

# Activity Planning -2012-2022 Ten Year Plan Planning for the Future - Hazard Management

## The main matter that the Council is being asked to consider is....

- The areas of focus for the Hazard Management activity.

### 1. Council direction

The direction provided to staff by the Council in December 2010 was to:

- Retain existing levels of service
- Promote a stronger linkage between this activity and the Civil Defence Emergency Management requirements
- Set out a work programme around some of the Blueprint directions.

### 2. What the activity does

The Hazard Management activity involves managing risk to people, property and the environment from natural events.

The Council works closely with partner agencies, like Waikato Regional Council to deliver this activity.

NB: The Council's Emergency Management activity focuses on communities being ready for, responding to and recovering from emergencies when they do happen.

### 3. What the legislations says

Recognition for the importance of managing the adverse effects of natural hazards is reflected in the legislation within which the Council has to work. The main pieces of legislation are the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA). Other relevant legislation includes the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 and the Building Act 2004. The Thames-Coromandel District Council is also bound by the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000 (HGMPA) which has strong linkages with the RMA and key provisions which have the status of a National Policy Statement in respect of the Hauraki Gulf.

### 4. Proposed activity objective

The proposed activity objective for the Hazard Management activity is:

*To protect life and property from natural hazards and build resilient communities.*

NB: This objective is very similar to the objective stated in the 2009-2019 Ten Year Plan, with the addition of 'build resilient communities'.

### 5. How this activity currently would contribute to the Council Outcomes

The activity will contribute to the achievement of the Council Outcomes as follows:

Council Outcome	The Hazard Management activity...
A prosperous district	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Informs the development of a clear planning framework to guide future developments and</li></ul>

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	create opportunities in ways that reduce the risks of hazards.
A liveable district	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotes the development of a safe living environment.</li> <li>• Plans for the future to identify and promote community needs.</li> <li>• Reduces the risk of hazards and supports civil defence.</li> </ul>
A clean and green district	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helps protect our unique environment and natural ecosystems at risk from sedimentation or other hazards.</li> </ul>

The Coromandel Peninsula Blueprint places expectations on the Hazard Management Activity to protect ecosystems, people and property from natural hazards by investigating, engaging and then taking steps to actively manage hazard risks. The Hazard Management Activity already addresses numerous aspects arising from the Blueprint including protection from flooding, reduction in sedimentation, improved water quality, pest control, increase in native species and stabilization of catchments. However, the Blueprint places a particularly strong emphasis on natural hazard management through the "Resilient Communities" outcome.

### 6. Things to be aware of

- A tension with this activity is that often an individual or a group of property owners do not wish Council policy or operational hazard risk reduction related work programmes to affect them even though over time there is a wider community benefit. For example, individual property owners in a defined risk zone will argue strongly (on the grounds of diminished values and marketability) that their property should not be included even though the technical information supporting inclusion is compelling. This raises the possibility that a hazard risk reduction programme will have general community endorsement but will be strongly opposed - to the extent of litigation - by individuals. It is important that Council in undertaking hazard management strikes the right balance between building resilient sustainable communities and not unduly impacting the ability of individuals to enjoy their property.
- The Peninsula Project (which has been a large area of focus for this activity in the past) is largely complete and will now be picked up through the District Plan Review. It will therefore no longer required the same level of investment from staff.
- Significant staff resources have been expended on the Cooks Beach Coastal Erosion Project. This is a project which is predominantly about private benefit.
- The Council is presently working collaboratively with the Waikato Regional Council with the objective of reducing tsunami risk to the east coast Coromandel Peninsula settlements commencing with Whitianga as the community with the highest risk profile. Other east coast communities will be addressed in the sequence identified by a prioritisation matrix.

### 7. A word from our community....

- The 2010 community prioritisation survey shows that "preparing for natural hazards" sits 7th out of the 27 activities surveyed. This activity remains a top

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priority as determined by the community, when compared to other Council activities.

- In the 2010 communitrack survey, 88% of respondents (residents/non-resident ratepayers) think their community is susceptible to a natural hazard. There were no notable differences between Community Board Areas.

### 8. Strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats

- A strength is that Council's Hazard Management activity is supported by partnership with Waikato Regional Council (River and Catchment Services Group), the Waikato Regional Civil Defence and Emergency Management Group, and research by Crown Research Institutes (NIWA and GNS Science Ltd). This means that greater resources available beyond what Council can bring to bear alone to address hazard management.
- Community awareness of natural hazards is high due to direct experience (2002 Weather Bomb) and indirectly through the news media (Christchurch earthquake, Queensland flooding, and various Pacific tsunami, especially the Japanese event of March 2011). The Council's Hazard Management activity occurs within the context of a community generally well informed about natural hazards.
- A weakness is that individual property owners object to inclusion within an identified hazard cell on the grounds of diminished property values and saleability.
- A risk is that hazard management work impacts upon existing property rights and values. It is important therefore to manage communications as to how hazard management work contributes to community well being, especially economic, social and environmental aspects.
- There is an opportunity for greater alignment with the Waikato Regional Civil Defence and Emergency Management Group Plan. Currently, Council's hazard management work not sufficiently aligned with Group Plan priorities, e.g. coastal erosion risk reduction consumes more resources than warranted when compared with the Regional Plan's risk reduction priorities - tsunami and flood risk management.
- With the prospect of climate change trends likelihood of more dynamic climate systems and thus more frequent climatic generated events with greater magnitude of consequences.

