

To Helen Flans

Helen, here is our submission for Proposed Plan Change 42. We are away 21st Sept. back 21st Oct.

= Don Robinson, who was part of our original submission has passed away, so is just Jeff & Noeline Berkett.

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|-----------|---------|------------|
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Thanks,

Noeline Berkett

Submission to UHCC re Proposed Plan Change 42.

As we will be away when the hearings are to be held, this will only be a written submission.

Copies of our previous submissions are attached as are the 2 maps referred to(in item 2). Our opposition to this lane has not changed since 2005, there were errors and inaccuracies then that are still in the revised 2016 version.

The main points of our submission are.

1. Lack of consultation from day one, before the 2005 Proposed Plan was presented . Those of us who have lived, worked and farmed around the Mangaroa River for 50-70 years know the river, where it goes during a flood, where it doesn't . We have kept a rain gauge since 1976, the figures are in our previous submissions. They show that you cannot just pour water onto a computer model, rain in the area is not the same throughout the area.
2. The land to the south of Whitemans valley Road between Gorrie Road and "Barkers bridge", about 2kms along the road, is zoned as "ponding". No water has ever flowed across that land, let alone "pond". We questioned this when the 2005 document was released but received no plausible answer. However, when the 2016 version came out , there appeared an "overflow channel", that flowed onto the land As a lot of that land is uphill from the "overflow channel", we wonder how the water will go uphill?
3. In our earlier submissions we go into detail about the difference in the 2000 report on peak Flows, and the Peak Flows in 2005, a rise of over 10%.
4. The biggest flood in recent times was the 1939 flood, only one house was flooded, that at about 318 Whitemans Valley. My mother was a teenager then and had photos of that flood. None of the houses along Whitemans Valley Road, north of 318 were flooded. Those areas are now shown as "ponding" areas.
5. The fact that we have never had a Q20 flood since records began, makes us wonder where Regional Council gets the idea, we are going to have a Q100 plus more, plus freeboard. Seems very much over the top.
6. We are of the opinion that UHCC cannot have a Plan that contradicts any Plan that Regional Council has. We put that question to UHCC Planning officers and they said yes, that is the case, but for it to be changed we would have to produce expert evidence, which means money we can't afford. The implementation of this Proposed Plan will have no impact on us or our farming activities, it is a matter of principle. We own a large farm at 528 Whitemans Valley, the flood predictions for that farm are reasonably accurate, we have had floods covering the land in major floods.

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Submission to UHCC re proposed Plan Change 15/Flooding and Erosion Areas.

Our main concern with this plan is the manner in which it was researched. We have kept rain records since 1976 and we know the amount of rain that fell to cause the floods as documented in the report. Floods documented in the report-

We read our rain gauge in the morning about 7am-

- 20th Jan 1980 – (WRC peak flow 207) we had 31mm rain 17th Jan, 81mm 19th Jan
- 10th April 1980 – (WRC peak flow 194) we had 77.5mm 10th April, 43.75mm 11th April
- 21st May 1981 – (WRC peak flow 245) we had 162.5mm 21 May, 43.75mm 22nd May
- 11th Dec 1982 – (WRC peak flow 192) we had 32.5mm 11th Dec, 87.5 12th Dec
- 18th Oct 1984 – (WRC peak flow 161) we had 69mm 18th Oct
- 19th Aug 1985 – (WRC peak flow 186) we had 55mm 19th Aug, 80mm 20th Aug
- 7th Aug 1991 – (WRC peak flow 156) we had 75mm 7th Aug
- 8th Nov 1994 – (WRC peak flow 194) we had 16mm 6th Nov, 33mm 7th Nov, 66mm 8th Nov
- 4th Oct 1997 – (WRC peak flow 227) we had 28mm 5th Oct, 110mm 6th Oct, 12mm 7th Oct, 10mm 8th Oct.
- 21st Oct 1998 – (WRC peak flow 187) we had 23.5mm 20th Oct, 75mm 21st Oct
- 28th Oct 1998 – (WRC peak flow 239) we had 128mm 28th Oct
- 2nd Oct 2000 – (WRC peak flow 189) we had 44mm 1st Oct, 78mm 2nd Oct
- 3rd Oct 2003 – (WRC peak flow 231) we had 132mm 3rd Oct
- 16th Feb 2004 – (WRC peak flow 252) we had 40mm 11th Feb, 19mm 13th Feb, 29mm 14th Feb, 120mm 15th Feb, 30mm 16th Feb
- 6th Jan 2005 – (WRC peak flow 247) we had 83mm 6th Jan

As you may be able to see, the size of the flood is not the amount of rain in one day, it all depends on the amount we have had over 2,3 or more days preceding the flood. We have asked repeatedly for someone to say how much water was poured onto the model to produce the results in the report, but as yet we have not got an answer.

