

REDUCING
FLOOD RISK
IN HAWKE'S BAY



Community
information booklet

Pākōwhai

Flood Resilience Project



HAWKES BAY
REGIONAL COUNCIL

TE KAUNIHERA Ā-ROHE O TE MATAU-A-MĀUI

INFRASTRUCTURE RESILIENCE PROGRAMME



Hello

Welcome to the Pākōwhai flood resilience project.

The area experienced severe flooding during Cyclone Gabrielle and a large number of properties were flagged as high risk for future flooding. This project is not just about new infrastructure; it's about building resilience and bringing long-term benefits to the community.

We hope you find this information helpful and it gives you a sense of what we're doing and what to expect as we move into the construction phase of the project. We also want to acknowledge the impacts that construction can have on daily life and your routines, so we've also included information on where to find support if you need it during this time.

If you've got any questions or need any help, please do get in touch with us.

*Kind regards,
Pākōwhai flood resilience project team*

A few questions you might have...

What are we building?

We're building 8.5 km of stopbanks and flood walls (sheet pile) along the Tūtaekurī-Waimate stream from the Ngaruroro River to Links Road near Napier Golf Course.

This includes:

- 5.5 km of stopbank and flood walls, largely following the old stopbanks, from the Ngaruroro River to State Highway 2
- A spillway, near Pākōwhai Road, to control overflow in larger events
- Realigning 500 metres of the Tūtaekurī-Waimate Stream behind Pākōwhai War Memorial Hall
- 3 km of stopbank and flood walls from State Highway 2 to Links Road by Napier Golf Course.

Together, these works will lift the overall standard of flood protection across Pākōwhai.

Who will be building the infrastructure?

Hick Bros Civil Construction are constructing the new flood resilience for Pākōwhai.

All works will take place under strict health, safety, and environmental standards.

What are the working hours?

Standard construction hours are Monday to Saturday, 7:00am to 6:00pm, and Sunday and public holidays, 8:00am to 5:00pm. Access to and from site will occur prior to and after these hours.

Have a question or concern?



You can contact one of your local representatives listed on the back page, or get in touch with the project team at project.enquiries@hbrc.govt.nz





KEY:

- Stream
- Stream Realignment

Construction separable portions

- Portion 1 Stopbank
- Portion 2 Stopbank and spillway
- Portion 3 Stopbank and flood wall
- Portion 4 Stopbank and flood wall
- Portion 5 Stopbank

Construction separable portion timelines

Hick Bros will undertake construction in separable portions.

Months are indicative only and timing is subject to change.

