



January 2024

Anzac Parade

Actions towards resilience

The Anzac Parade Flood Resilience Strategy 2022-2122 was developed with the aim of improving the wellbeing of people living along Anzac Parade who face severe flood risk. Actions have been undertaken by both Horizons Regional Council and Whanganui District Council as a response to both the strategy, and 2015 flooding. Input from communities has been valuable to achieving action on the ground. Some key actions undertaken are as follows:

Early Warning system

Whanganui has one of the country's best early warning systems in place. Network upgrades were completed following the 2015 floods, along with implementation of the National Emergency Management Agency's (NEMA) geofence alert system. An upgrade to Interactive Voice Response (IVR) is in progress. Anticipated hazard and river height, among other factors, informs a decision point for each warning level. The decision sits with the local controller. The aim is for early warning and wide safety margins. Horizons Regional Council is also investigating a flood siren for the area.

Evacuation system

Dependent on time availability, "prepare to" alerts precede "evacuate now/by" alerts through media, social media and radio, as well as via vehicle mounted alert siren systems. Door knocking also takes place where possible to provide occupants of what to do and where to go. Road blocks and cordons are also used when necessary. Individual training sessions occur at least annually.

Improved controls on nuisance flooding

Improved controls on nuisance flooding, including ongoing work on the Matarawa Stream diversion and maintenance practices; and infrastructure upgrade programme. An egress gate has been installed on the stopbanks of Kōwhai Park to help increase flood resilience in the area. The gate will allow floodwaters to return to the main stem of the awa quicker, rather than remaining ponded within Kōwhai Park and the Anzac Parade area. Advice is provided on flood proofing homes and raising things in garages and sheds using pallets.

Community engagement

The Manawatū-Whanganui Civil Defence Emergency Management Group has undertaken community engagement in November 2023 to raise further awareness with residents about early warning systems and Whanganui District Council's evacuation procedures.

More information can be found on the Horizons Regional Council website.