



21 October 2024

Dan Power

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Dear Dan Power

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

We refer to your letter dated 5 October 2024 for Information. We will response to each of your questions in turn.

1) Does Council have a policy position on if Petone will become uninhabitable because of sea level rise; if so, what the titles of the policy documents, in which year is substantial uninhabitability anticipated; if not, why not?

Response: Council does not have any formal policy position about the impacts of sea level rise on Petone.

2) What is a summary of Council's planning to make Petone resistant to predicted sea level rise, and to what level of resistance, and at what dollar cost; if any?

Response: There is a variety of work currently take taking place in relation to climate change and the impacts of seal level rise in Lower Hutt. You can find more information here:

<https://www.huttcity.govt.nz/environment-and-sustainability/climate-change>

Of immediate note is the review of the District Plan. This involves new modelling and mapping of natural hazards associated with climate change including coastal inundation, flooding, and land instability. The Proposed District Plan will be notified in early 2025 and will include controls for managing land use, development, and subdivision in hazard areas.



The new flood modelling incorporates a the 1.59m sea level rise scenario recommended in this guidance from the Ministry of the Environment on coastal hazards and climate change:

<https://environment.govt.nz/publications/coastal-hazards-and-climate-change-guidance/>

The modelling also applies a predicted rainfall increase of 35%, which is equivalent to the RCP 8.5 scenario provided by NIWA for Hutt City Lower Hutt 100 years from now (the 2130 date horizon).

Council does not have specific information on the cost to make Petone resistance impervious to sea level rise.

The Wellington Regional Leadership Committee is also carrying out a Regional Adaptation Project (RAP) to identify actions to deal with the current and future impacts of climate change. You can find more information here:

<https://wrlc.org.nz/project/regional-adaptation-project>

3) What is a summary of any plans to stop Council investment in Petone and issuing of building consents because of predicted sea level rise; if any?

Response: There are no current plans to stop Council investment or to stop issuing building consents in Petone.

4) Has Council to date made any written request to any central government representative or authority for investment to protect Petone from sea level rise; if so, please provide a copy of any record of that request; and if not, why not?

Response: Council has made no such request to any central government representative or authority.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response to your information request may be published on Hutt City Council's website. Please refer to the following link: www.huttcity.govt.nz/council/contactus/make-an-official-information-act-request/proactive-releases

Yours sincerely

Philip Rossiter

Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy