

HAVELOCK NORTH DAMS AND STREAMS



Community newsletter

2 October 2024

Kia ora and welcome to the September 2024 newsletter for the Havelock North dams and streams community.

In this issue we update you on stream work and strategy development and what is coming up.

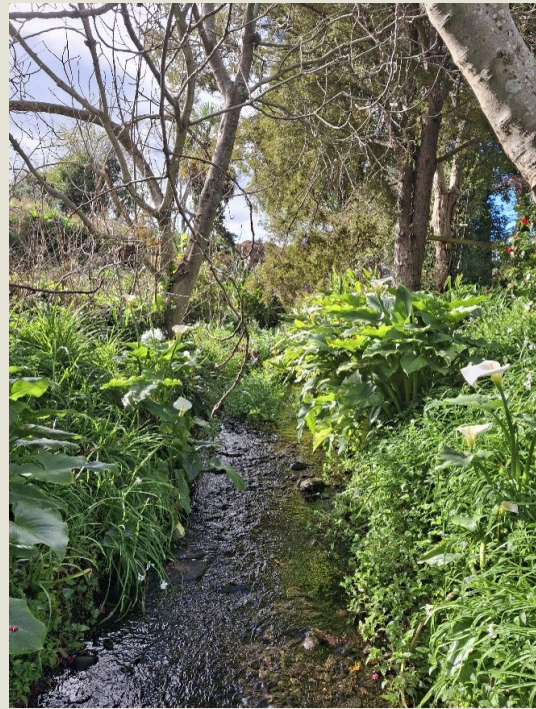
Work in July 2024

In the last month.

- The new maintenance contractor, Hawke's Bay Regional Council Works Group, started work and has begun the first quarterly inspections and related physical debris clearance, and clearing outstanding customer enquiries (more below).
- The last of the five streams, Te Kahika, was walked from dam to Karamū Stream to identify, inspect and map structures, adding further information to previous survey work, and provide updated information on where maintenance is required.
- Our design partner has been engaged and has begun work on designing the first stage of the 2C area construction.
- An arborist has undertaken condition assessments of trees along the streams, identified which are possibly at risk of falling in or degrading; that allows us to prioritise and plan to take action with landowners, depending on whether the tree is on public or private land.
- We have completed the annual dam safety review inspections, recommendations, and reporting.
- We have planned the placement of stream monitoring equipment to be installed at first stage of locations, with approximately nine of the 15 locations identified.
- We have developed and documented historic, current, and possible future stream levels of service.
- We have investigated upgrading a number of wastewater pipes crossing the streams.
- We have started master planning work, building on the first iteration of the Stormwater Strategy.
- Work has continued on the hydraulic model to inform planning and design.
- We have continued to work with landowners adjacent to streams on the design of bank repair solutions.
- Work has continued on developing stream-wide bank remediation guidance, including a planting plan and guidance document
- Work has continued on developing short-to mid-term options make stream crossings more robust, as well as planning for longer term solutions which may involve relocating or

undergrounding crossings.

- Work has continued on the Emergency Action Plan and PICs for the dams, with the plan ready to be tested with the new Project Steering Advisory Group and then the wider community and emergency management teams.
- Work has continued on developing Council/ landowner stream responsibility guidance.



Photos from the stream walk along Te Kahika

Work coming up

In the next month to six weeks the team is planning to:

- Test a range of draft documents with the Community Advisory Group before providing them to wider community, including Bank Remediation Guidance, Planting Guidance, Landowner Responsibilities, and Contribution Framework
- Receive part of the crown and HBRC funding as we achieve agreed milestones.
- Have the new maintenance contractor continue planned proactive maintenance
- Repair a damaged bank on the lower Mangarau Stream, in a section owned by Council
- Progress the design and consenting work to enable Stage 1 (enabling) works to start November 2024
- Contractor to carry out enabling works within the 2c area along the Mangarau Stream, to allow the start of Stage 1 work
- Continue the work of the arborist to assess the condition of trees along the streams
- Start the replacement of wastewater crossings (more below)
- Continue bank or asset remediations on Council land, and support landowners on private land
- Continue developing concept designs to upgrade a number of wastewater pipes crossing the streams; the first two upgrades are planned in Tainui Reserve (above Keith Sands Grove), and in the Joll Road area (within the 2c project area) – with construction between Nov 2024 and April 2025
- Install stream monitors at key locations
- Prioritise recommendations from 2024 dam safety inspections
- Progress emergency planning with risk team

