

# Working together to let our awa breathe

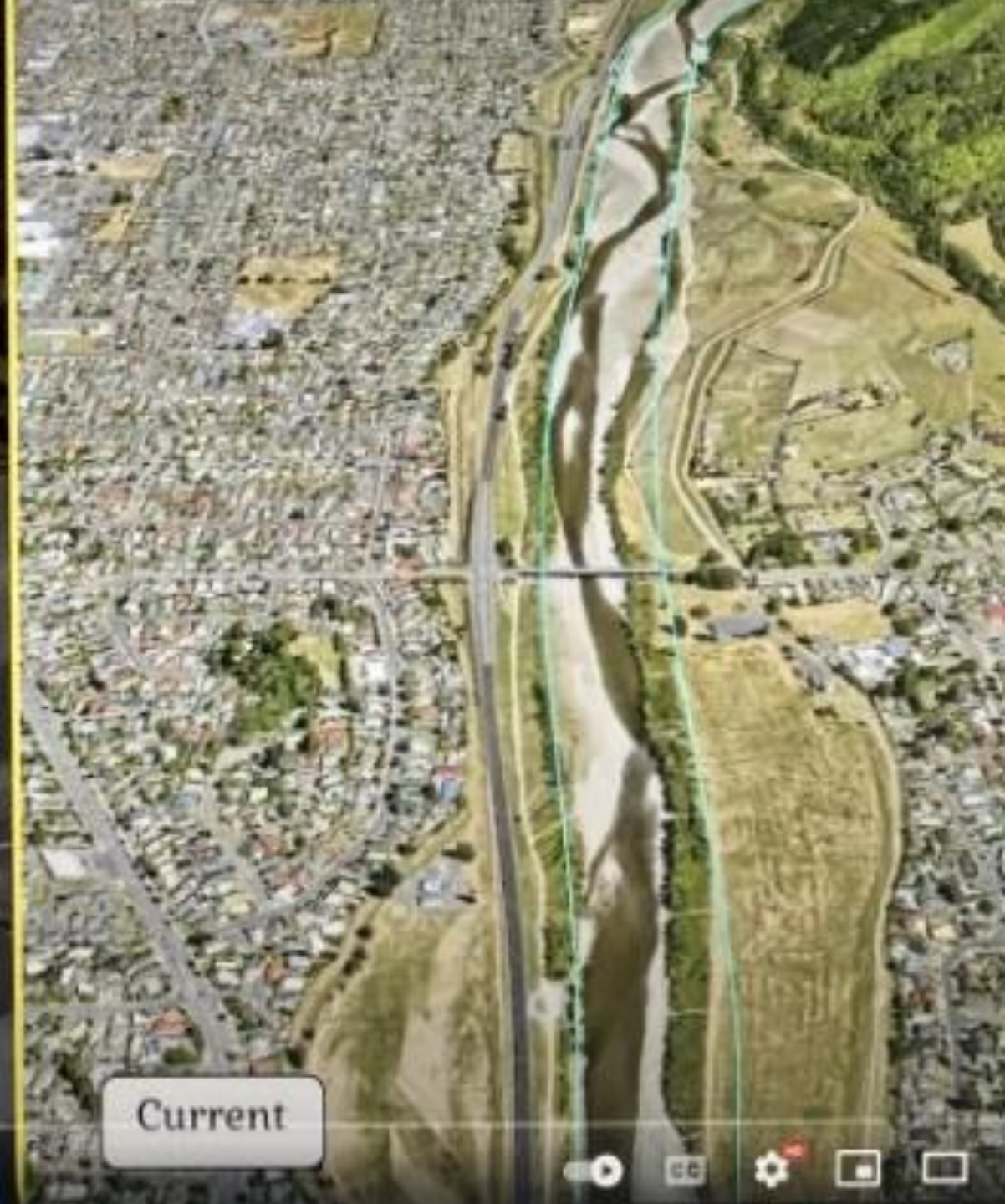
**Amanda Death**

*Greater Wellington Regional Council*





1939 - 1942



Current



So why now?



manataki kōwhiri  
**rivers**  
GROUP  
A professional services group of  
Engineering the Future & Water NZ



