



23 January 2026

Stephen (Steve) Pattinson

s7(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Steve,

**Request for Information – Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA) 1987**

We refer to your official information request dated 17 December 2025, seeking clarification and documents related to flood modelling and GIS zone definitions. Specifically, you requested:

- 1. An explanation of what is meant by “Relevant Zone” and “Non-Relevant Zone” in the Flood Inundation areas, Overland Flow Paths and Stream Corridors shown in the HCC GIS Viewer.*
- 2. The flood ‘Model Build’ reports for the Lower Hutt flood modelling that produced the flood maps in the Operative District Plan.*
- 3. The flood ‘Model Build’ reports for the 2023 flood model(s) for Lower Hutt (Plan Change 56 – Enabling Intensification).*
- 4. The flood ‘Model Build’ reports for the 2024 flood model(s) for Lower Hutt (Proposed District Plan Review).*
- 5. Confirmation of whether the Flood Model Reports listed in the Proposed District Plan Review documents are for the 2024 modelling, and clarification on differences between the 2023 and 2024 modelling (including climate change allowances).*

**Answer:**

In response to your questions about the “Relevant Zone” and “Non-Relevant Zone” categories displayed in the flood layers on the HCC GIS Viewer, the layers

distinguish between land within zones that contain natural hazard provisions in the District Plan and land within zones that do not. This approach was introduced through Plan Change 56 because that statutory process only permitted natural hazard provisions to be applied to certain zones. The zones included as “Relevant Zones” are High Density Residential, Medium Density Residential, Central Commercial, Petone Commercial, and Suburban Mixed Use. All other zones are shown as “Non-Relevant Zones”, where the information is displayed for general awareness rather than for regulatory purposes. You can view information about this at: [District Plan - City of Lower Hutt District Plan](#).

With regard to your request for the model build reports that informed the flood maps in the Operative District Plan, the reports used for Plan Change 56 and for the Proposed District Plan Review are all publicly available on Council’s website as part of the technical assessments supporting the District Plan Review. You can view this information at: [Evaluation Reports and Technical Assessments | Hutt City Council](#). It is important to note that only the Black Creek, Eastern Lower Hutt, Petone, and Stokes Valley model build reports were used for [Plan Change 56](#) and continue to be the relevant reports for the operative plan. All model build reports were also used to inform the [Proposed District Plan](#).

Turning to parts 3 and 4 of your request about the 2023 (Plan Change 56) and 2024 (Proposed District Plan Review) modelling, the model build reports themselves are the same underlying technical reports. The difference between the 2023 and 2024 material lies in how the outputs of the model are processed and presented for planning purposes. Plan Change 56 applied the Wellington Water stormwater model to identify Inundation Areas, Overland Flow Paths, and Stream Corridors, based on a combination of flood depth and velocity. The Proposed District Plan uses the same modelling but classifies land into Low, Medium, or High flood hazard categories. By contrast, the maps on the GIS Viewer show raw flood depths, which explains why they appear different from the plan maps even though they originate from the same modelling.

Finally, as to the reports listed in the Proposed District Plan Review, the model build reports included there are the correct reports for the 2024 modelling. Although some of these reports carry 2022 or 2023 dates, they remain the relevant and current technical material for both the 2023 and 2024 modelling.

The primary update applied in 2024 was the increased climate change allowance of a 35 percent increase in rainfall intensity (HIRDSv4, RCP 8.5), which has been incorporated into the modelling that supports the Proposed District Plan.

Council does not hold any additional model build reports beyond those already published online.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at: [Office of the Ombudsman - Complaints](#), or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response to your information request may be published on Hutt City Council's website: [Proactive releases - Hutt City Council](#).

Ngā mihi nui



Rebekah van der Splinter

**Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy**