

Comments for the re-modelling

Given the existing capacity of permeable soil and storm water collection capacity any change in the ratio between the two can increase or decrease the level of flooding.
Surfaces such as roofs, patios, driveways will accelerate water to seek its way downstream wherever that is. In Lower Hutt there are open streams and piped storm water networks to take the water. Both have a limited maximum before serious problems occur.
Any new development should follow the Hydraulic Neutrality principal without discretion.
Remodelling should be based on strict adherence to that principle.
Processes have to be defined to measure the before and after peak discharges for a specific site.
The values measured for a site should remain with the property record.
Later additions such as garages, sheds, patios ,pavements would have to fall under the same regime as otherwise the burden on the infrastructure would become too big.
Potential ADD ONs would have to be considered at the initial permit application.
Breaches of the Neutrality should be charged to the offender.

It needs to be fully understood that the remodelling of impacts because of natural hazards is futile if the "man made" hazards are allowed to continue.
If one new development gets discretion and is allowed to load more discharge, additional cost ,usually incurred by someone else, will follow.
The introduction of the proposed District Plan states that newer flood levels should not lead to higher insurance cost. This sounds like wishful thinking as most insurance companies already have expressive obligations that the insured owner has to advise of a change of circumstances if the owner is advised by authorities about changes in flood levels.

The Three Waters IHP's Recommended Amendments: 08/02/2024 is a case in point for potential exceptions.

THW-P4

2. The additional demand generated will not necessitate additional unplanned public investment in, or expansion of, the three waters infrastructure network or compromise its ability to service other activities permitted within the zone.

One project will not lead immediately to demand on public funding but will have impacts down stream.

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There is no increase in offsite storm water peak flows and volumes from current levels as a result of subdivision, use and development in urban areas.

The Opahu stream in Lower Hutt collects stormwater in a mix of open channels and feds from stormwater pipes throughout a large catchment.
Increased flood levels in central Hutt are only partially the result of natural hazards but to a large extent due to discretion and sneaked through discharges.

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