2022 RIVERS GROUP CONFERENCE

# MAKING ROOM FOR RIVERS

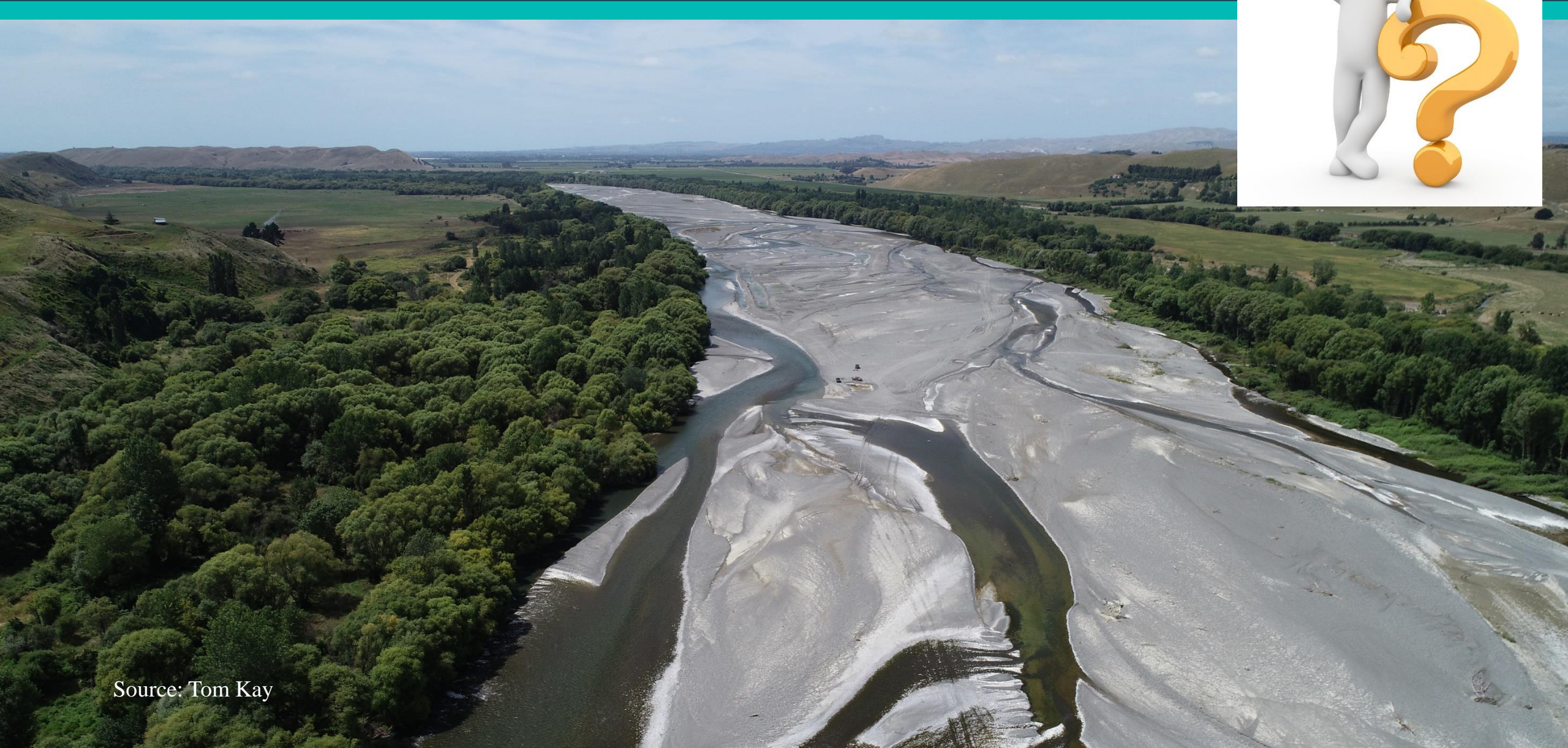
**9-11 November 2022**

Lower Hutt Events Centre



Source: Steve Dighton

But how?



