

Report No.	21-69
Information Only - No Decision Required	

DISTRICT ADVICE UPDATE

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. This report is to inform Members of the District Advice land development information requests carried out year to date (from 1 July 2020 to 24 May 2021) and other activities for the reporting period Feb 2021 to May 2021.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 21-69.

3. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 3.1. The coordination of this function is part of the role of the **Coordinator District Advice (CDA)** 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 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. This Report provides the summary of statistics for year to date from 1 July 2020 to 24 May 2021, and a forecast for year-end based on current trends. The District Advice

Service responded to a total of 1005 requests. 736 of these requests were for the general public and 269 for the TAs. The forecast for year end is 1130.

- 7.2. The total requests received for the same time last year (1 July 2019 to 24 May 2020) were 962. This shows that the trend for requests is a 4.5% increase compared to the same time period last year and a 6.5% increase from the same period two years ago.

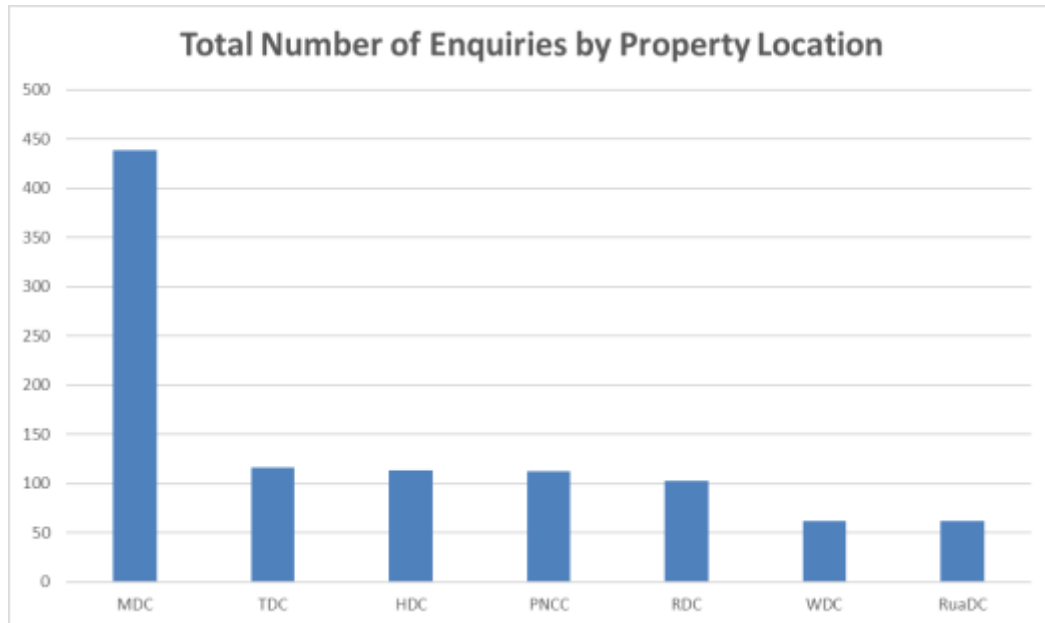


Figure 1

- 7.3. Figure 1 above illustrates the number of enquiries responded to year to date by property location.

