

Report No.	20-151
Information Only - No Decision Required	

DISTRICT ADVICE UPDATE

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. This report is to inform Members of the District Advice activities carried out over the last financial year 2019-20 and the five month period from 1 May to 30 September 2020.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 20-151.

3. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 3.1. The coordination of this function is part of the role of the Coordinator District Advice and is included in the 2018-28 Long Term Plan under the Community Relationships Activity.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 4.1. This is a public item, therefore Council may deem this sufficient to inform the public.

5. CLIMATE IMPACT STATEMENT

- 5.1. This report deals with administrative matters only so there is no direct climate change impact as a result. However, advice provided to the public and **Territorial Authorities (TAs)** on natural hazards helps the community to understand climate change and build resilience in our Region.

6. BACKGROUND

- 6.1. The District Advice Service is responsible for responding to requests for information from the general public and territorial authorities for properties in our Region.
- 6.2. It provides information to the public to inform on land valuations, insurance matters, prospective purchases and hazard risk for new developments and activities.
- 6.3. It also provides comments and advice to the Region's TAs to assist with their assessments of building consents, land use consents, and subdivision decisions. Comments and advice include any relevant information that **Horizons Regional Council (Horizons)** may hold on the property, particularly natural hazard information, and information on One Plan policies and rules.
- 6.4. The **Coordinator District Advice (CDA)** manages Horizons' obligations to the Building Act in relation to dams.
- 6.5. The CDA contributes to Horizons' responses to draft and proposed plan changes that are notified by TAs within our Region and provides relevant knowledge on urban growth.

7. LAND DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION REQUESTS

- 7.1. The total District Advice responses for 2019-20 financial year was confirmed at **1073**. This compares to a total of **1062** responses during the 2018-19 financial year. This shows

that the trend for information requests was a 1% increase in volume on the previous year. 692 of these requests were for the general public and 381 were for the TAs. The main type of enquiry was for flooding (419) and subdivisions (322).

7.2. The number of District Advice responses for the 2019-20 financial year by property location:

- Manawatū	454
- Palmerston North	165
- Horowhenua	143
- Rangitīkei	115
- Tararua	84
- Whanganui	68
- Ruapehu	44

7.3. This Report provides the summary of statistics for the five months from 1 May to 30 September 2020.

7.4. The District Advice Service responded to a total of **450** requests. **306** of these requests were for the general public and **144** for the TAs.

7.5. The total requests received for the same time last year (1 May to 30 September 2019) were 517. This shows that the trend for requests is a 15% decrease compared to the same time period last year. The decrease will likely be an impact of COVID-19, as the percentage was tracking at a 16% increase prior to COVID-19 alert level 4 lockdown.

