

Regional Flood Risk Management Framework

by Katalin Maltai-Engineering Officer (BOPRC)

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Background:

The Regional Flood Risk Management Framework has been set up to create a catchment based collaborative approach to managing flood risk.

The motivation for development of a Regional Flood Risk Management Framework (RFRMF) came from the high costs of recent floods (2004, 2010 and 2011) and the current fragmented approach to flood risk management across the region. The development of the RFRMF is related to an allied project, the River Scheme Sustainability (RSS) project which is more focussed on sustainability of the BOPRC River and Drainage Schemes.

The Regional Flood Risk Management project was initiated in the 2012-2022 TYP with plan to develop a region-wide flood risk management strategy in the late 2011. The draft Annual Plan 2013/14 did not initially list the above as a project, but following submissions from TCC and WBOPDC it was included in the 2013/14 Annual Plan.

The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) gives Regional Councils the function of controlling land use for the purpose of (amongst other things) the avoidance or mitigation of natural hazards. Territorial Authorities (TA) serve a complementary function in the control of any actual or potential effects of the use, development or protection of land, including for the purpose of the acceptance, avoidance or mitigation of natural hazards. *Flood risk management can therefore be considered as being the joint responsibility of both regional and territorial authorities.*

What we aim to achieve – and when:

The desired future situation for flood risk management in the region includes:

- Resilient communities with understanding and acceptance of risks to which they are exposed
- Affordable flood mitigation and flood risk management
- Collaborative catchment management across territorial and regional authorities
- Reduction in risk exposure
- Enhanced well-being of the Bay of Plenty region.

The Regional Flood Risk Management Framework is intended as a vehicle to traverse from the current fragmented to the desired future state described above. BOPRC is planning to roll out the refined RFRMF to the Bay of Plenty Region over the next 5 years with the collaboration of all TLA's in the area.

What we've done so far:

The draft Regional Flood Risk Management Framework has been developed and accepted by the Steering Group. TCC and WBDC have jointly agreed to carry out two pilot studies in a collaborative way to assess the pragmatic nature of the framework.

The two catchments that have been chosen are the Kopurererua and Waihi Beach both have known flooding problems and cross boundary issues. These have been selected for applicability with a view to testing the proposed framework for robustness. The timing of this builds upon the fact that Western Bay of Plenty District Council has recently finalised a flood hazard mapping study for Waihi Beach that can be used as the basis of a full flood risk assessment. TCC have recently engaged GHD consultancy to carry out flood hazard assessments in the Kopurererua catchment area, which is subject to the “cross boundary” issues (where flooding occurs within the TCC boundary but upper catchment lies within the WBOPDC boundary).

During the pilot study phase, the RFRMF document will be tested and refined, as well as changes identified in areas such as planning, land management, policy, legislation etc.

Key issues and decision points of the three organisations:

- Councillors and staff must speak with one voice to the public and the stakeholders.
- Both TCC and WBOPDC have requested BOPRC to take the lead role in the project.
- A collaborative Project Team and Steering Group have been set up incorporating the three organisations.
- The project will most likely feed into changes to District Plan (policies, plans and maps) for all organisations.
- Definition of when the project is complete.