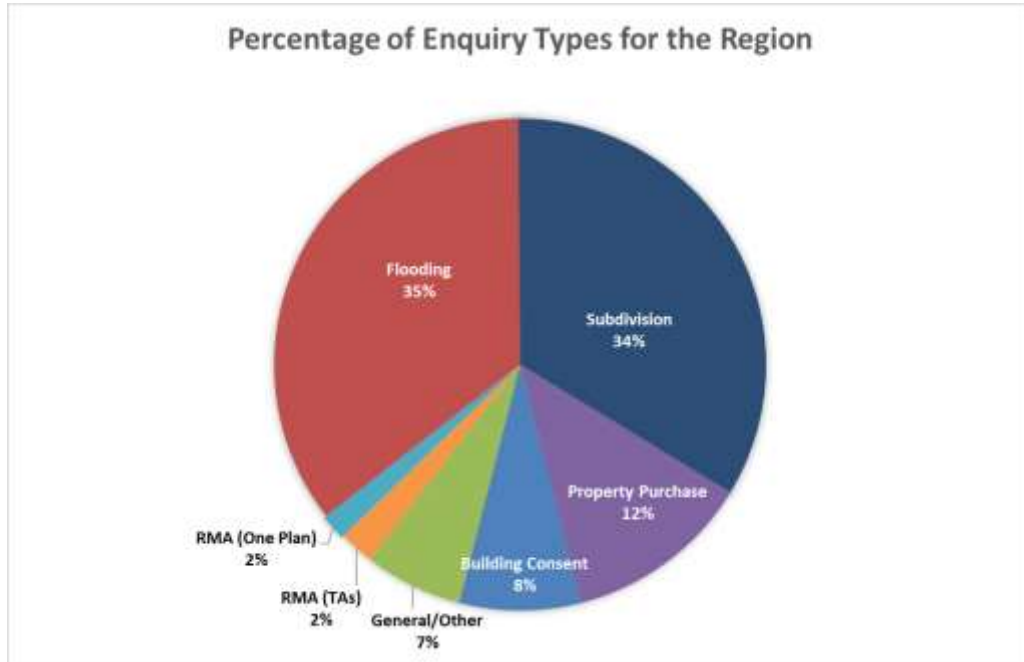


Figure 2

- 7.4. Figure 2 shows the total enquiry type by percentage that has been responded to year to date for the Region.

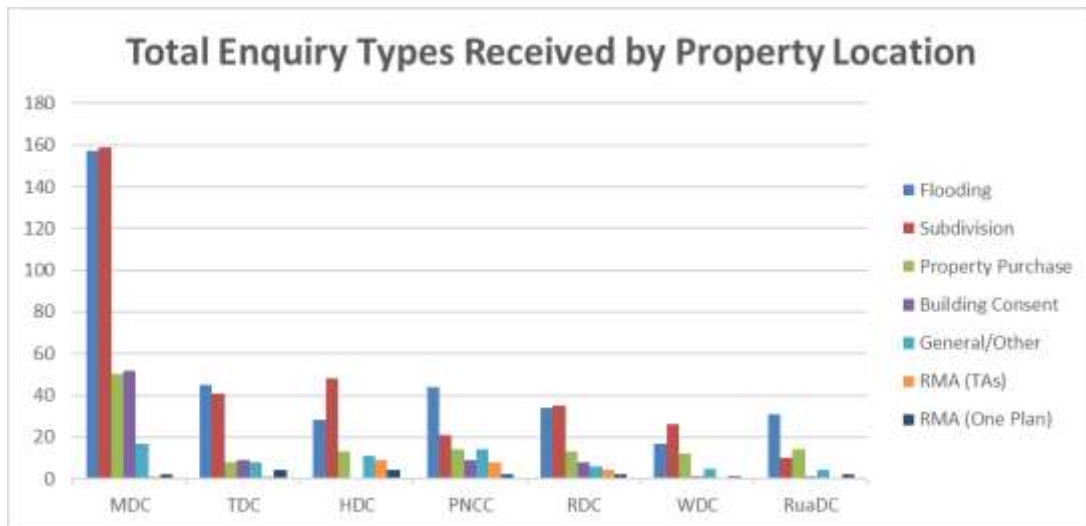


Figure 3

- 7.5. Figure 3 shows the enquiry types that the District Advice Team has responded to year to date by property location.
- 7.6. The main type of enquiry was for flooding (356), closely followed by subdivisions (340), and this is consistent across the majority of districts. This is followed by property purchases (124), building consents (80), and the remaining are general or other RMA related requests (105). There is a higher percentage of subdivision enquiries compared to previous years and generally they are time consuming because of their increased complexity and the information requiring assessment.
- 7.7. Given the uncertainty of COVID-19, we are unsure what the trend will be for the next reporting period. However, based on current demand it appears numbers are exceeding pre COVID-19 levels.

8. IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES

- 8.1. With support from the Information Management and Infrastructure Technology Teams, the District Advice Team continues to work hard to implement initiatives to improve efficiencies and quality of information provided to customers. The District Advice is transitioning to Horizons service portal (thePortal) which is web based platform that provides staff with a single access point to information and customer requests. This will enhance the collaboration of information, triaging, improving coordination and overall customer service. From July all customers will be strongly encouraged to use the online form due to the many benefits. The form is continuously improving along with our public viewing maps. These improvements also create efficiencies for our Customer Services and Records teams. Feedback from customers and internal staff is mainly positive.
- 8.2. The CDA chairs the HazMap Working Group, an internal forum that shares hazard and mapping information to improve capability and relationships across teams in Horizons. In March there was a field trip to Waikawa Beach and in May a field trip to Pahiataua to learn more about natural hazards. The group is currently reviewing the work programme for the next financial year which will include information sharing on the new flood modelling for Upper Mangaone, Ohura, East of Levin and Ohau-Manakau.

