

## Public Meeting Sunday 9 April Whangamata Club 2.00pm

Background information, the intention of the report is to identify the cause and effect of the recent storms upon the stormwater infrastructure and resulting flooding in the town, (1.6m) and whether we could come up with some solutions.

There have been reported instances, of severe flooding where houses became uninhabitable and repeat flooding requiring pumps being installed to pump onto the street. Disruption to households

Flooding at street level, overflowing into properties and gardens, pooling caused by the inability of the stormwater infrastructure to deal with the amount of rain, the blocked drains and soak pits all resulting inundation.

The initial meeting at the end of January to discuss the Williamson Park pond became the catalyst for the “working group” to be formed. It seemed logical that the Whangamata Ratepayers Association facilitate and co-ordinate the meetings and findings of the working group.

Members of the working group.

Dale McKenzie, John Spencer, Graeme Manson, Rob Boston, WRA.

Eric Thorn, Gary Thompson, Jimmy Corlett, Ian Holyoake, Paul Shanks.

Terry Walker, Gary Gotlieb, TCDC, Dave Ryan, Denis Beaver, Neil Jury, Community Board

The group has a wide range of experience and knowledge covering its history, design and management of the towns stormwater infrastructure.

Two meetings, many calls and several information requests have helped us identify the issues. A tour of the town to observe first-hand areas of concern helped gain a clearer understanding of the infrastructure we rely on to drain storm water.

Ian Holyoake agreed to draft the report, which as it progressed, morphed into a more detailed, technical document which will require further input.

Report and Summary, Ian as writer of the report will summarise the report, members of the working group, if present, can if they wish, make comment.

During the tour of the town to observe first-hand areas of concern, it became clear that there are key areas in urgent need of attention, these were **Presented to the Whangamata Community Board 7 March 2023, and included.**

- Main Beach effects of erosion, storm related wash up and contaminated discharge
- Condition of the Moana Anu, Anu Estuary, and harbour
- Rivers and streams having contaminated discharge.
- Parks and Reserves Williamson Park and Island View ponds
- Flooding and condition of Williamson Golf course

After viewing first hand these storm water assets and the flooding it is failing to remove we asked what is the role of ratepayer/community groups, community boards, local and regional council in the long term strategy, design and maintaining our storm water assets and what is going to be needed to be done to these assets now and for generations to come?

As a result of our presentation to the community board, we received a response from Council officials, who are requesting a meeting on Monday 18 April. TCDC has also commissioned an Independent Engineer, a meeting is hopefully scheduled for later this week.

We welcome comment from those affected with flooding. I would like some of you to present a short summary of your situation. 3 mins.

Ask Ian Holyoake to speak briefly to his summary of the working groups report.

### Objective

The aim of this meeting is to identify those affected, consider options available, lobby council, via petitions or other methods, consider submissions for the 2023/24 Annual Plan, as well as consider other recommendations our working group has identified Whangamata Residents and Ratepayers submission/ petition

**So where to from here. Do nothing, be obstructive or support solutions.**

**Whangamata Residents Association submission/ petition**

Name	Address	email	Contact #
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To move forward WRA seeks mandate to present to council on behalf of the residents and ratepayers, resolutions on the following.

23/24 Annual Plan closes 10 April 2023, Council has agreed to an extension of a couple of days. Information provided by council behind the annual plan is light in detail, however it is crucial that submissions are made. Thames Coromandel District Council [tcdc.govt.nz](http://tcdc.govt.nz)

In this submission the Whangamata stormwater budget for the next 3 years (2022/26) is set at \$6,363 million, 2023/24 \$2.187 million. The current annual plan seeks a reduction to \$1.1 million whilst many owners are suffering flooding. We need your support to increase spending to reduce the risk of ongoing flooding

Our town quite clearly needs not only the full amount and considerably more to resolve the stormwater infrastructure issues. If you have not yet made a submission, this should be clearly stated.

Set out below are our suggested resolutions, if these were to be adopted, they could be attached to your submission and ours.

1. TCDC will, with haste, review the existing stormwater to reduce flooding and more importantly to stop long term surface ponding. We expect new infrastructure and a rigorous maintenance program that is kept up to date. We expect TCDC to engage with our working group.
2. TCDC will investigate the water table level and update the findings of the Opus report to set a maximum water table level we can live with before soak pits become flooded and surface water can drain away
3. TCDC will provide a long-term solution to the Williamson Golf course to create resilient drainage system, a solution that includes providing drainage to protect adjacent houses and does not overburden an already at capacity stormwater system. We do not support draining to the Ocean. We do support pumping stations to reduce the water table level to normal managed rain fall events
4. TCDC will in consultation with the working group seek an immediate short term and long-term solution for the ponds at Island View Res and Williamson Park (weir). We expect these to be decommissioned within 5 years. No further discharges into the Ocean. In the interim a plan must be put in place for maintenance, alternative discharge and collection areas and how to clean the contaminated storm water
5. TCDC will engage directly with Waikato Regional Council to urgently review and investigate the environmental adverse effects caused to the Wentworth River, Moana Anu Anu estuary and harbour. How the river can return to flowing to self-discharge build-up of silt washed down, still water contamination, storm water discharges, mangroves and other habitation that is detrimental to aquatic life, raising the river bed which is causing flooding into the industrial area, the Totoki Golf course and low lying land along the Wentworth river and harbour. The adverse effect of sludge, silt and sand must be cleaned up
6. TCDC will immediately review and require the compliance team to comply with the Building Act, Acceptable Solutions and RMA when issuing Building consenting, LIM and in responses to requests for service
7. TCDC through the Community Board will actively and in good faith engage with local community beach and harbour care groups to clean up the main beach of washed-up debris as required.

We the undersigned agree with the resolutions above.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Stormwater and Flooding Petition of householders.**

WRA will support a street-by-street petition (**Kiwi Road example**) to present to Council. WRA will endorse a strong unified indication to Council of the feeling by those affected. Again, this petition could be attached to a submission. This is a powerful tool to force change.

**Alternative actions have been provided to WRA**

- Litigation
- With holding of rates

[whangaratepayers@gmail.com](mailto:whangaratepayers@gmail.com), Whangamata Ratepayers Association website, Whangamata Ratepayers Facebook page.