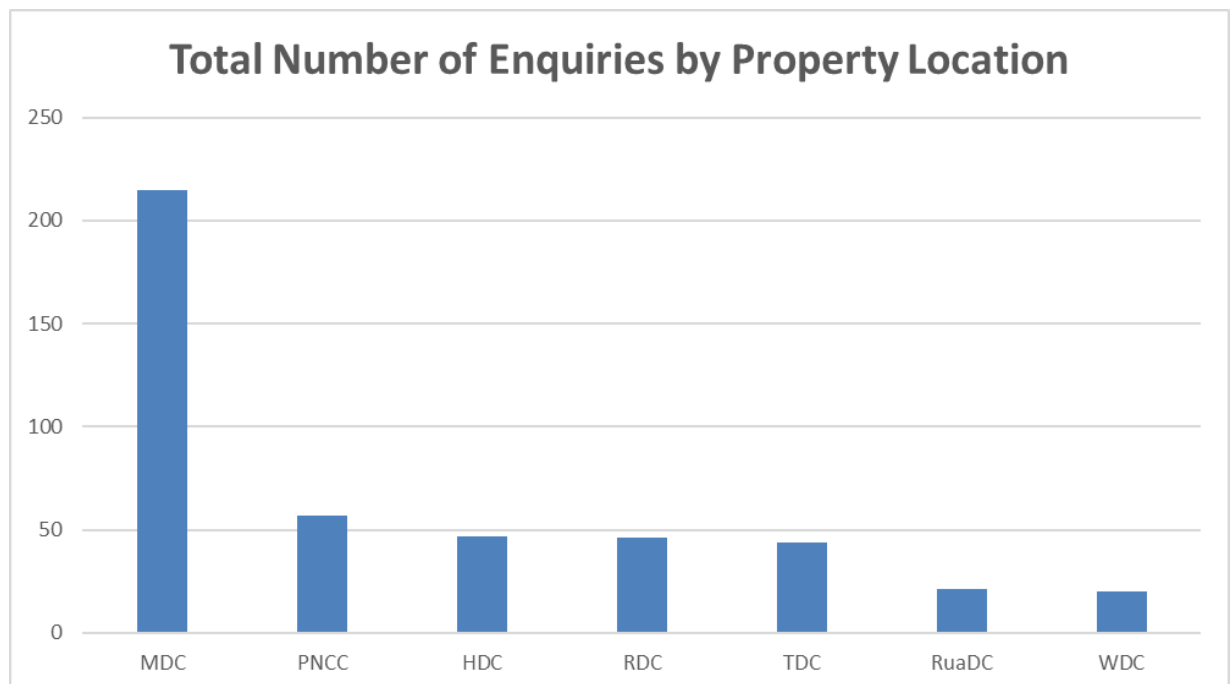


Figure 1

7.6. Figure 1 above illustrates the number of enquiries responded to in the five month period by property location.

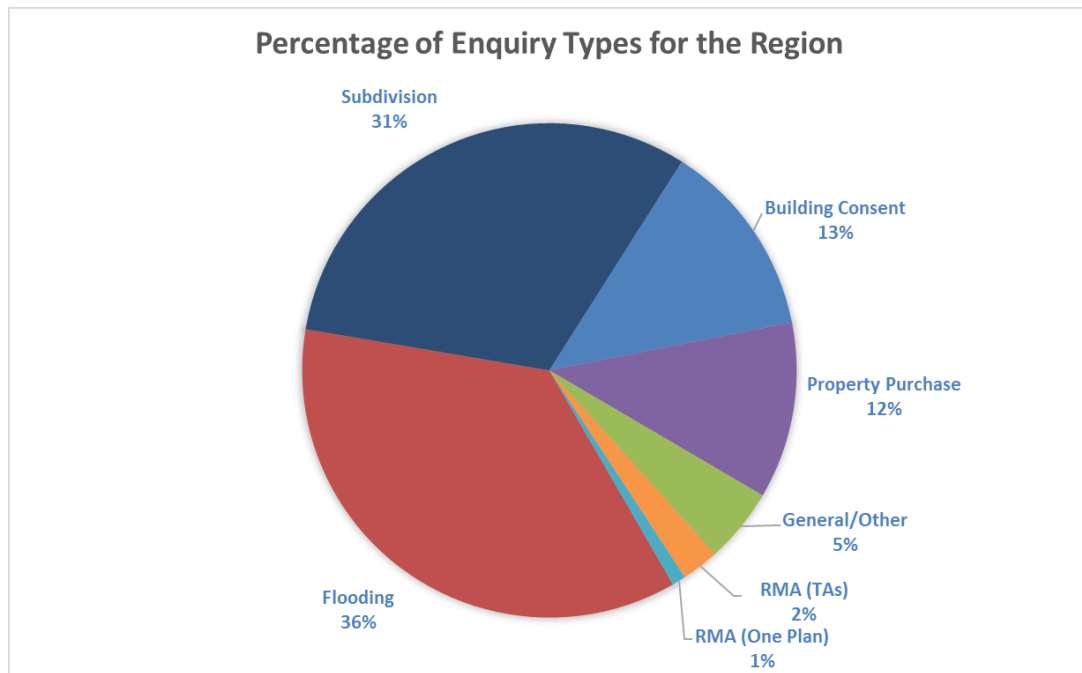


Figure 2

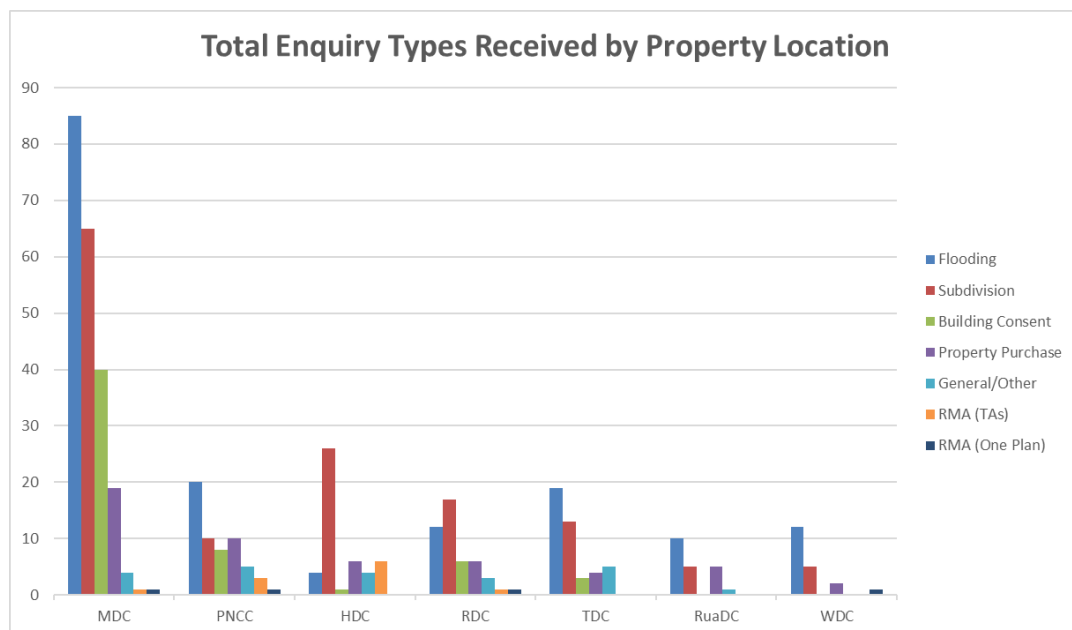


Figure 3

- 7.7. Figure 2 shows the total enquiry type by percentage that the District Advice Team has received for the Region.
- 7.8. Figure 3 shows the enquiry types that the District Advice Team has received by property location.
- 7.9. The main type of enquiry was for flooding (162), and this is consistent across most districts. This is followed by subdivisions (141), building consents (58), property purchases (52) and the remaining are general or other RMA related requests (37).
- 7.10. Given the uncertainty of COVID-19, we are unsure what the trend will be for the next reporting period.

8. IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES (INCLUDES PRESENTATION)

- 8.1. With support from the Information Management and Infrastructure Technology Teams, the District Advice Team have implemented initiatives to improve efficiencies and quality of information provided to customers. These include continued improvements to the public gallery of Horizons' maps, which includes a District Advice map especially tailored for District Advice enquiries. The District Advice online property request form which has been implemented initially with the Manawatū District Council staff and recently it has been extended to the Horowhenua District Council staff. The next stage is to implement it for the remaining TAs, key stakeholders and agents. The final stage is for the form to be linked to Horizons' website so it's accessible to the public.
- 8.2. The CDA continues to chair the HazMap Working Group, a forum that shares hazard and mapping information to improve capability and relationships across teams in Horizons. Over this period there have been monthly meetings covering natural hazard information on Pohangina, Ashhurst, Palmerston North, Tangimoana and Scotts Ferry.

9. DAMS - BUILDING CONSENTS

- 9.1. There were six general dam enquiries in 2019-20 financial year. There has been three general dam enquiries during this five month reporting period. For 2019-20 financial year and for this reporting period there were no dam proposals received to assess if a building consent is required and no **Project information Memorandums (PIMs)** were issued.