9. DAMS - BUILDING CONSENTS

- 9.1. Year to date there have been three general dam enquiries. 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). In March 2021 MBIE reported that cabinet has agreed to the development of the new safety regulations. Cabinet has agreed to regulations for dam safety that place the responsibility on dam owners to ensure dams are maintained to acceptable safety levels. The regulations will outline a system for identifying what dams are included in the regime, classifying a dam's potential impact failure and prescribing the required contents of a Dam Safety Assurance Programme to promote regular monitoring and surveillance practices for the safe operation of dams.
- 9.3. MBIE expect the details of the regulations to be approved by Cabinet later in 2021. There will be a two-year lead in time before they come into force. MBIE will be back in contact once the final regulations have been approved with a guide to help understand what is required under the regulations.

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 since our last report on 24 February 2021. This includes coordinating and providing Horizons' initial feedback and comment on proposed growth areas.

Horowhenua District Council

- 10.2. District Advice continues to coordinate any information requests for staff and agents/consultants that are working on the **Otaki to North of Levin (O2NL)** Highway Project.
- 10.3. Continuing to work with Horowhenua District Council to help coordinate feedback on Horowhenua Growth Planning. The CDA arranged a meeting in March for relevant staff to answer questions and provide any additional feedback on growth areas under investigation for Horowhenua District Council's future plan changes. The feedback was from Horizons' technical staff and the District Advice service, including general considerations, regional matters including transport.
- 10.4. In May the CDA arranged and coordinated a meeting about the **Wellington Regional Growth Framework (WRGF)** project. That included the WRGF Project Director, Horowhenua District Council staff representative and a number of relevant Horizons staff from across many teams. Horizons expressed concerns about cross-boundary issues and lack of engagement, however, moving forward Horizons is now engaged with the project including participation in with various workshops including Structure Plans, Three Waters and Climate Change.

Manawatū District Council

- 10.5. In March the CDA participated in the meeting with Manawatū District Council staff and their consultant about their working draft plan change A and B (Rural residential and village). The CDA provided general advice and provided a desk top assessment on the Taonui Aerodrome proposed zone change.

Palmerston North City Council

- 10.6. On behalf of Horizons the CDA coordinated and drafted Horizons submission on the Notice **of Requirement (NOR)** from KiwiRail Holdings Ltd for a Designation for a Regional Freight Hub.
- 10.7. In late February, District Advice coordinated Horizons' comment on the Whiskey Creek (private proposed plan change) as public feedback was requested for a proposed residential plan zone for Cloverlea. The comments outlined relevant One Plan Policies including Policy 3-4 the strategic integration of infrastructure with land use, natural hazards, freshwater management, stormwater, stopbanks, connectivity and transport.

- 10.8. In March District Advice coordinated and drafted Horizons response to the draft proposed Plan Change G Aokautere Structure Plan (initial clause 3 phase). Comments included but not limited to stormwater management, flooding, biodiversity, transport, connectivity, energy and Te Ao Māori – The Māori World.
- 10.9. The CDA organised the third meeting in April for Horizons staff to meet with Palmerston North City Council staff for an information sharing session on flooding for the city. The fourth session is booked for June 2021.
- 10.10. In May the CDA arranged a meeting with relevant Horizons staff to meet with Palmerston North City Council staff and their consultants in regards to the Kākātangiata urban growth area options for Palmerston North. Discussions around a number of development options and Horizons provided advice on a number of considerations e.g. natural hazards, biodiversity (green corridors), volatile soils, transport, connectivity and energy. The CDA will arrange any follow up meetings and coordination of information.

Rangitīkei District Council

- 10.11. The CDA has arranged a meeting in July with Rangitīkei District Council staff to help with Rangitīkei District future growth and spatial planning.

Ruapehu District Council

- 10.12. The CDA is working with consultants engaged by Ruapehu District Council to help develop a Taumarunui Future Housing and Community Plan. At this stage the main discussion is the risk of flooding.
- 10.13. In May the CDA participated in GNS Science's presentation on the fault mapping project with Ruapehu District Council officers. The CDA discussed how this information can be provided to the public and how to work together to influence land development proposals near and on active faults.

Remaining Territorial Authorities / Region Wide Activities

- 10.14. There were no new notifications or engagements since our last report on 24 February for Whanganui and Tararua District Councils. District Advice participated in the Region's Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Hazards/Risks Workshop providing a regional perspective on natural hazards.

SIGNIFICANCE

- 10.15. 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.