

Lower Waitaki River Erosion Works Meeting Notes

① Meeting Information	
Date:	Friday, 31 July 2020
Venue:	Waitaki Bridge Hall
Time Commenced:	9am
Time Concluded:	10.50am
Attendees:	<p>Gert Van't Klooster, Walter & Sandy Cameron, Kate White, Cassie Johnston, Mr McClelland, Diane Landrere, Rex Lunpin, Peter & Frances Whitlock, Mark Dyster, Les Crosbie, Alastair Gibson, Sean McGeown, Robin Murphy, Bill Pile, Grant Isbisher, DB McCulloch, Alan Gibson, Bruce Murphy, Jen Fellowes, Geoff Taylor, Sally Brooker, Sue Eddington, Paul Smith, Debbie Tiffen, Trevor Lill, Noel Simpson, Mark Hurst, Miles Buckland, Arjan Van't Klooster, Robert Smith, Russell Hurst</p> <p>WDC: Sheila Paul, David Cooper, Paul Roberts, Jay McMillan, David Owen</p> <p>ORC: Cr Kevin Malcolm, Cr Kate Wilson Cr Carmen Hope, Gavin Palmer (General Manager Operations), Michelle Mifflin (Manager Engineering), Garry La Hood (Senior Engineering Officer)</p> <p>Facilitator: Ian Whitehouse ("Whit")</p> <p>Ecan: Cr Peter Scott, Cr Elizabeth McKenzie, Leigh Griffiths (River Eng Manager), Shaun McCracken (Regional Lead River Eng), Hilary Fraser (Area Eng), Tracey Hobson (Business Support), Justin McLauchlan (Sth Canterbury Manager)</p>
Apologies:	Cr John Sunckell, Nadeine Dommissie, David Gillies, Jenny Hawkins, Andrew Noone, Sherin Keen, Cody Kilner, Mark Sill, Jeff Page, Geoff Keeling, Joy Burke, Lyle Manna

② Meeting Notes, Issues, Decisions

1 Welcome and Introductions

Gert welcomed those in attendance and confirmed that the purpose of the meeting was to have an operational update on the erosion issues and options of the Lower Waitaki River.

Ian Whitehouse ("Whit") introduced himself as the facilitator of the meeting and acknowledged those in attendance and went through housekeeping items.

2 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cr John Sunckell, Nadeine Dommissie, David Gillies, Jenny Hawkins, Cr Andrew Noone (ORC), Sherin Keen, Cody Kilner, Mark Sill, Jeff Page, Geoff Keeling, Joy Burke, Lyle Manna

Motion that "the apologies be accepted"

Moved: Bruce Murphy / Seconded: Sheila Paul

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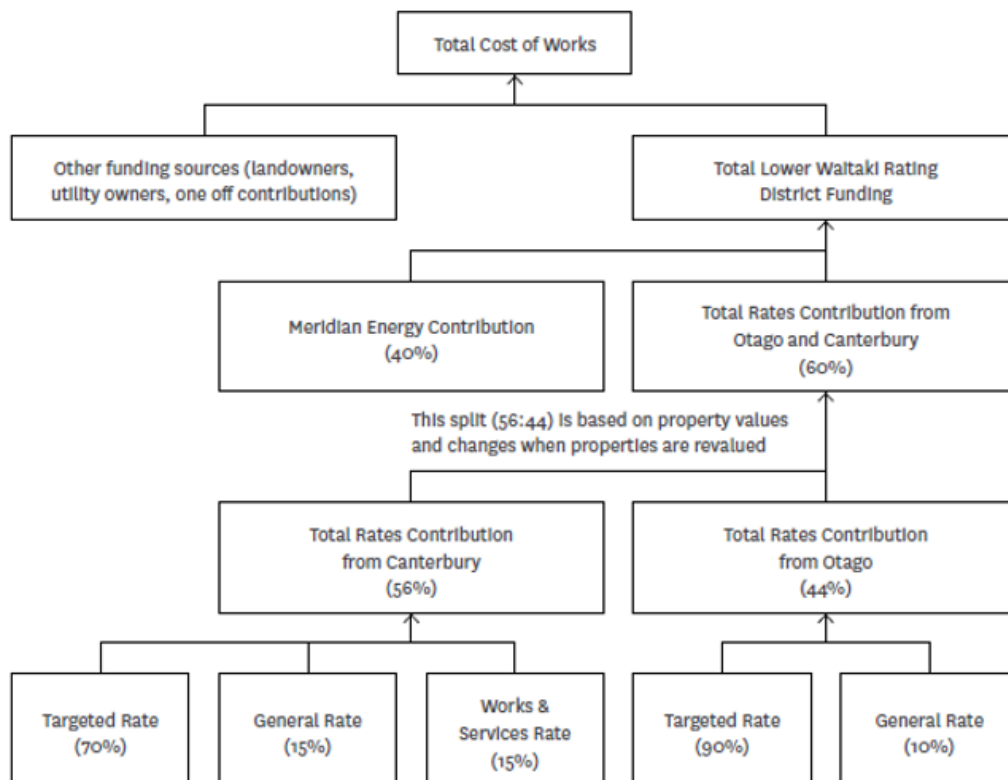
3 Objectives