According to the data I have seen, the largest flood we have had since 1980, 16th Feb 2004, does not even rate as a Q20 flood, which has a peak flow of 276.

So, how can WRC say that we can expect a peak flow of 372 for a Q100 flood which this whole report is based on, and we residents are being punished financially on these figures?

The areas of ponding on the maps are intriguing. We, and our family, have been involved with farming in the area since settlement began and no-one can recall any of the areas under water at any time, let alone ponding.

In April 2000, we were building a new house and the WRC/UHCC decided that we needed to get an engineers report to ascertain the floor level for the new house as regards to possible flooding. Despite our assurances that, as we had lived in the area for quite a number of years and family had been here since the 1840's, we knew the area would not flood, we had to spend over \$2000 to tell us what we knew. The report at that time, 2000, quoted WRC figures for peak flows. The peak flows at that time were 10% lower than those in the Flood Plan document. When questioned at the meetings, the answer was that the levels are an average, so we assume that if we get 10 or 20 dry years, the peak flows will decrease? In the meantime these figures are being "set in concrete" and affecting our LIMs and future subdivision potential.

For many years we lobbied against the introduction of lifestyle blocks in the fertile valleys, but UHCC in it's wisdom now allows them, but has virtually said building on them is going to be almost impossible, financially and structurally. If this proposed change comes in, we ask that rates on affected land be adjusted accordingly, or the valuations be drastically reduced.

Our main objection to this proposed change is that it is not based on accurate information, and we ask that our questions be answered in full before any decision is made, because those decisions will affect us and our family forever.

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2012

Submission to Upper Hutt City Council re Proposed District Plan Change 15.

Submitters – Jeff & Noeline Berkett, Don Robinson.

We oppose most of the proposed changes because the data supplied by greater Wellington Regional Council is flawed, contains erroneous information and local farmers and long-term residents were not approached to give accurate eye witness accounts prior to, and during, the study.

Noeline has lived in the Valley for most of her 67 years, her mother lived in the valley for all of her 81 years, Noeline's family farmed there from 1945 until the farm was bought by a partnership of Berkett/Prince.

Jeff started working on farms in Whitemans Valley at the age of 17 and has been involved with farming and contracting throughout the Upper Hutt area for 50 years.

Noeline and Jeff have farmed in the valley since 1974, and still farm 335ha.

Don Robinson has lived and farmed in the Valley for most of his 81 years.

So you could say, between the 3 of us, we have seen our share of floods, small and large, and have a very good idea of where water goes in a flood and where it doesn't.

We have kept rain records since 1976, and these records have been verified by GWRC and found to be within 3% of their figures.

We attach several charts to illustrate where we believe the inaccuracies arise.

Chart 1 was done in 2000. We were building a new house and had to have an engineer's report to show the site was not prone to flooding. This chart, from the report by TCB, contains data from WRC (Wellington Regional Council now GWRC). Compare these figures with Chart 2, which is the GWRC levels in 2005.

You will notice that the levels for the Q20, Q50 & Q100 floods have increased by approx. 10%. When questioned why, the answer was that the figure was an average, and given the short time that records were available, the average would be different.

So, we ask, if there are 20-30 "dry" years, will these levels decrease? Not so, they will be "set in concrete", if UHCC allows this change to go ahead as it is.

Chart 3 lists the individual "Flood Events". We have rainfall for all of these "Events", so we will list the rainfall for those Floods.

20th January, 1980.

16/01/80 11.5mm

17/01/80 31mm

18/01/80 2.5mm

19/01/80 81mm. GWRC Peak Flow 207

10th April 1980.

7/04/80 7.5mm

8/04/80 11mm

9/4/80 2.75mm

10/04/80 77.5mm

11/04/80 43.75mm GWRC Peak Flow 194

21st May 1981

19/05/81 5.5mm

20/04/81 6.25mm

21/04/81 162.5mm

22/04/81 43.75mm GWRC Peak Flow 245

11th December 1982

14/02/04 29mm

15/02/04 120mm GWRC Peak Flow 252

We have this as a “big Flood”, not even a Q20 with GWRC data.

