with the decision(s) referred to in this letter, you have the right to request an investigation and review by the Ombudsman under section 27(3) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where appropriate. Our response to your request will be published shortly on Greater Wellington's website with your personal information removed.

Nāku iti noa, nā



**Nigel Corry**  
Tumu Whakarae | Chief Executive