Shaun presented the Lower Waitaki River Rating District objectives:

- To maintain a cleared fairway typically 600m wide between the Waitaki Dam and the coast.
- To maintain an active riverbed, inclusive of buffer zones (berms), generally 1000m wide at Kurow, increasing to 1300m wide at the coast.
- To limit erosion of the active bed vegetated margins (berms), in primary and secondary frontages.

4 Current Funding Model

Targeted rates make up one third of the monies being 70% and 90%



5 Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Frontages

- **Primary:** 100% Rating District funding for erosion works. Flood risk to multiple landowners, settlements & utilities
- **Secondary:** 50% landowner contribution for erosion works. Flood risk to moderate areas
- **Tertiary:** 100% landowner contributions for erosion works. Flood risk to landowner farmland & sometimes adjacent property downstream.

Question: Are properties assessed on risk?

Answer from Gavin: ORC involved in the technical works, they look at works with the greatest benefit and the best use of ratepayer's money.

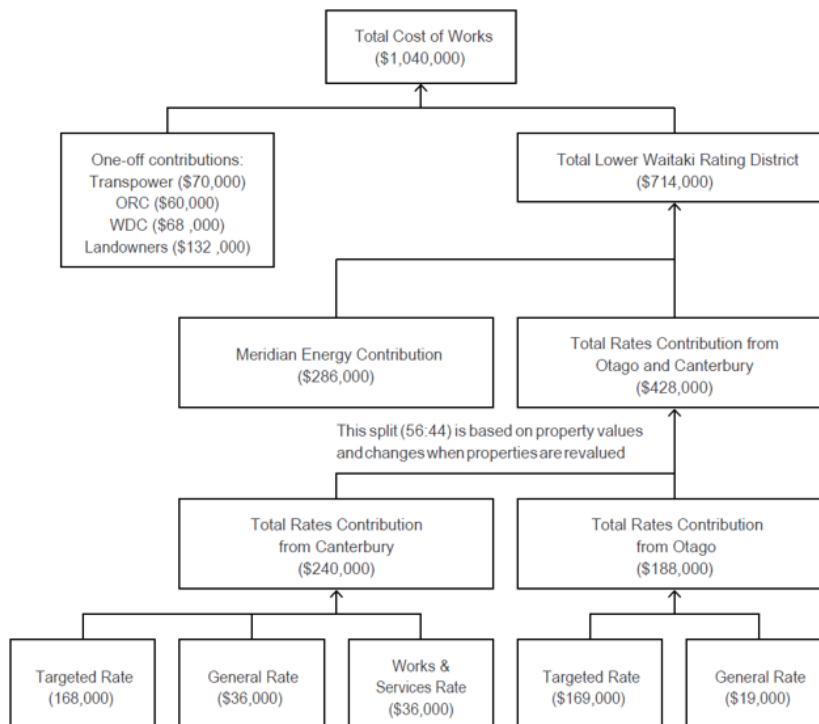
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6 Current Erosion

There are 13 sites in total currently experiencing erosion which are spread all down the river with a combination of primary, secondary and tertiary.

