

# Low Stopbanks for Frequent Flooding Upstream of Hansen Park

- Frequent underfloor flooding and flooding of roads can cause significant distress to the community.
- Upstream of Hansen Park, the number of houses at risk of frequent underfloor flooding has increased from 104 to 159 due to the earthquakes. This will reduce with the storage schemes, but not back to pre-earthquake levels.
- Areas where access is restricted due to impassable flooding have increased due to the earthquake effects.
- Stopbanks providing protection in extreme events (50 yr ARI\*) will be very high (up to 2m) and are unlikely to be acceptable.
- High stopbanks would also 'lock' the Council into only one approach to floodplain management.
- Council is considering the use of low stopbanks to reduce frequent underfloor flooding in the worst areas.

- These would allow the community to adapt to more frequent flooding over time, while reducing the worst impacts from the type of flooding experienced since the earthquakes, including 2017.
- Council has not yet proven the technical feasibility of low stopbanks and ongoing investigations are underway.
- There are also concerns that the community may consider themselves totally protected from flooding, whereas the risk of being flooded by an extreme event would not change.
- There are also visual impacts, although they would be integrated into the Mid-Heathcote River / Ōpāwaho Linear Park Masterplan works and include footpaths, road narrowing, traffic calming and other amenity features.

\*ARI - Average Recurrence Interval