- 9.2. In 2019 the **Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE)** published a proposed regulatory framework for dam safety (post-construction regulatory requirements). There has not been a decision made and due to COVID-19 and the timeframes are still unknown at this stage.

10. DISTRICT ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

- 10.1. The following is a brief update on the CDA's involvement and contribution to proposed Plan Changes, notice of requirements and other TA engagements during this reporting period from 1 May to 30 September 2020. This also includes coordinating Horizons feedback and comments on potential growth areas.

Horowhenua District Council

- 10.2. The CDA has been coordinating information requests for staff and agents / consultants that are working on the **Otaki to North of Levin (O2NL)** Highway Project.

Manawatū District Council

- 10.3. In June Horizons staff (River Management Analyst and CDA) met with Manawatū District Council Planners and Building Officers in regards to the development in the Taonui Floodway.
- 10.4. In July the CDA hosted a joint workshop with relevant Horizons staff and Manawatū District Council's Planning, Regulatory and GIS teams to discuss and share information about natural hazards, potential growth areas, plan changes, on-site domestic wastewater disposal and proposed subdivisions.
- 10.5. In September the CDA invited Manawatū District Council staff to Horizons HazMap Working Group visit to Tangimoana, to discuss flooding and future development.

Palmerston North City Council

- 10.6. On advice from Palmerston North City Council the CDA coordinated a submission on the resource consent application for the All Saints Church which was publicly notified in August.

Tararua District Council

- 10.7. The CDA and Horizons River Management staff continue to work with Tararua District Council and their agents to provide any relevant information on Woodville and Pahiatua potential growth areas.

Remaining Territorial Authorities

- 10.8. No new notifications were received during this reporting period from 1 May to 30 September 2020 for Rangitikei, Ruapehu and Whanganui District Councils.

SIGNIFICANCE

- 10.9. This is not a significant decision according to the Council's Policy on Significance and Engagement.

Sarah Carswell
CO-ORDINATOR DISTRICT ADVICE

Ged Shirley
**GROUP MANAGER
REGIONAL SERVICES & INFORMATION**

ANNEXES

There are no attachments to this report.