Maintenance contract

With Hawke's Bay Regional Council Works Group now on board as our maintenance contractor, it will begin proactive maintenance of the streams as part of its contract. The contract includes provision for one-off minor unscheduled maintenance projects as required.

That proactive maintenance includes mowing, scrub barring (weed eating), and weed spraying, along the Herehere, Mangarau, Te Kahika, School, and Karituwhenua streams and dams, and associated reporting.

Our maintenance regime includes:

Activity	Frequency
Dams	
Inspections of dams and corresponding reports identifying required maintenance tasks.	Every quarter, four times per year
Response and Investigation of channel/inlet	As required
Clearance of debris upstream of approach channel/inlet Structure	As required
Clearance of debris/excess vegetation accumulated on Emergency Spillway	As required
Mowing/scrub bar of grass on spillway and dam embankment	Every second month
CCTV review of culverts to check alignment and possible settlement or damage.	Annually
Inspection of bridges over spillway	Annually
Record groundwater level in standpipes – Te Kahika	Every second month
Streams	
Stream-long inspections corresponding reports identifying required maintenance tasks	Every quarter, four times per year
Mowing, scrub bar and weed spraying of stream lengths	Every second month
Removal of debris / trees which block the stream channel/culvert structures	As required



Check out this video taking us on a tour of the streams of Karanema Havelock North for Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori 2024.

Bank remediation guidance

An important piece of work is the development of a guidance document to support landowners adjacent to streams and Council to consistently deliver solutions that align with the future management approach of the Karanema Havelock North Streams.

The project team has been developing a guide that will provide insight into why bank failure occurs, and what solutions may look like. It will provide insight into navigating resource consenting and obtaining a building consent.

The guide will be complemented by a planting guidance document that will look to reflect and build on the work already done in the reserves in the area.

This will be tested with the Project Community Advisory group and then once finalised shared with the wider community.

Dam inspections and survey

A drone survey was taken of dams in Havelock North (Herehere, Mangarau, Te Kahika, School and Karituwhenua), Te Awanga, and Clifton in the last week of August as part of the annual dam safety review, and to inform maintenance investigations and future work.

Following this survey, engineers inspected and assessed the dams as part of the annual intermediate dam safety review in early September.



Engineers inspecting the Te Kahika Dam



*Left: Herehere Dam across the dam crest (Wall) down into Havelock North
Right: Te Kahika Dam looking upstream*

Structures within the streams

Hastings District Council is working to improve the district's streams to cope with extreme weather events, and to make improvements that will benefit fauna and protect them for future generations. In August, members of the project team walked the length of the Havelock North streams with regional council ecologists and NIWA environmental advisors to investigate fish passage issues where there are existing bed/grade control structures like waterfalls, debris dams and weirs.

The team discovered that some species, such as eels, had no issue in travelling the streams and climbing vertical waterfalls. However, given the distance between the streams and the coast, most species entering them are small and young, and cannot pass some of the existing weirs and waterfalls.

The team learnt from NIWA how a waterway should be designed to create a fish-friendly environment, keeping any drops in elevation to 50mm with the distance between pond drops at

least two metres. This allows fish to 'climb up' the streams and creates low turbulent areas for rest.

Existing structures within the streams are being investigated and may be modified or removed to improve the ecological system. Each structure will be reviewed looking at the modelling to ensure flow capacity is maintained, while also providing grade and bed control to manage sediment movement down the stream, and reduce stream bed scouring.



A concrete grade control structure on the Herehere Stream



A wooden debris dam on the Mangarau Stream

[Havelock North streams and dams web hub](#)

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