### 9. Proposed levels of service options

Staff proposed the following areas of focus for the Hazard Management Activity.

#### Option 1: staff recommended areas of focus

Staff propose the following areas of focus for the Hazard Management Activity

##### Flood Risk Management

- This involves implementing via the district plan flood risk zones identified by the regional council's numerical flood modelling project.
- Approximate % of time spent on this project is currently about 0.05 of a FTE.

##### Tsunami

- Collaborative project with the Waikato Regional Council to investigate and implement adaptation strategies for at risk communities on the east coast of the Coromandel Peninsula.
- Approximate % of time spent on this project is currently about 0.40 of a FTE.

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### Wind Shear

- Review Council's current wind zone information and investigate the possibility of adapting a recent NIWA trial modelling project to update and inform building code requirements. The first part of the project is complete and advice is needed from NIWA, upon completion, as to the success of its trial project. If the project is deemed successful and is applicable to the Coromandel Peninsula a business case would need to be compiled, possibly in conjunction with other Thames Valley councils, for resources to model the Coromandel Peninsula's wind-scape, develop wind zone maps and amend building standards. An imperative for this project arises from climate change and the prospect of an increase in the frequency and magnitude of storm events.
- Approximate % of time to compile a business case: 40-80 hours.

### Option 2: additional areas of focus

The following is an area is also demanding the attention of the Hazard Management activity.

### Hazard Assessments / Risk Management Plan for each community

- If resources permitted, each and every hazard identified would be integrated into an overall risk management plan for each community to ensure its resilience and long term sustainability. This is consistent with the Local Area Blueprints.
- This would entail a new project which would need to be scoped in terms of its extent, recognising organisational capability and possible demands in terms of resourcing and financing; and would need to reference risk management work already being undertaken on a regional and district wide level by the Waikato Civil Defence and Emergency Management Group.
- The cost of scoping would be in the order of \$20-30k, however for the project to be meaningful, the cost per community could be substantial as the risk from some hazards has yet to be determined; for example, from geologic instability, volcanism and seismicity. Council may also wish to consider that such a project occur within the context of community resilience generally, not just from natural hazards but also in relation to economic and social factors impacting on resilience and sustainability.

### Council involvement in coastal hazard cells (eg. Cooks Beach Coastal Erosion Project)

- Work with property owners in identified eastern coastal hazard cells to implement long-term sustainable responses to shoreline cut-back.
- This work stream addresses historic issues created by past decisions of council and private property owners. Due to the effect of this hazard on both private and public property values there is, understandably, a considerable demand made on Council resources to address the risk arising from coastal erosion; notwithstanding that the Waikato Civil Defence and Emergency Group Plan places very little priority on this issue due to its very low potential for loss of life.
- The Council may choose not to undertake this work but it should also be mindful that the community of interest may consider otherwise.
- Approximate cost or % of time spent on this project is currently between 0.1 - 0.2 of a FTE, with support from a coastal scientist familiar with the Coromandel's hazard prone beaches.

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### 10. How is this activity managed?

The Hazard Management activity is currently managed by staff, but as noted above is heavily reliant on collaboration with other agencies, in particular the Waikato Regional Council.

### 11. What do we currently spend on this activity?

As a proportion of the Council's annual budget for the 2011/2012 year, the Hazard Management activity represents approximately 0.29% of total spend.

<b>2011/2012 Draft Annual Plan</b>	
Operating Expenditure (excluding internal interest cost)	\$0.29m
Capital Expenditure	n/a
<b>Total budgeted spend for Hazard Management for 2011/2012</b>	<b>\$0.29m</b>
Total Budgeted spend for Council for 2011/2012	\$100.97m
Total percentage of budget spent on Hazard Management	0.29%
<b>2009-2019 Ten Year Plan</b>	
Operating Expenditure (excluding internal interest cost)	\$4.51m
Capital Expenditure	n/a
<b>Total budgeted spend for Hazard Management for 10 years</b>	<b>\$4.51m</b>
Total Budgeted spend for Council for 10 years	\$1,295.64m
Total percentage of budget spent on Hazard Management	0.35%

### 12. How this activity is funded, and why.

The Hazard Management activity is currently funded as follows:

*Funding rationale summary as outlined in the 2009-2019 Ten Year Plan*

The Council considers this activity can be likened to an insurance policy. The assumption therefore is that the greater a property value the greater the potential financial benefit from this activity. As such, the funding should reflect this, thus it was considered that from an equitable perspective, funding 70% of this component should be through the general rate. The balance would come from the UAGC.

*The funding mechanisms used for operating expenditure are:*

Hazard Management	General Rates	UAGC	Targeted Rates	Fees & Charges	Grants & Subsidies
- Hazard Mngt	60-79%	20-39%			
- Special hazards	0-19%		Land value 0-19% Fixed charge by AOB 80-100%		
- Moanataiari	0-19%		Fixed charge - stormwater by board area - 20-39% Land value by Board area - 20-39% Fixed charge by AOB - 20-39%		

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*The funding mechanisms used for capital expenditure are:*

Develop. &/or Financial Contribution	Borrowing	Asset Sales	UAGC	Depreciation	General Rates	Targeted Rates	Fees & Charges	Grants & Subsidies	Lump Sum Contribution
	✓	✓			✓	✓			✓

Staff recommend no changes to the current funding policy for the Hazard Management activity.

**13. Staff recommendation**

- Option 1, the staff recommended areas of focus for the Natural Hazards activity.
- Staff recommend no changes to the current funding policy for the Hazard Management activity.