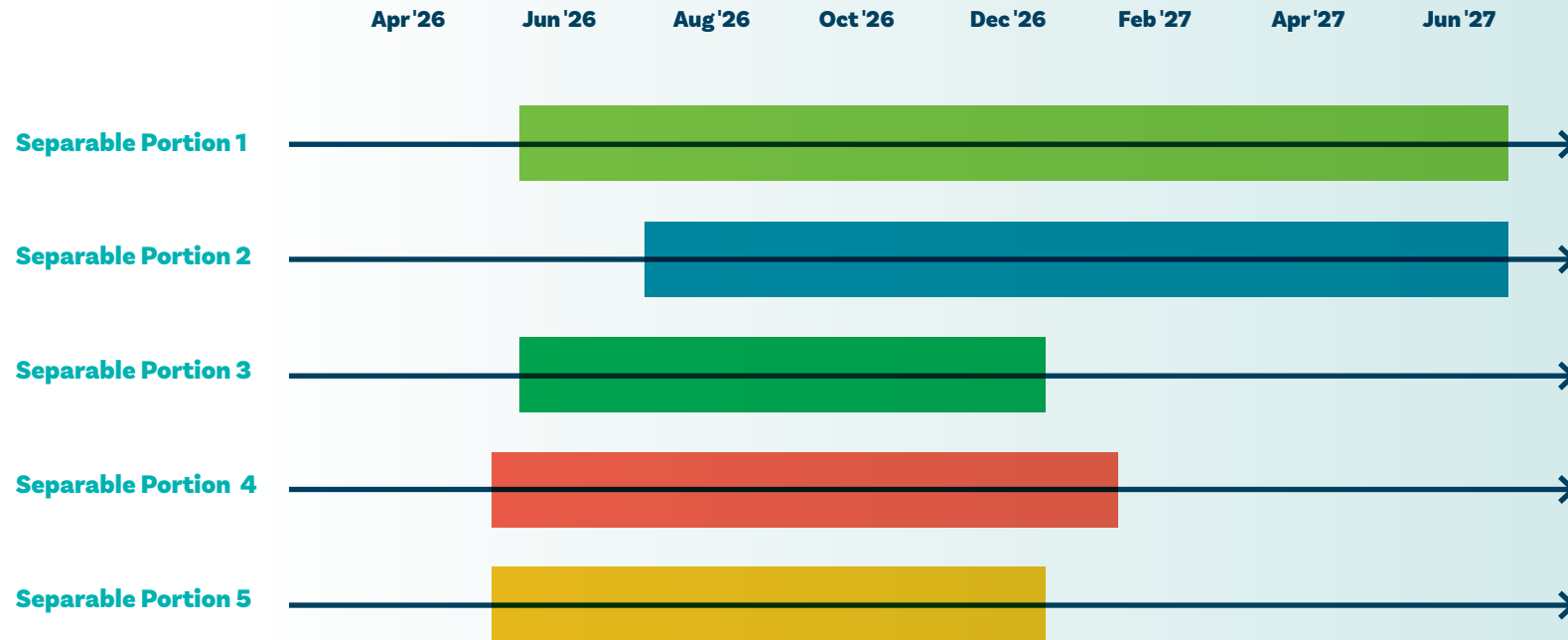
Portion 1

Portion 2

Portion 3

Portion 4

Portion 5



Construction is estimated to be completed by July 2027.

Your wellbeing

We believe wellbeing is at the heart of every successful project – that's why we're committed to supporting not just the physical environment, but also the social, cultural, and environmental wellbeing of our community.

We acknowledge the impact that construction work can have on daily life and your routines, and we understand that change can bring disruption. On this page we share what to expect during construction and tips for keeping you, your family, and your neighbours safe.

What to expect during construction

Here are some of the most common issues and how we will address them:

- **Noise:** There will be noise from the works. We will follow and comply with local noise rules and use quieter equipment, where available.
- **Ground vibration:** Vibration levels will be monitored and residents will be notified of any high-impact activities. Vibrations may be felt in nearby homes so fragile items should be secured or moved away from shelves and walls.
- **Dust:** Dust will increase during dry and windy weather or excavation. Keep windows and doors closed on windy days. Contractors will regularly wet down surfaces and monitor air quality to keep dust to a minimum.
- **Traffic changes:** Clear signage and regular construction updates will be provided to help manage road disruptions.
- **Access to properties:** We will give advance notice of any temporary changes to access to homes and businesses, and will do our best to avoid these where possible.
- **Power, water, gas or other utility interruptions:** Planned outages will be communicated ahead of time and scheduled to minimise disruption.

Keeping safe and prepared during construction

To help keep you and your family safe and prepared, here are some practical tips to follow during the construction period:

- **Plan ahead:** Check for traffic updates before commuting or school runs. We will notify our mailing list of major changes ahead of time and update our website information.
- **Stay safe:** Be alert when walking or driving near the work site. Follow all posted signs and use designated pedestrian paths. Keep children close and don't enter construction zones.
- **Keep your distance:** Please stay away from work areas and equipment.
- **Stay healthy:** On windy days, keep windows and doors closed. If you're wanting to enjoy the outdoors, choose times outside of peak construction hours to reduce exposure to dust and noise.
- **Emergency planning:** Know how to exit safely if machinery is working on roads or there's an accident.
- **Avoid distractions:** Reduce phone or headphone use near the worksite.
- **Help is at hand:** There is a list of support services on Mates4Life: mates4life.org.nz/find-help/

Construction updates

To keep everyone in the loop, we'll send out regular updates about what's happening and when so you can plan and stay safe.

You can sign up to these or view our latest updates online at hbrc.govt.nz #Pakowhai or scan the QR code.



