

29 November 2017

Attention: Shane McGhie

Principal Planner
Whakatane District Council
Private Bag 1002
Whakatane 3165

Tena koe Shane

PROPOSED PLANNING PROVISIONS FOR DEBRIS FLOW RISK MANAGEMENT ON THE AWATARARIKI FANHEAD MATATA

Thank you for seeking comment from Te Runanga o Ngati Awa on proposed new planning provisions in the district plan for debris flow risk management on the Awatarariki Fan-head at Matata.

Council has invited Ngati Awa comment on the proposed plan change to the Operative Whakatane District Plan and the proposed plan change 14 to regional councils Regional Natural Resources Management Plan (Natural Hazards).

Retreat Option

Te Runanga o Ngati Awa acknowledges that while the option of retreat has been identified by Council since 2005, Council invested significantly in exploring several engineered design options in genuine attempts to find an enduring solution that would allow people to continue living in safety in their homes on the Awatarariki fan-head which remains vulnerable to future debris and flood flows.

Twelve years have passed and residents who have endured significant challenges that uncertainty of uncertainty now face a most serious and difficult challenge, the prospect of needing to retreat their homes from a location that remains in harm's way in the lowest extent of Te Awatarariki stream catchment.

While people may not know when a similar event to that of 18 May 2005 will occur, the geography of the catchment and the difficulty experienced in managing soil stability in the catchment indicates that similar events are likely to occur in future.

In its 2009 assessment of the proposed Awatarariki Flexi-Net Debris Detention Structure option, Te Runanga o Ngati Awa commented:

A 'potential alternative solution is to require homes in the lower Awatarariki catchment to retreat from the flow path of future debris and flood flows they (the homes) are vulnerable to'.

Today it is clear that every option that aimed to allow people to remain in their homes at this location has now been exhausted.

Te Runanga o Ngati Awa considers the proposed retreat option will:

- remove homes and families from a location that is in harm's way
- bring certainty to these families and the community
- ensure central government agencies contribute financially to the relocation of families into new homes in a safe location
- protect people from making future investments in residential subdivision at this location by inserting a prohibited activity rule for residential development at this location which would place people in harms way, at night, when they and their families and any guests are sleeping.
- the prohibited activity status will protect people from making future investments in building their homes in this high-risk location
- the permitted activities status will allow for people to continue to enjoy appropriate activities at the location

When the proposed planning provisions are notified for public submissions Te Runanga o Ngati Awa will make submission to each of the proposed plan changes.

Enquiries regarding these comments should be directed to Beverley Hughes at bev@ngatiawa.iwi.nz in the first instance.

Kia ora,

Leonie Simpson
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Email copy to:

Stan Ratahi, Ngati Hikakino Hapu Representative, Te Runanga o Ngati Awa
Amohaere Tangitu, Te Tawera Hapu Representative, Te Runanga o Ngati Awa
Manu Glen, Ngai Te Rangihouhiri Hapu Representative, Te Runanga o Ngati Awa
Enid Ratahi-Pryor, Ngai Taiwhakaea Hapu Representative, Te Runanga o Ngati Awa
Miro Araroa, Rangitaiki Hapu Coalition, Te Runanga o Ngati Awa
Keri Topperwien, Consent Coordinator Te Runanga o Ngati Awa
Christopher Clarke, Kaitiaki, Te Mana o Ngati Rangitihiri
Elaine August, Kaitiaki, Tuwharetoa BOP Settlement Trust
Martin Butler, Senior Planner, Bay of Plenty Regional Council