6thth January 2005

5/01/05 2.5mm

6/01/05 83mm GWRC Peak Flow 247

Still not even a Q20 Flood.

So, in 25 years of recorded floods, we have not had even a Q20 flood. Our point is, where do GWRC get the idea we will ever have a Q20, let alone a Q100, which has a peak flow of 372. For the same size floods, TCB, quoting WRC figures in 2000, had a Q100 of 330, 80% of the GWRC figure in 2005. So, why the difference, we know floods aren't getting bigger. Since 2005, we have had “small floods”,

- 7th July 2006 (198mm in 2 days),

3rd August 2006 (53.5mm in 2 days),

19th November 2006 (101mm in 3 days),

24th May 2009 (72mm in 2 days),

31st August 2009 (94mm)

24th July 2012 (68mm in 4 days).

As you are probably aware, the authors of the GWRC study, Sinclair Knight Merz, built a model of the river and this was the method of calculating flood patterns. We have repeatedly asked GWRC how much rain was put onto the model to produce a Q25, Q50, Q100 flood. They will not tell us, it would answer a lot of questions as we know how much rain we got to have a flood that doesn't even qualify as a Q20 flood. The other very disturbing aspect is the lack of contact the SKM people had with locals, none of the “old-timers “ were visited or were asked to have any input whatever. How can someone with no local knowledge, make decisions that affect our future. They are telling us that their word is more knowledgeable than our memories and photos.

One area that is completely wrong is the “ponding” that will supposedly happen to the south of the main road opposite Gorrie road up to “Barkers” Bridge. In my memory, there has never been a flood to go through this land, let alone “pond” on it. Likewise for both sides of Gorrie road, it just doesn't go that way. During a very big flood in the late 1970's, before we did records, the water came up beside the bridge at Keys Corner, flowed under our house and went across the paddocks towards Cunninghams (no house there then). There was no water where GWRC says it will go, so where do those figures come from? Even that flood didn't reach the areas designated as “ponding” in the Plan.

One of the co-submitters, Don Robinson owns or leases the land to the south and west of the main Whitemans Valley road, and he cannot remember any water ponding on the area, he is now in his 80's.

Other problems we have with the use of a model to determine water flow are-

- 1) Different soil types greatly influence river levels. Some soils absorb water, others allow more water to run into waterways.
- 2) After a very wet period of rain, it takes very little rain to cause a flood. In drier periods, if we have a couple of drizzly days, the rain will soak in with little or no flooding. After a dry spell, heavy rain will run straight into the waterways because the ground is too hard and won't absorb the rain.

Submission to UHCC Annual Plan 2017-18.