Source: Tom Kay

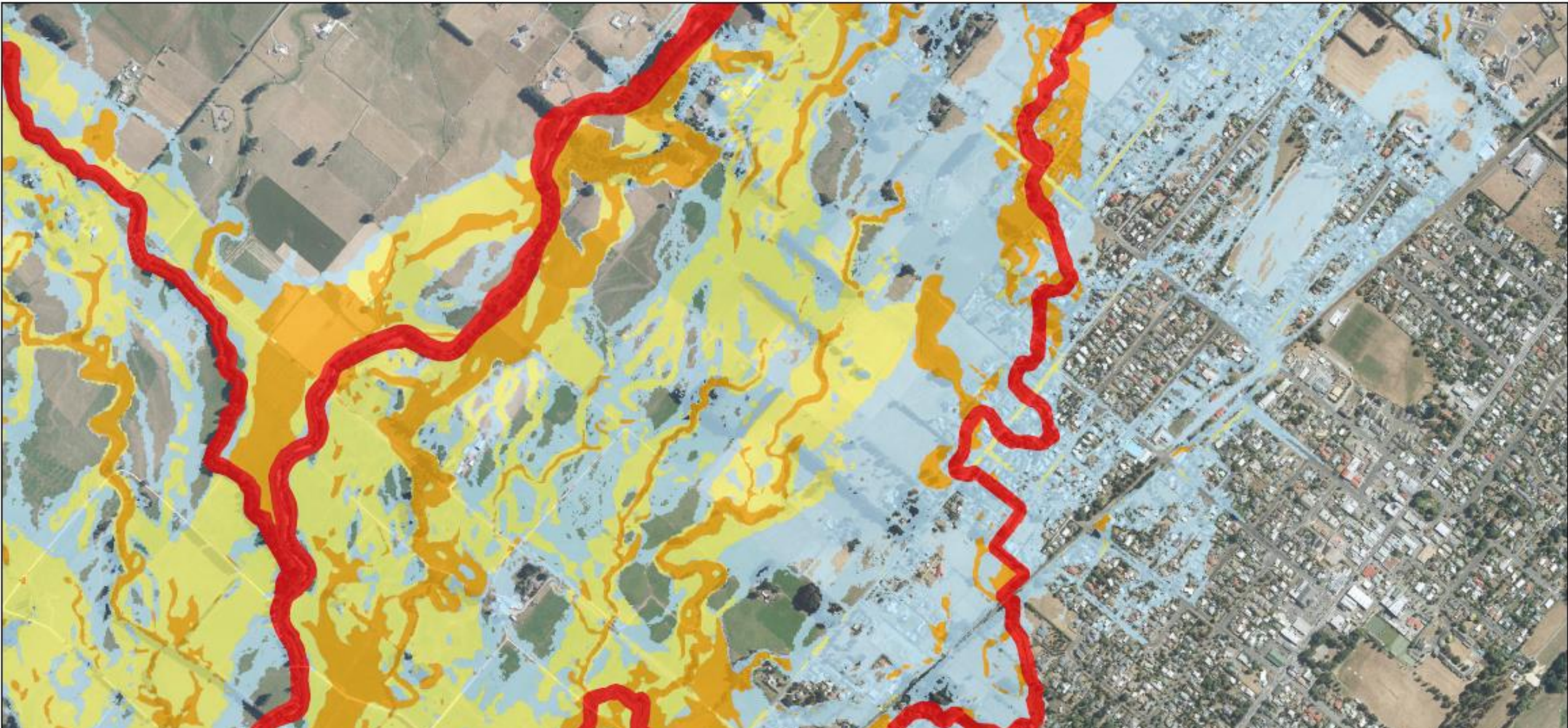


# How have councils managed rivers?



Source: Robbie Graham

# Data collection and flood modelling



# Flood risk management planning



## TE KĀURU UPPER RUAMĀHANGA FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PLAN

DECEMBER 2019



# Planning controls

## ≡ Napier Operative District Plan

Full Napier Operative District Plan

Operative: 28 Jul 2022

Revision: 28 Jul 2022

↻ Change

### Volume 1

Part 1 Introduction

Chapter 1 - Introduction

1.1 What is a District Plan?

1.2 Description of the Napier City Area

1.3 Statutory Framework

1.4 Means of Achieving Environmental Outcomes

1.5 How to Use the Plan

1.6 Types of Resource Consent

1.7 Written Consents & Notification

1.8 Information Requirements

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1.11 Relationship with the Urban Growth Strategies

