



Officers Report

Appendix 12

WDC Natural Hazards Plan Change Memo

WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEMO

FILE NO AND TRIM NO: DDS-06-05-02-27-01 / 160322025543

DATE: 16 March 2016

MEMO TO: Andrew Willis, Consultant Planner

FROM: Trevor Ellis, Development Planning Manager

SUBJECT: Proposed Waimakariri District Plan Change 27: Natural Hazard Management

The Council is currently preparing a plan change that reviews the Waimakariri District Plan (the Plan) provisions relating to natural hazard management. The Plan was made operative in 2005 and the hazard management provisions are due for review under s79 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA).

The proposed plan change reviews recent hazard information and modelling within the context of RMA and regional policy requirements, in particular the Regional Policy Statement (RPS). The proposed plan change recognises that understanding of natural hazard management has evolved since the Plan was first developed in the late 1990s and seeks to reconcile recent technical information and regional policy changes to help ensure the Plan remains current.

The scope of the plan change relates to natural hazards as they apply to the district as a whole including areas covered by the Waimakariri Residential Red Zone Recovery Plan. The purpose of the plan change is limited to Waimakariri District specific geophysical events or natural occurrences in regard to flooding, earthquake, liquefaction, coastal hazard and climate change.

The proposed plan change does not address future climate change effects associated with sea level rise in relation to potential direct source coastal inundation. However, two key climate change values are factored into the flood modelling that informs the proposed plan change, being additional rainfall volume and an allowance for 1m sea level rise. The effect of these modelled values is reflected in maximum flood depth and flood hazard categories.

Proposed Plan Change 27 primarily reviews Chapters 8 and 27 of the Plan. Chapter 8 sets out the issues, objectives and policies. Chapter 27 sets out the rules. Changes are also proposed to the District Plan maps to the extent that they will show modelled flooding areas, known earthquake fault lines and liquefaction areas, plus coastal hazard lines as identified by the RPS and Regional Coastal Environment Plan.

Specifically, the plan change reviews relevant Plan provisions and proposes amendments as necessary and new provisions, including objectives, policies, rules and maps. In summary, the amendments and additions currently drafted are as follows:

- Objective to protect people, property and structures.
- Policies relating to flood hazard management, critical infrastructure, physical mitigation, natural and vegetation features, fault line awareness, liquefaction susceptibility, coastal hazards, and climate change.
- Rules relating to flood management, including floor heights to mitigate flooding effects and exemptions for certain activities.

- Rules relating to subdivision within flood hazard areas, areas susceptible to liquefaction and the coastal hazard area.
- New definitions and maps.

It is important to note that the RPS requires either the mitigation or avoidance of the effects of natural hazards within existing residential zones. The Plan is required to give effect to the RPS and for Red Zoned land subject to flooding development must therefore address and respond the potential effects of flooding. As drafted, Proposed Plan Change 27 requires resource consent application within high flood hazards areas, other than for certain exemptions, for these effects to be assessed against the provisions of Plan and the RMA.

The draft of the plan change is in advanced state and consultation with statutory consultees is underway. The plan change requires approval of Council to publicly notify following RMA requirements. The notification date has not been determined at this time, although it proposed to occur within the second quarter of 2016.