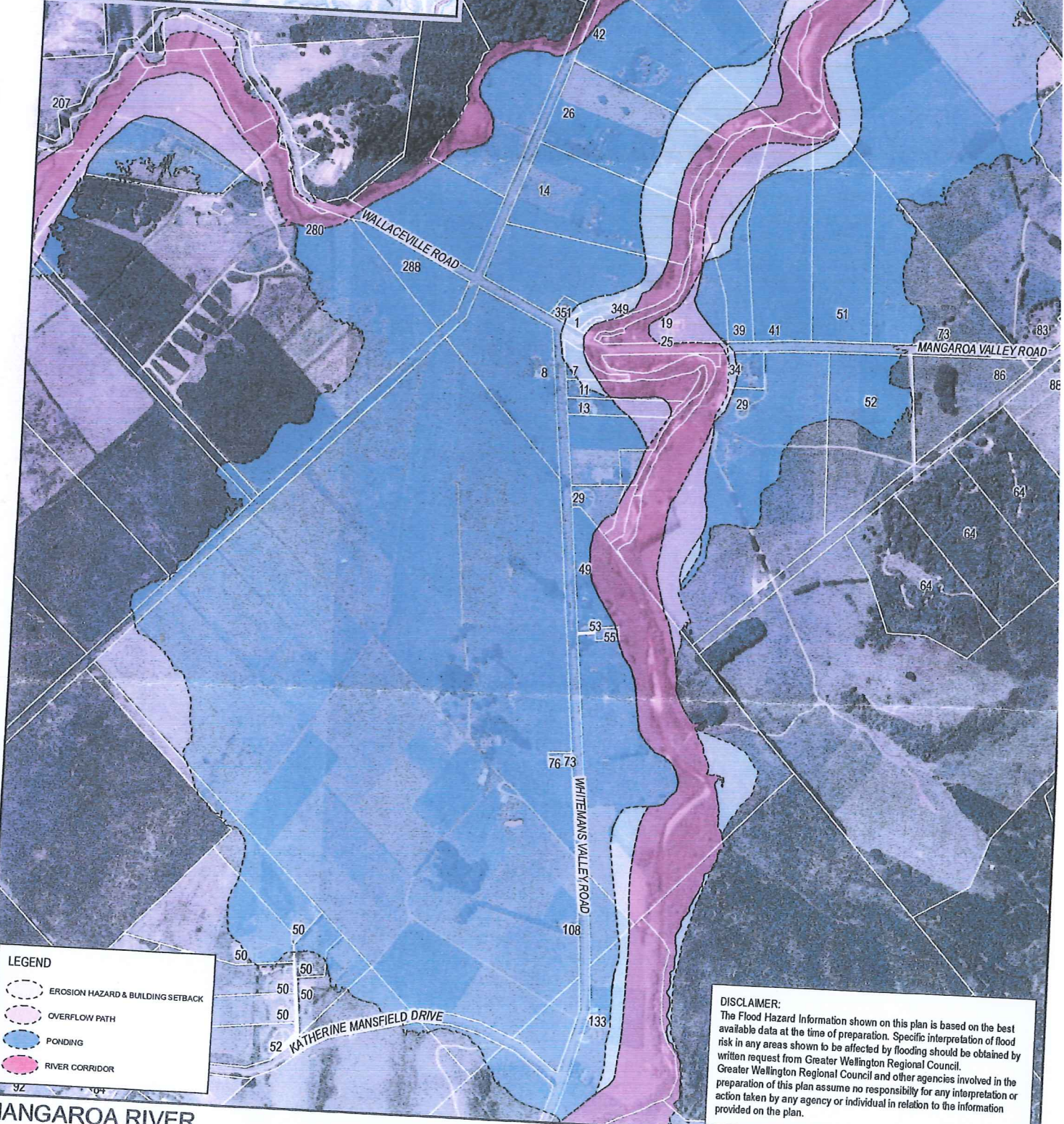
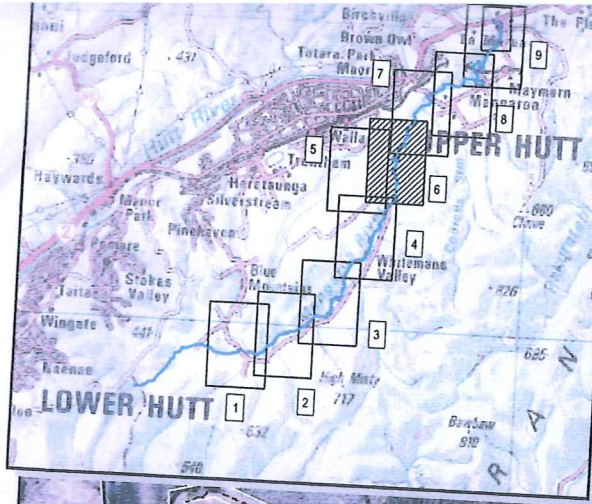
Although there is no provision in the Annual Plan, could there be some consideration to allocate money to install cameras at the entrances to our rural areas. We have been experiencing a lot of thefts and break-ins, but as most people work during the day, (when these break-ins happen), there is no evidence to find the culprits.

We are very disappointed that UHCC will adopt the Mangaroa Flood Plan, without residents having an opportunity to challenge the flood levels. There are many of us who have lived and worked around the Mangaroa River for many decades who know there are errors on where water will or will not flow, or pond during and after a major flood. Bearing in mind there has not been a flood recorded as anything more than a Q25, and this Plan is based on a Q100, plus freeboard, we are being inconvenienced by scaremongering at best.

We do not wish to speak to this submission.

Thanking you, Jeff and Noeline Berkett.