1.12 Cross Boundary Issues

Volume 1 / Part 1 Introduction / Chapter 1 - Introduction

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## Chapter 1 - Introduction

### Chapter 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 What is a District Plan?

A district plan is a formal document prepared under the provisions of the [Resource Management Act 1991](#). [The Act](#) places a mandatory requirement on the Napier City Council to prepare a plan for its [district](#). This district plan shall be reviewed no later than 10 years after becoming operative in accordance with Section 79(2) of [the Act](#).

It is the Council's duty to prepare a district plan to cover all of the [land](#) and the surface of [water bodies](#) in its territory. This District Plan applies to areas above the line of mean high water springs. Those areas below the line of mean high water springs, including coastal waters, are dealt with in the Regional Coastal Plan prepared by the Hawke's Bay Regional Council.

Following the enactment of the RMA in 1991, the Council began the review of its district Plan by preparing it in territorial sections. Three subdistrict Plans were prepared – Bay View, Western Hills and Ahuriri. Each of these three subdistrict Plans eventually became operative under the RMA. Over time, it became apparent that this subdistrict approach was no longer appropriate as it resulted in inconsistencies across the Plans. The Council subsequently decided to discontinue the preparation of any further subdistrict Plans. In an Environment Court Decision in October 2002 the Court found that that the Proposed City of Napier District Plan could not have been a review of the Ahuriri Subdistrict Plan on technical grounds. The Court ruled that the Proposed District Plan is redundant in terms of its application to the Ahuriri Subdistrict and therefore the only plan in effect for the Ahuriri and Westshore areas is the Operative Ahuriri Subdistrict Plan This Plan therefore combines all the subdistrict Plans previously reviewed with those areas of the City that had not been reviewed under the Resource Management Act, with the exception of the Ahuriri Subdistrict.

The Resource Management Act has the concept of "sustainable management" as its cornerstone. The purpose of [the Act](#) is to "promote the sustainable management of [natural and physical resources](#)". In achieving this purpose, the Council shall recognise and provide for matters of national importance set down in Section 6, have particular regard to other matters in Section 7, and take into account the principles of the [Treaty of Waitangi](#) as required by Section 8 of [the Act](#).

Part II of [the Act](#) - the Purposes and Principles - is detailed in [Appendix 1](#) of this Plan.

Section 72 of the Resource Management Act sets down the Purpose of District Plans as follows:

"The purpose of the preparation, implementation, and administration of district plans is to assist territorial authorities to carry out their functions in order to achieve the purpose of [the Act](#)".