7 Cost Estimate and Split

The total cost of works would be \$1mil approx.



8 Impact on Rates

- Total requirement from targeted rates \$330,000
- Could be paid all in 2020/21 year, or debt funded over time (ie: 5 year period at 20%)
- Current Rates (Canterbury):
 - Class A ~ \$70 per \$100,000 capital value
 - Class B ~ \$35 per \$100,000 capital value

9 Meridian Energy

Meridian Energy operate dams under their consent that will expire 2025, and have been deemed compliant with the conditions of their consents and currently pay 40% that was negotiated in the 1990s.

Cause/effect: Is the 40% correct? – we don't know but need to consider the positives and negative effects of the dams. If the dams were not there it would result in very high flows daily and have impact on erosion. Meridian has acknowledged that there is impact.

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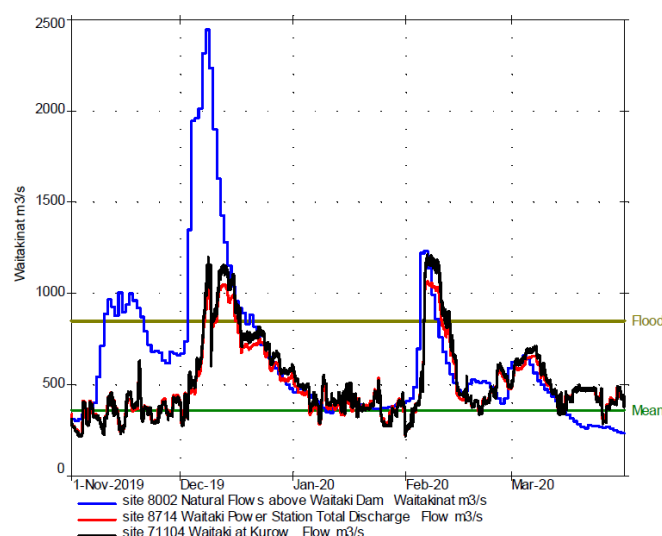
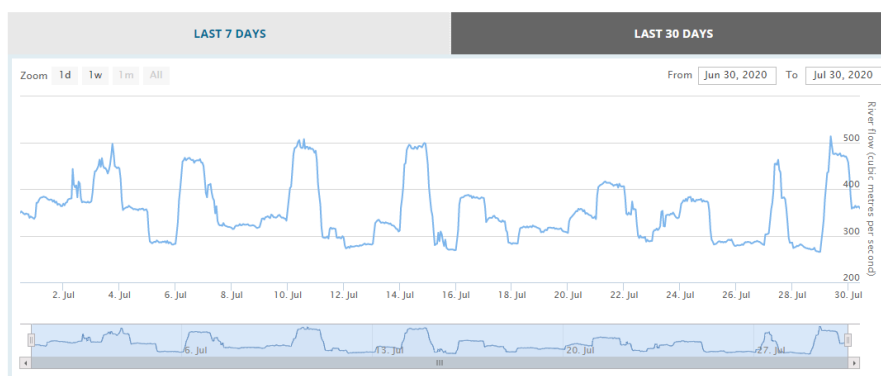


Figure 2: Simulated natural flow, and measured flows at two locations below Waitaki Dam. Lines mark the long-term (94 year) mean flow of 360 m³/s and the flood threshold of 860 m³/s.

River Flow for Waitaki River at Kurow

LAST SAMPLE (NZD STD TIME)	STAGE M	FLOW M ³ /S	CHANGE MM/H	7 DAY PEAK STAGE	7 DAY PEAK FLOW	7 DAY PEAK DATE	TEMP CELSIUS
30-Jul 09:02	1.951	363.014	5	2.423	521.22	29-Jul 09:06	6.06

River flow (cubic metres per second)



10 Questions and Discussions:

Gert: Seems unfair to have Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Frontages in place, when Meridians contribution is 28% of the new costings, it is time for a review of their contributions
Shaun: Meridian pay 40% of the \$750K cost (old cost)

Statement: In the past we have had different interpretation of today's costings, if we put the funding in, we still have no control over the works, we need Ecan to enforce the conditions of Meridians consent.

