

4 August 2025

File Ref: [OIAPR-1274023063-40754](#)

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED],

### **Request for information 2025-232**

I refer to your request for information dated 21 July 2025, which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) on 21 July 2025. You have requested the following:

*“In reference to the Wellington Regional Council plans for alleviating risk of flooding to the Petone community - planning to be completed this month, can you please tell me what the Council proposes to do to:*

- (1) Stop the excess Hutt River flood water being spilt over the Ava stopbank weir, which in the process will breach this stopbank, and in all likelihood the Ava Rail Bridge built-up approach?*
- (2) Put warning systems and signage in place for the Wakefield Street area?”*

### **Greater Wellington’s response follows:**

Firstly, Greater Wellington would like to acknowledge your concerns and thank you for your continued interest in flood risk in the Petone area. As described in previous correspondence to you, Greater Wellington is committed to the management of flood risk in the Hutt Valley and is actively working on investigations and improvements to modelling, risk management planning, asset management and emergency management.

Therefore, please see below an update on the following key initiatives.

### **Hutt Flood Hazard Model**

The Hutt Flood Hazard Model has been updated to meet Greater Wellington’s Flood Hazard Modelling Standard, in order to be included in the District Plans of Hutt City Council and Upper Hutt City Council.<sup>1</sup> Greater Wellington staff are currently working with Upper Hutt City Council to complete public engagement in Upper Hutt so that the flood modelling can be finalised. This is expected to be completed by the end of 2025.

<sup>1</sup>

<https://www.gw.govt.nz/document/16774/flood-hazard-modelling-standard/>

## Hutt Flood Risk Management Review

Greater Wellington is working with a consultant on a review of the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) to ensure currency with the recent model update. This review will confirm the target levels of service for each defence for each reach along the scheme. Structural measures which were proposed in the FMP will be assessed against the new model and be prioritised for construction in order of the most appropriate need. Any gaps in level of service which will not meet the level of service by existing or planned defences will be identified for further investigation.

## Flood Forecasting

Greater Wellington has been working with the Wellington Regional Emergency Management Office (WREMO) to improve flood forecasting across the Region including for the Hutt River. This system, which is due to be operational by the end of October 2025, will provide enhanced warning capability two to three days before significant flood events.

## Flood Response & Warning Improvements

Greater Wellington has been working with WREMO and local Councils (including Hutt City Council) to improve flood warning and response processes. This has included modelling extreme events to understand how the stop banking systems will perform in large floods and developing evacuation protocols.

In response to your specific questions:

- (1) Stop the excess Hutt River flood water being spilt over the Ava stopbank weir, which in the process will breach this stopbank, and in all likelihood the Ava Rail Bridge built-up approach?*

As previously advised, the flood wall at the end of Wakefield Street is not designed to operate as a weir. The assets around the Ava Rail bridge are being assessed through the Hutt Flood Risk Management Review described above.

- (2) Put warning systems and signage in place for the Wakefield Street area?*

Greater Wellington does not intend to install warning systems and signage for the Wakefield Street area. We are working with WREMO to provide flood forecasting, response and warning capability across the Region, including the entirety of the Hutt Catchment.

While we fully anticipate that this response will not be to your satisfaction and will not allay your concerns, we want to assure you that we take the threat of flooding very seriously. We are committed to improving our flood incident response capabilities through the flood warning and response improvements programme <https://www.gw.govt.nz/your-region/emergency-and-hazard-management/flood-protection/our-work/flood-warning-and-response-improvements-programme/>, and the wider flood risk management work the Greater Wellington Environment Group undertakes to manage the risk to the 200,000 people potentially at risk of flooding across the Region.

If you have any concerns with the decision(s) referred to in this letter, you have the right to request an investigation and review by the Ombudsman under section 27(3) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Our response to your request will be published shortly on Greater Wellington's website with your personal information removed.

Nāku iti noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Nigel Corry', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Nigel Corry**  
Tumu Whakarae | Chief Executive