# Structural measures



# River management activities



# Emergency Management



Source: NEMA

# How can we manage rivers to allow them to be rivers?



## How Greater Wellington can work towards allowing more room for the region's rivers

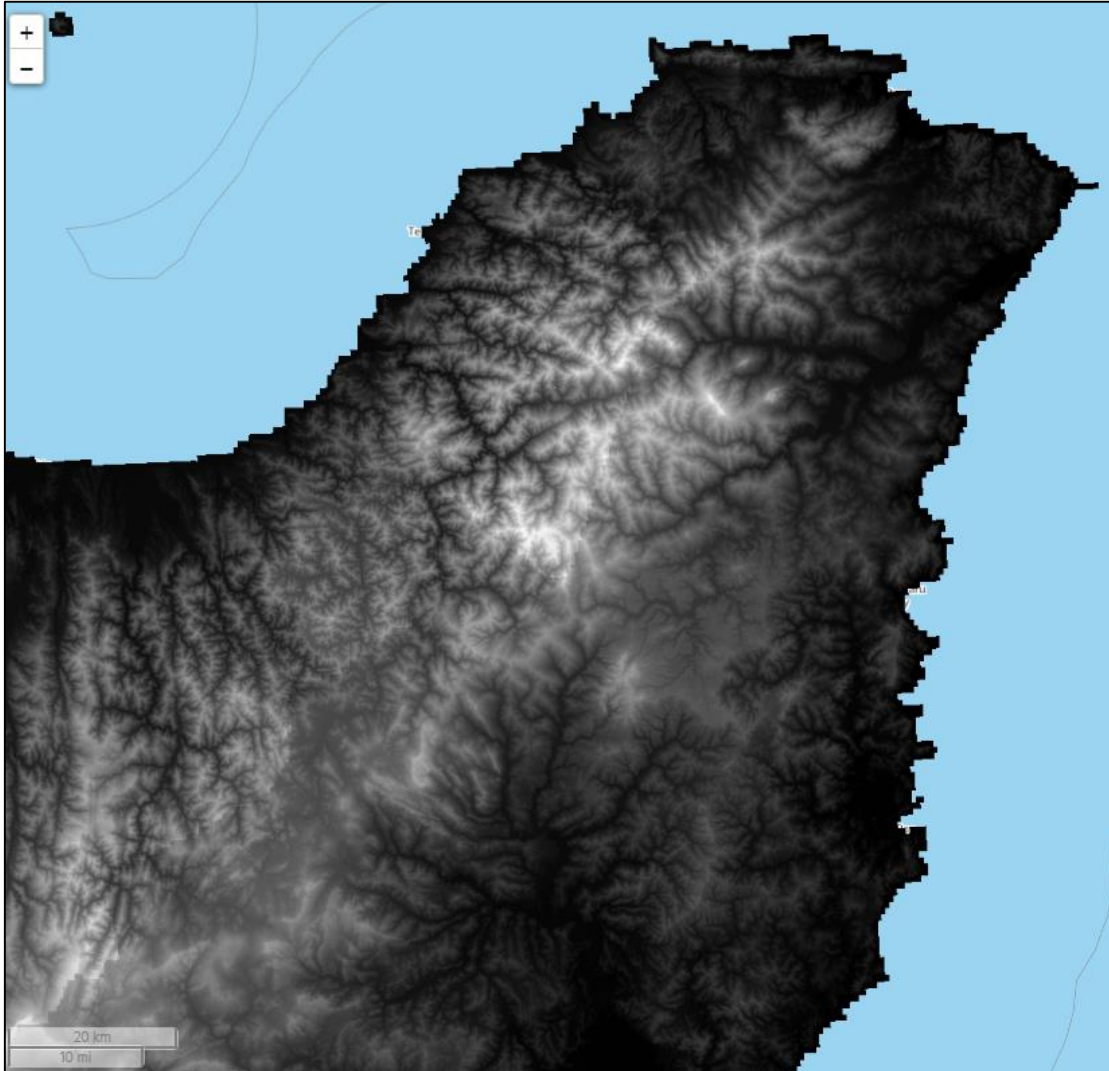
Amanda Death

December 2022





# Data collection and flood modelling



Source: LINZ

- Undertake studies to investigate historic river patterns
- Undertake oral history studies



# Flood risk management planning

- Incorporate key values that support room for our awa into flood and erosion risk management plans
- When looking at options for managing the flood risk, give those options that provide more room for our rivers high rankings

## Improve conveyance of flood water

Increase the flow rate and volume that can be contained within the Waipoua River



## Increased upstream storage

Hold back some flood water upstream of the urban area



## Flood resilience and community preparedness

Management flood waters beyond the river



## Catchment Management

Aim to reduce the speed and runoff of water down the river catchment



## Upgrade or construct stopbanks

Permanent flood defence structures that prevent flood water from leaving the river



# Planning controls

- When key planning documents and legislation come up for renewal ensure new rules and policies to support room for our awa are incorporated.