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LEGEND

- EROSION HAZARD & BUILDING SETBACK
- OVERFLOW PATH
- PONDING
- RIVER CORRIDOR

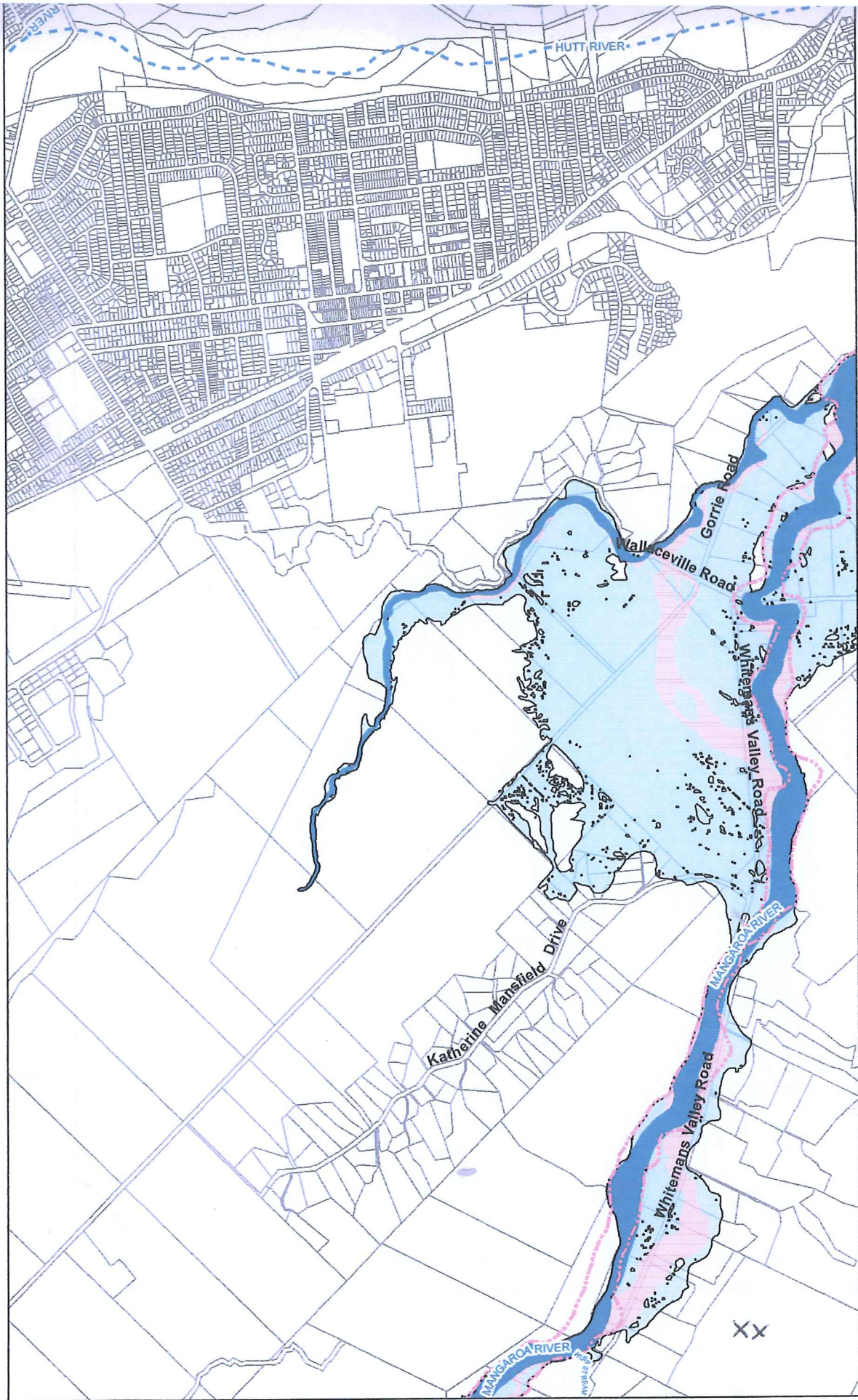
DISCLAIMER:
 The Flood Hazard Information shown on this plan is based on the best available data at the time of preparation. Specific interpretation of flood risk in any areas shown to be affected by flooding should be obtained by written request from Greater Wellington Regional Council. Greater Wellington Regional Council and other agencies involved in the preparation of this plan assume no responsibility for any interpretation or action taken by any agency or individual in relation to the information provided on the plan.

**MANGAROA RIVER
 100 Year Flood & Erosion Hazard**

HAZARD MAP - SHEET 6

2005





| | | |
|----|----|----|
| 25 | | |
| 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 30 | 31 | 32 |

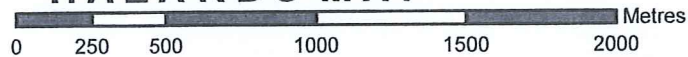
- Erosion Hazard Area
- Flood Hazard Extent
- Ponding Area
- Overflow Path
- River Corridor

UPPER HUTT CITY COUNCIL HAZARDS MAP

Plan change 42
March 2016



Scale : 1:25000



See Rural
Planning Map
25

2016