Flood resilience level

What level of protection will the new stopbank provide?

Pākōwhai is protected by stopbanks along the Ngaruroro and Tūtaekurī Rivers. This project will add a second layer of flood resilience.

That extra resilience is designed for floods that have a 1-in-200 chance of happening in any year (aka a 0.5% Annual Exceedance Probability flood event).

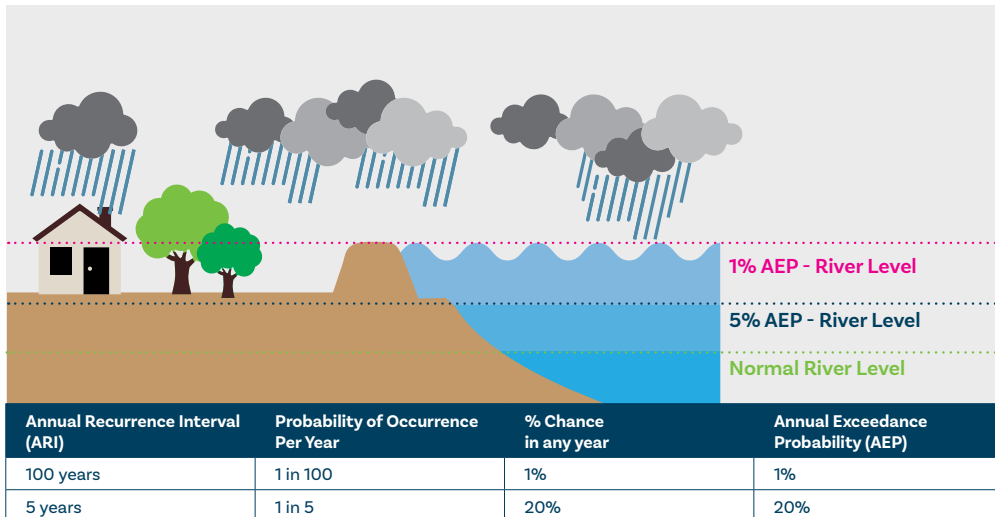
The design also includes:

- an extra 500mm of height for added safety (called freeboard), and
- a spillway, which helps direct water away from homes and back toward the rivers during bigger floods in a controlled way.

The project is designed to provide a higher level of protection (0.5% AEP) than the current regional standard (1% AEP).

What is AEP?

AEP stands for Annual Exceedance Probability. It is a way of describing the chance of a flood happening in any given year. For example, a 1% AEP flood has a 1-in-100 chance of happening in any year. It's a probability, not a prediction, so two of these floods can still happen close together.



Why wasn't it designed to protect against another Cyclone Gabrielle?

There are three main reasons:

It would need much more land and much more time to build

Cyclone Gabrielle was an extremely large flood event — one of the biggest ever recorded in many places. Building protection to that level would require a much larger system than this project allows for.

It has to work with the rest of the flood scheme network

This project is part of an existing wider system, so it must fit with how that system already works. If not, it could make flooding worse in other areas.

It would cost much more

Building for a flood as large as Cyclone Gabrielle would be very expensive. The funding for this project was aimed at reducing flood risk for Category 2C properties to the agreed regional standard of at least 1% AEP.





Meet the team

Richard Jardine – Project Manager Richard oversees all aspects of the construction contract and construction phase. You can contact Richard through project.enquiries@hbrc.govt.nz

Jacqui Davis – Jacqui is HBRC's Engagement Lead for the Pākōwhai project. She can be contacted through project.engagement@hbrc.govt.nz

Kim Thomas - Kim is HBRC's Engagement Advisor for the Pākōwhai project. She can also be contacted through project.engagement@hbrc.govt.nz

Have a question?

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact us at project.enquiries@hbrc.govt.nz

If you have any concerns, you can also contact your local Stakeholder Advisory Group Representatives: Danny Angland, Lochie MacGillivray, Rob Sykes, Ron McFetridge, Sheryl Mackie, and Sue Burgess who can provide the Council with your feedback.

The STAG informs and advises HBRC on managing and monitoring the project during the construction phase.

Information as at June 2026.