## Amend Policy 52 as follows:

Policy 52: Minimising adverse effects of hazard mitigation measures – consideration



When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a change, variation or review of a district or regional plan, for hazard mitigation measures, particular regard shall be given to:

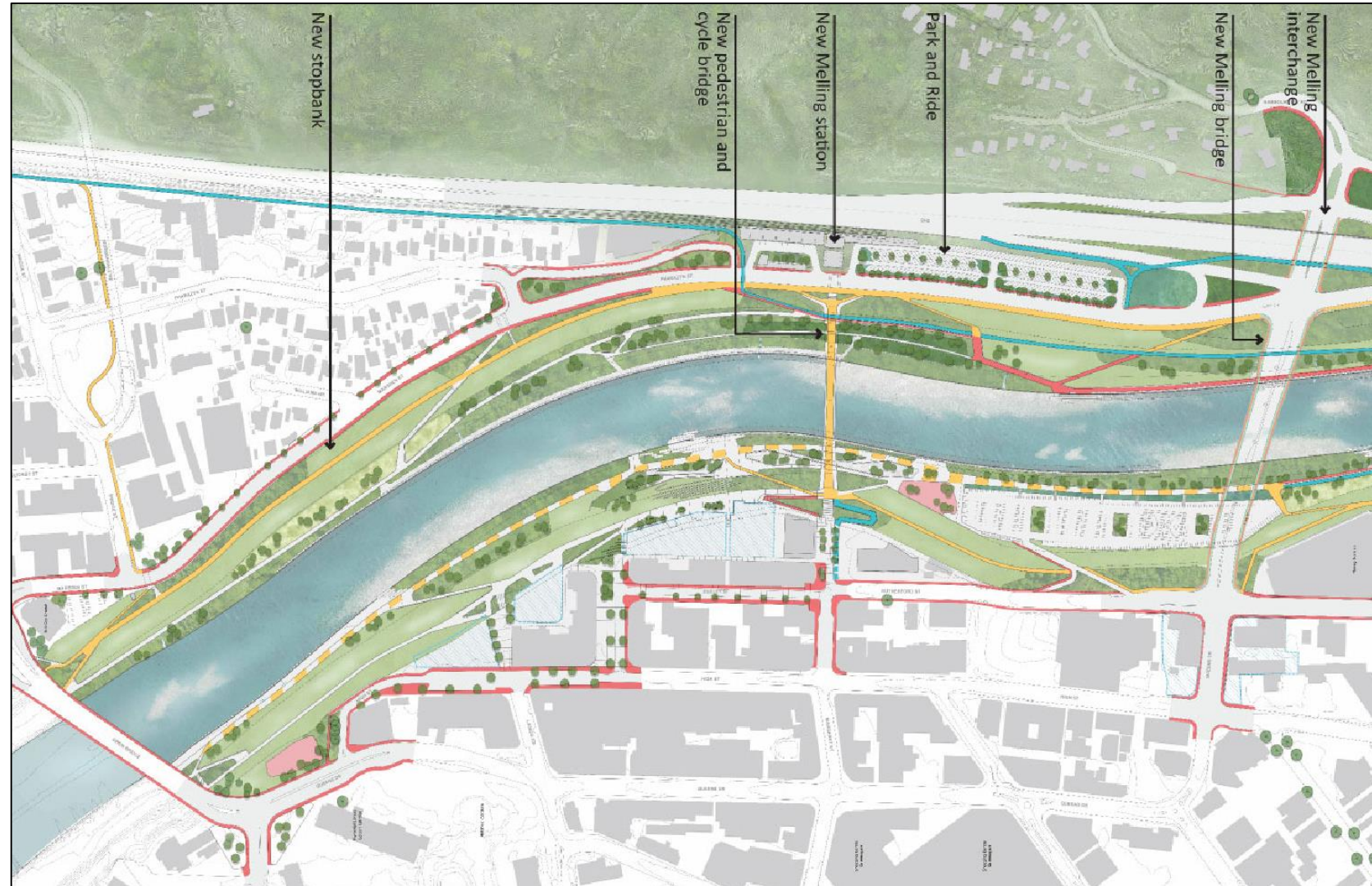
- (a) ~~the need for structural protection works or hard engineering methods;~~
- (b) whether non-structural, soft engineering, green infrastructure, room for the river or Mātauranga Māori options provide a more appropriate or suitably innovative solution;
- (c) avoiding structural protection works or hard engineering methods unless it is necessary to protect existing development, regionally significant infrastructure or property from unacceptable risk and the works form part of a long-term hazard management strategy that represents the best practicable option for the future;



