

20 August 2018

Owner/ Occupier

### **Piha Stream (Glenesk Road) Flooding Assessment – August 2018**

Two significant flooding events have occurred in the Glenesk catchment area of Piha this year (February and April 2018) prompting Auckland Council's Healthy Waters team to prepare a flooding assessment report and consideration of options. At this stage we provide no recommendation, to do so will require further technical work. Any further proposal would need to be considered by Auckland Council's Governing Body.

The council is now sharing a copy of this report with homeowners and occupiers in the catchment area, impacted organisations or businesses, and local stakeholders. In an effort to distribute the report to each of these stakeholders and acknowledging that not all property owners are resident in Piha, we have used all contact information available to us. As a result, you may receive multiple copies of the report, if this is your situation, we apologise.

#### **Reading the report and its purpose**

The report summarises the recorded rainfall and modelled flow rates, depth and water levels associated with the two recent flooding events at Piha on the West Coast of Auckland on 3 February and 28 April 2018.

Primarily, it is an assessment of each of the contributing factors to flood risk, bringing together information available to us today. While it also identifies a range of options for further consideration, the non-infrastructure options are at a very high level, for completeness, and no recommendations or decisions have been made by the council at this time.

This is a large catchment area (1,100 hectares) and is relatively steep. During rainfall events this creates large flows that exceed the existing stream capacity causing the Glenesk Valley to flood frequently with unsafe depths and water speed.

By reviewing information from the recent events and engaging with property owners/occupiers in the area we have confirmed that there are 24 properties and 19 habitable floors (floor areas used for living purposes) that are subject to frequent flooding. An additional 31 properties have access cut off in flooding events. Like in many small rural communities, there is no formal stormwater or wastewater network in this area other than rural road culverts.

The report confirms that there is no viable infrastructure solution (such as an open channel or drain) to reduce this flood risk to safe levels. It provides initial commentary on options to reduce risk including potential warning system options and the removal of dwellings from high flood risk areas, for completeness of the assessment. It is not intended to create an expectation that Auckland Council will implement any of the identified options.

#### **Community resilience**

Whilst Healthy Waters have been developing the technical assessment, the council's Auckland Emergency Management team has been working with the Waitakere Ranges Local Board and the Piha community on its resilience plan. This covers both being prepared, and planning for during an emergency event, including flooding, and storm damage such as power cuts. While this is not a direct outcome of the assessment work, and updates an existing community resilience plan, it is complimentary to the discussion around flooding in the Glenesk area.

Together with your local board, we will continue to work with the community on its resilience plan and support it to increase its resilience to flooding and storm events. It is our objective that the community will use the plan in the event of an emergency to protect themselves and their property, have safe spaces to go to, understand who is there to help and how they can work better together to promote resilience across all of Piha.

In mid-July Auckland Emergency Management staff went door-to-door in the Glenesk area, encouraging residents to sign up to text message alerts, collecting contact information and discussing what people can do to prepare for emergency situations. This work will contribute to any future development of local information sharing and warning capability.

#### **Next steps – Auckland Council**

Options to mitigate the risk from flash flooding have been identified in this report for further consideration by Auckland Council and in consultation with residents.

Staff will consider all options including those further developed in consultation with residents and the Waitākere Ranges Local Board. A decision on a preferred option(s), if any, will need to be made by the council's Governing Body.

#### **Next steps – Glenesk property owners/occupiers**

Once you've read the attached report, if you have any questions you may wish to contact us (details below) or speak to your landlord or insurer. We also encourage you to think about your emergency preparedness and how you might need to respond if your home or business is affected by flooding again.

#### **Questions, queries and contacts**

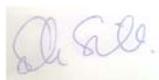
- **Piha Stream (Glenesk Road) Flooding Assessment** – if you have any questions about the report or would like to discuss it further with a technical expert, please email [HWdevelopment@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:HWdevelopment@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz) with your query and preferred contact details and we will be in touch.
- **Piha community response plan** – to find out more about Auckland Emergency Management's resilience work with the Piha community or be involved in development of the community response plan, email [CivilDefence.Info@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:CivilDefence.Info@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz) with the same details as above

We would like to thank Piha residents for working with us on this assessment and in developing a community resilience plan.

Yours sincerely,



Craig McIlroy  
**General Manager Healthy Waters**



Sarah Sinclair  
**Director Auckland Emergency Management (Acting)**