

31 July 2019

Dam Safety Consultation 2019
Building System Performance
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment
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Dear Sir/Madam

Horizons Regional Council (Horizons) feedback on Proposed Regulatory Framework for Dam Safety 2019 – Dam Safety Consultation

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Government's proposed regulatory framework for Dam Safety. Horizons appreciates the opportunity to engage with the Government on this proposed Framework.

Horizons generally supports the proposed regulations as these will assist with achieving the outcomes intended with the changes of the dam safety management framework in the Building Act 2004.

At present there is no nationally consistent dam safety scheme and as a result there are significant risks and liabilities for the Government. This has resulted in gaps where there is no comprehensive scheme to monitor and maintain the structural integrity of dams in New Zealand; the impact of a dam failure could potentially mean the loss of life, damage to property, and damage to the environment. The Building Act 2004 provides a framework for the regulation of dams however regulations are required to bring this framework into full effect. The proposed dam safety scheme will bring New Zealand into line with the majority of the OECD countries that already have such schemes in place.

Horizons considers the proposed regulatory framework rightly places obligations on dam owners, proportionate to the risk their dam or dams pose to downstream communities, property, and the environment. That said we note that the analysis and guidelines for the regulatory authorities to administer and regulate this framework have yet to be undertaken. Therefore we are unable to confirm support for this aspect until these are provided.

Responses to the discussion paper questions are set out in the attachment.

Yours sincerely

Kairanga

Marton

Palmerston North

Taihape

Taumarunui

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Michael McCartney
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER