



REPORT BACK ON
COMMUNITY ORIENTATION MEETINGS (31st of July to 2nd of August 2021)
Building community resilience and reducing flood risk in a changing climate:
Towards a flood risk reduction strategy for Anzac Parade

1. **Meeting dates:** 31st of July, 1st of August, 2nd of August.
2. **Number of attendees:** 37
3. **Location:** Hakeke Community Centre and Library
4. **Purpose of the meetings:** Meet residents, introduce the project and ourselves (Massey staff), explain next steps, and receive questions/information/feedback from residents and property owners.
5. **Summary of meetings:**
 - Attendees were mostly homeowners, with no renters.
 - Middle-income demographic, with a few younger folk. May not be fully representative.
 - Many moved in since 2015 – with varying levels of awareness about flood risk.
 - Anxiety about flood risk – for some, every time it rains!
 - Limited awareness / understanding about early warnings and evacuation.
 - How does CDEM enable better understanding and practice? Need guidance.
 - People are realistic about options to reduce flood risk.
 - Few see protection (stop banks) as silver-bullet or one-off solution - some do; some strongly opposed.
 - Many see value in some 'home remedies' to limit impacts of nuisance flooding.
 - But for major floods, prospect of severe impacts is recognized and those with insurance rely on that and warning and evacuation.
 - Some think raising some houses may be possible, and hope that there is some support to enable that.
 - People don't want to relocate, and don't want to have their property values reduced by the strategy.
 - A general strategy is not helpful – need property-specific action plan.
 - Activities upstream and downstream:
 - Historic dredging – did that help limit flood risk? Port/dredging/works on the river mouth – are these ways to help limit flooding?
 - What can be done about land use management upstream that exacerbates flood risk (e.g., poor catchment mgt and what are options for tackling this)?



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- What is being done about maintenance of infrastructure and services affecting nuisance flooding?
 - E.g., stream management e.g., Matarawa stream; storm water; backflow preventers; etc.?
- Some concerns / worries:
 - Real anger about limited time to evacuate in 2015 – some people had 10-15 mins and couldn't attend to important matters, like pets. Feels like 'every man for himself'. 2017 evacuation much better.
 - Was 2015 flood a worst-case scenario?
 - Worry about future insurance premium increase and / or uninsurability.
 - Need workforce to help clear up after floods.
 - Need to be sure about security of properties if evacuated; and some really don't want to be forced out in future.
 - Flood exacerbated by SH4 and associated works?
 - Local regulations limiting extensions to existing homes is very frustrating for some.
 - People have variable knowledge and connection with neighbors – could be improved to build resilience.
- Some suggestions:
 - Set up CDEM-community 'committee' to keep residents up to speed on risk reduction measures, etc.
 - Should make 2015 flood level visible – e.g., signage under bridge, and paint mark on telephone poles, and elsewhere?
 - Some see value in 'home repair work' to reduce nuisance flooding – but need guidance and, ideally, some support from government.
 - Need mechanism to release water trapped after flood.

6. Future community meetings:

- The second set of **meetings** is scheduled for the 21st and 23rd of August to identify and discuss practical options to reduce flood risk make Anzac Parade more resilient.
- A third set of meetings to evaluate and decide on preferred combinations of options will be scheduled after the 23rd of August, and will be informed by consultations with Te Runanga o Tupoho, Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui, Horizons Regional Council, Whanganui District Council, and other key stakeholders.