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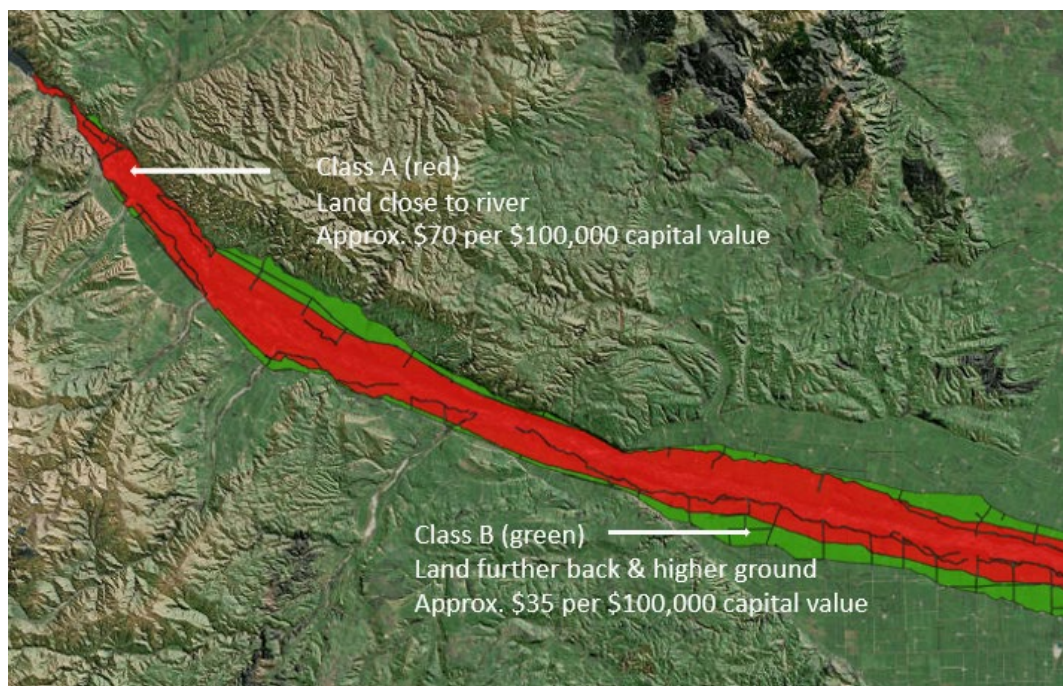
Mario (landowner): Why haven't we been working well on fairway management?

Shaun: It comes down to funding, Hilary prioritises the moneys for best benefit

Kate: Our issue is this is a modified river and shingle doesn't get washed out and Meridian controls the river. There has been 6 months of flows going up and down. Meridian should be paying, not the farmers. During the Rangitata flood event Meridian should have had all 6 generators operating to their maximum to comply with their discharge consent but this did not happen. They need to be good corporate citizens.

Lower Waitaki Targeted Rates Classification Map

Shaun explained that if your farm is under one of the red or green areas then you pay rates just on that part.



Question: How is this worked out when your land has been washed out to sea through erosion that started three years ago, the workings need reassessing.

Question: When an event from MetService happens do you have collaboration flood controllers through Ecan and Meridian to get this through the system?

Shaun: Ecan's flood control team is based in Timaru, Meridian has a forecaster working full time and yes a huge collaboration happens. The management of the flows sits with Meridian.

Question: Why did flows not get released before the event with lakes already full?

Shaun: Shared a diagram showing the lakes not being full at this time, if dams were not there the flows be above the threshold for about 17 days instead of nine days.

Peter Whitlock from the village: I am already paying twice for flood protection, could we propose an exemption for residential as we have no way of making more income. Already pay ORC rate 1A.

Statement: There is no historical evidence that my place will flood, already paying for flood protection and being on the pension I cannot fund this increase.