Proposed Regional Plan |  
Kotahi

# Structural measures

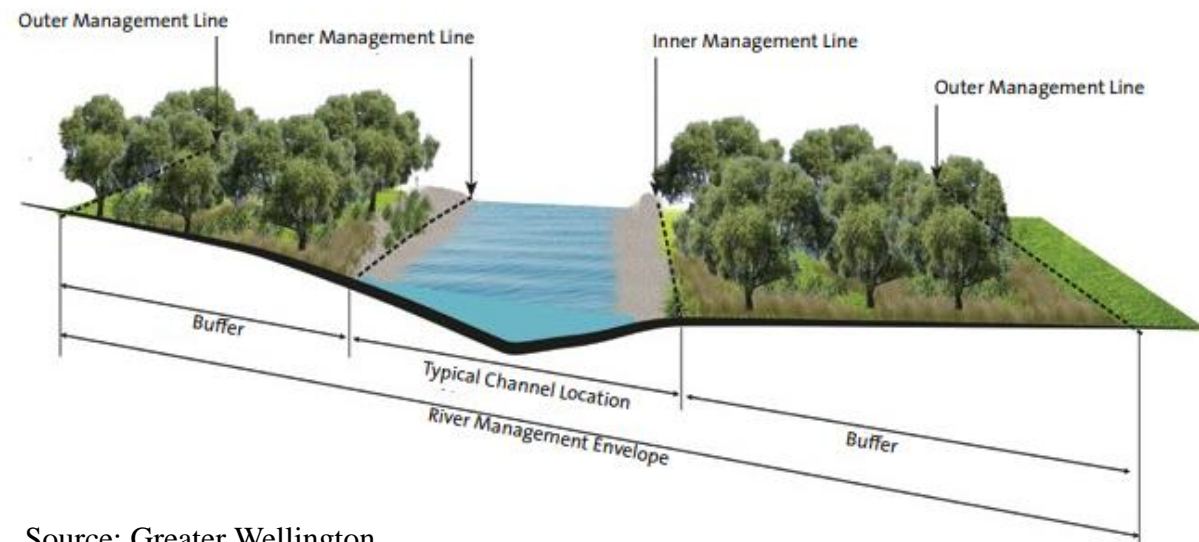
- Set back new stopbank further from the awa
- Relocate old stopbank away from the river



# River management activities



- Design lines show the extent the river can move before engineers will intervene.
- There is an opportunity to ensure these lines reflect the needs of the river giving them space to erode and move.



Source: Greater Wellington

# Emergency management

- Look for recovery options to build back better following a flood



Source: RNZ.co.nz

Media release

## Local organisations outline eight asks to make Hawke's Bay communities climate resilient

SHARE THIS



Conservation ar... [Land, Fresh water, Oceans, Climate](#)

Issue date: [Tuesday, 23 May 2023](#)

Resource type: [Media release](#)

Iwi, environmental groups, and community resilience organisations in Hawke's Bay are asking all local councils to rethink their approach to climate mitigation in light of the damage Cyclone Gabrielle inflicted on the region.

**But its not just these ideas that are needed**



# Community buy-in is needed





# Better understanding of Te Ao Māori is needed

- Increased understanding of Te Ao Māori will help everyone to understand what the river wants and needs
- It also helps everyone understand the broader ways of approaching working with te Taiao



Source: Mauri Tuhono

# This won't be easy and will take time

- Just as an awa twists and turns, so too will the journey to allow them to flourish.
- It will also take time to build relationship, bring people on the journey.
- It will also take time for the awa to heal itself when it finally is set free.



# In summary

- Our awa have been strangled over the last 100 years in order to protect people
- Now is the time to make a change
- There are plenty of different tools in the kete that can be used to work towards giving them space to move
- Getting community buy-in and increase everyone's knowledge of Te Ao Māori

**Together we can work towards  
letting our awa breathe**

**Nāku te rourou,  
Nau te rourou,  
Ka ora ai te iwi**

**With your basket  
And my basket  
The people will thrive**