



17 September 2024

Kaya Selby



Dear Kaya Selby

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

We refer to your email dated 16 August 2024 for Information. We will answer each of your questions in turn.

Response:

1) What information is used to create flood maps?

The flood maps are developed using results from detailed stormwater hydraulic models. The models are developed in alignment with the Wellington Water Stormwater Modelling Specifications. Inputs include, but are not limited to:

- Topographic information (sourced from LiDAR);
- Regional hydrological layers developed from landcover information sourced from LRIS and soil information sourced from Landcare Research S-Map;
- Stormwater asset information sourced from the actively maintained Wellington Water asset database;
- Aerial photography and Google Streetview;
- Any available development and as-built plans; and
- Design rainfall sourced from NIWA HIRDS V4.



2) What purpose was the flood mapping created for?

The purpose of the flood mapping is to assist with managing the risk associated with new development in areas that are more susceptible to flooding. It informs whether different types of development is permitted or whether it will require a resource consent. It also informs minimum height requirements for new buildings.

3) What effect does this have on new builds and existing builds?

The flood mapping has no effect on existing buildings unless someone wishes to extend the building.

For proposed buildings or extensions to existing buildings, the effect of the flood mapping will depend on the location and the purpose of the building.

In some locations, the flood mapping means that a resource consent needs to be obtained for the building to be approved. The risk associated with the new building (and the proposed use of the building), including any proposed measures to mitigate the risk, is then assessed through the resource consent process.

In other locations, no resource consent is required, but there may be a minimum height requirement for the ground floor of the building.

4) What advice has HCC been given from the government about risk management as it relates to flooding and seismic issues?

We have not received any advice from central government on flooding and seismic issues.

The Ministry for the Environment released Coastal hazards and climate change guidance earlier this year. This can be relevant in relation to flooding, particularly in coastal areas. This guidance is available on their website at:

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

5) What were the budget allocations and limitations for flood mapping and risk management activities?

Wellington Water is provided budget every financial year by Hutt City Council in the vicinity of \$250,000 to \$300,000 for stormwater modelling (including model building, model validation, model updates, model maintenance, and community engagement) and associated activities (flood extent mapping, providing

information for land use advice, district plan mapping, answering development queries).

The key limitation of the modelling is the information that is used to develop the stormwater models. Where the input information quality and/or availability is limited the modelling has to make additional assumptions and inferences. However, these limitations are investigated and managed through sensitivity testing to understand the impact of key inputs on model output.

With regard to the risk management activities undertaken by the Council's Policy Planning, specifically the review of the District Plan approach to natural hazard risks, the cost of these have been part of the overall District Plan Review budget, which covers a wide range of resource management issues. We are unable to say what proportion of that budget relates to risk management activities.

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

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