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The Lower Manawatū Scheme (LMS) Climate **Resilience Project**

The Lower Manawatū Scheme (LMS) covers a vast area which includes the Manawatū River from Palmerston North to the sea; the Ōroua River from Feilding to the Manawatū confluence; the Mangaone Stream from Bunnythorpe to the Manawatū confluence; the Tokomaru River near Shannon and all the little streams and drains that run into these.



Horizons Regional Council invests heavily, on behalf of ratepayers, in flood protection for the Lower Manawatū area. Since the 2004 floods, work has included raising/rebuilding stopbanks, replacing the Kopane Bridge and construction of the Burkes Pump Station. Funding constraints have hindered additional work, however thanks to central government funding that's been made available there is the opportunity to get more work underway.



Project funding

In 2020, central government's budget included \$210 million for climate resilience and flood protection projects across New Zealand. This funding formed part of government's response to the economic impacts of COVID-19. Horizons Regional Council received \$26.9 million of this funding from Kānoa, the government's Regional Economic Development and Investment Unit (REDIU) for four climate resilience projects. Horizons contribution to the four projects is a further \$9 million. This collaborative funding has enabled Council to accelerate work on these four projects, including the Lower Manawatū Scheme (LMS) Climate Resilience Project which has a total cost of \$15 million, to increase our river communities' resilience to the effects of climate change.

Social procurement

The LMS Climate Resilience Project incorporates positive social outcomes for the Manawatū River and its users. It will provide new employment opportunities through contracts with local businesses and, as part of these contracts, training opportunities for existing and new staff. It will not only assist in keeping our communities safer but will help boost the region's economy as work on maintaining and building new infrastructure progresses. The project is anticipated to take three years from conception and includes the potential to create up to 20 jobs.

An example of this can be seen through the work completed on the Hartley Street rock armouring as part of this project. During the construction work, the local contractor Alan G Gibson was able to provide one of their employees the opportunity to advance their machine operating skills with exposure to the rock placement work.

Local contractors – Pete at Foxton

Scope of work

Project work is being carried out across the Lower Manawatū Scheme. The project targets strengthening of the flood mitigation network to build further resilience at key locations. Environmental enhancements are also planned at locations within the scheme.

The project is comprised of several sub-projects. They are:

Hartley Street rock armouring, Foxton Beach

This flood mitigation and general maintenance project started in September 2021 and involves maintenance and restoration of the existing rock wall with new natural rock. The end result is a naturally lined, more attractive rock wall giving additional protection to nearby homes and the community.

Te Matai Road rock armouring

This project involves strengthening the existing Te Matai Road stopbank to prevent undermining, especially during flood events. The work will be carried out along a stretch of the river adjacent to Te Matai Road, north of Palmerston North. It will give further protection to the homes and business downstream from the site.

Rangiotu gate upgrade

The Rangiotu gate infrastructure has been identified as a weak spot in the flood protection scheme. The gates are below design height and are structurally in need of repair. The design has been outsourced based on Horizons criteria, and include increasing capacity and design life so to get the most from the upgrade. Channel realignment to the new structure at completion of the project allows for no interruption in service by the existing gates.



Waterfall Creek culvert replacement

The current culverts at the confluence of Waterfall Creek are below capacity and need replacing. This provides an opportunity to put in new structures to help with fish passage. Additional riparian planting will enhance the ecological value of the river environment and support improved water quality. Horizons will be working closely with both Ngāti Whakatere and Rangitāne on this project.

Tokomaru stopbank reinforcement

The LMS scheme includes over 20 kilometres of stopbanks protecting livelihoods between Tokomaru township and the confluence of the Tokomaru River with the Manawatū River. Reinforcement is being undertaken of several sections of existing stopbank that are at risk of erosion due to their 'skinny' geometry. The finished project will result in smooth and uniform stopbanks all to the correct height and width, and improve resilience during peak flows.

To keep up to date with work underway visit the Infrastructure Climate Resilience Projects page on Horizons website **www.horizons.govt.nz** or scan the link below. The completion date for all four projects being undertaken across the region is March 2024.

