



- This brochure explains Greater Wellington's approach to the Otaki Catchments:
1. Floodplain management plan
 2. Flood risk management measures
 3. Environmental strategy and values

A floodplain management plan emphasises the need to leave room for the river and keep people away from floodwaters rather than floodwaters away from people

Our approach to managing flood risk is to understand river and floodplain processes and provide a coordinated response through our floodplain management plans in partnership with the community.

GREATER WELLINGTON WORKS WITH OUR REGION'S COMMUNITIES TO MANAGE THE FLOOD RISK FROM RIVERS IN OUR CATCHMENTS.

Otaki floodplain management plan



Otaki Floodplain Management



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Non-structural measures

Defining the flood hazard

This helps raise awareness of the nature of the flood hazard, and a flood's impact on land use and development.

The Kapiti Coast District Council's District Plan includes five categories that focus on this – River Corridor, Overflow Path, Ponding, Residual Overflow, Residual Ponding and Cliff Top Erosion.



FLOODING BY
WAITOHU STREAM

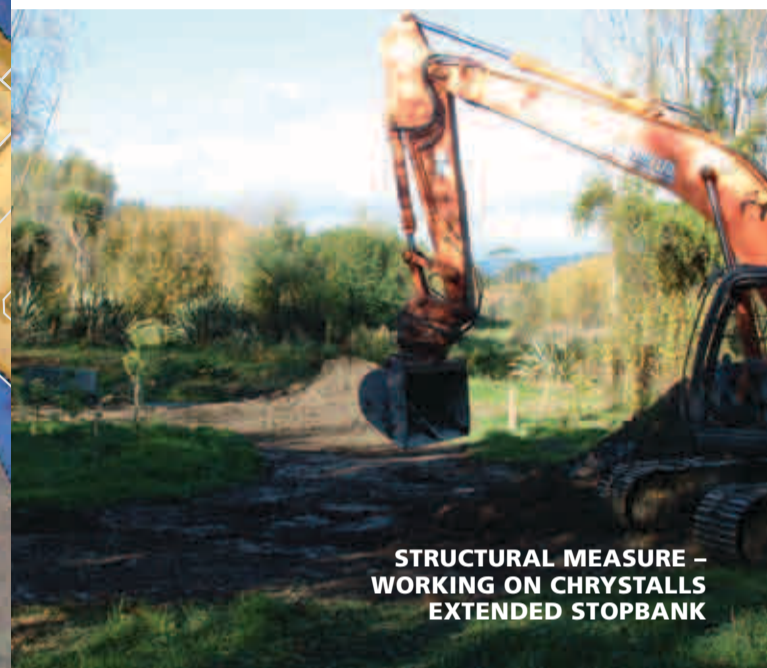


NON-STRUCTURAL
MEASURE –
FLOOD HAZARD LAYERS

Structural measures

Stopbanks

- Otaki River stopbanks are designed to protect existing homes and properties from a 1 in 100-year flood event.
- Stopbank works (which are part of the Otaki Floodplain Management Plan) include Chrystalls, Chrystalls Extended, and upgrading of the north and south banks.
- Stopbanks in the rural areas, such as Harpers, Lower Lutz and Upper Hughes stopbanks, and the Old Coach Road deflector bank, are designed to a 1 in 10-year flood event standard.



STRUCTURAL MEASURE –
WORKING ON CHRYSALLS
EXTENDED STOPBANK

Protecting and enhancing the Otaki River's environmental values

Otaki River environmental strategy

The floodplain management planning process has highlighted the need to protect and enhance the environmental values of the Otaki River.

Greater Wellington is committed to achieving the following four environmental principles through its floodplain management plans and environmental strategies:

1. Minimise any negative effects of flood risk management works on the community, including landscape, cultural, heritage, ecological or recreational values
2. Identify opportunities to enhance landscape, recreational and ecological values as part of flood risk management works within the river corridor
3. When designing works within the river environment, ensure a wide range of habitats remain, providing for native fish, plants, birds and invertebrates, and trout
4. Where possible, retain and enhance public access to and along the river.

Long-term vision

The Otaki River Environmental Strategy (1999) provides a framework for enhancing the river environment from the gorge to the river mouth. The vision of this strategy involves creating a greenbelt to protect and enhance the natural character of the land next to the river. This will help provide a corridor to link the coast with the hills. This corridor will be valuable for native birds to move and plants to spread, as well as for recreation.



OTAKI RIVER CORRIDOR
RESTORATION

What we need to do to achieve the vision

The strategy recommends both environmental enhancement and plant selection. Also recommendations about particular river reaches (sections of a river) are made for areas along the river corridor, such as this Chrystalls Bend area example:

Reach Three – Bridge Area to Rahui (including Chrystalls Bend)

General recommendations:

Base vegetation enhancement on existing forest remnants:

- The nuclei for a diverse riparian vegetation already exists along this stretch, with mahoe (primarily), kawakawa, taupata, and scattered coprosmas and tutu among the grasses, tree lucerne and weeds of the stopbanks
- This is a stretch of the river with potential for self-enrichment. Any future willow planting should make allowance for these pockets to expand.

Riverbank cover:

- Larger trees should be encouraged to grow on the north river bank, as any shading here will be beneficial to river life.