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Letter shared from the floor: Dated 8th June 2020 says rainfall blew, hydro lakes were already full and needed to be spilled.

Cassey: I first contacted Ecan in 2018 with an erosion problem that is a \$10K job split with Transpower, I have no intention to pay as the river has encroached on my land which is zoned as Tertiary. My family has farmed on land for 130 years and we are left to pick up the pieces with these rampant flows.

In May 2020 flows were exceeding 500cu, after discussions with Meridian now flowing at 400cu.

Question to floor from Whit the facilitator: What do you want?

All in agreement: Meridian to pay

Walter: With cooperation from Meridian could use dozers in river to more advantage. River should sit at 170cu. Meridian is generating a lot of value out of river every day.

Trevor, Glenavy fishing: Problem is excess water, people need to control their run off. Why isn't everyone contributing to the rates ie: owner of Mt Cook. Should not be just the farm owners. Meridian should be paying as they make a massive profit. Every time it comes up with Ecan there is always a road block.

What is happen with gorse clearing programme?

Hilary: Vegetation build up is across all of Canterbury rivers, need to spray all rivers within a 3-year cycle, at present taking 5-6 years to get through it. Rating Districts have been great to increase costs to get back to a 3-year cycle. Got to Kurow this year then Covid happened.

Jeff Taylor: Is spraying the right way to go, water flowed over the islands, spraying kills gorse but makes the islands higher. Should we graze the islands?

Kate: Does Meridian pay a targeted rate as well as 40%?

Shaun: No, if Meridian was to own land in the red area they would pay a targeted rate.

Robert Smith: Would like to see zero tolerance for erosion in the long term plan. Rating system is grossly unfair. Meridian as total control of the river, they are creating the erosion. Holding a river flow high for weeks on end is causing the erosion, Meridian should pay.

Russell Hurst: Agree with Robert Smith, battling this for last two years, river heading forwards moari cemetery, not holding beliefs to the moari community.

Gert: Condition 7 of consent: Meridian shall prevent erosion events

Alan Gibson: Why has it got to this point? Effective management slow to react, 13 major sites, if funding was an issue it should have been sorted ages ago. What did you do at the Rangitata?

Statement from the floor: Meridian is 51% government owned; it is their job to clean the river and as a result we would not loose land and fish will spawn.

Question: What is hope for shovel ready jobs for planting?

Peter Scott: The conversation today is to reset. Conversations with central govt happening. Put in for \$27m but haven't heard anything. We are having conversations with ministers as

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its capital maintenance. Meridian are not in the Rating District area. We will look at a funding review.

Cr Elizabeth McKenzie: Going forward long term, flood events will become worse with climate change. We need to minimise, addressing the main cause.

Overall response from Shaun: Hearing loud and clear, works need to be done and Meridian needs to pay for it

1 - Should remedial controls works be carried out? YES

2 - If works carried out will the community contribute to the funding: NO

Michelle ORC: What is the priority of the remedial works and are the consequences of not doing the works understood by community?

Shaun: It will vary for all 13 properties - consequences of doing nothing would be real

Kevin Malcolm: ORC have buckets of money for its rivers, we need to deal with the river, but if you are living next to a river it will affect you. Work needs to be done and we need to find the money and Meridian should be part of this. Will go back and look at more funding with the budgets they have.

Shiela: WDC have no agreement in principle, has not come through WDC

Shaun: Having a chat with WDC staff, do you agree in principle of the funding, has to go through full council process, this is the agreement with other agencies. WDC said they have agreed to some funding.

11 Next Steps

- Shaun to consolidate this into a feedback paper to Crs Elizabeth McKenzie and Peter Scott on how to proceed
- When discussion is made a letter will be sent to ratepayers of update

12 Closure

Ian Whitehouse thanked all in attendance for their time, interest and support. The meeting was declared closed at 10.50am.

After the meeting had closed there was a motion from Gert that the works be started now, not in two months' time". Moved: Robert Smith / Seconded Walter Cameron.

Shaun: We still need to work out who is paying first.