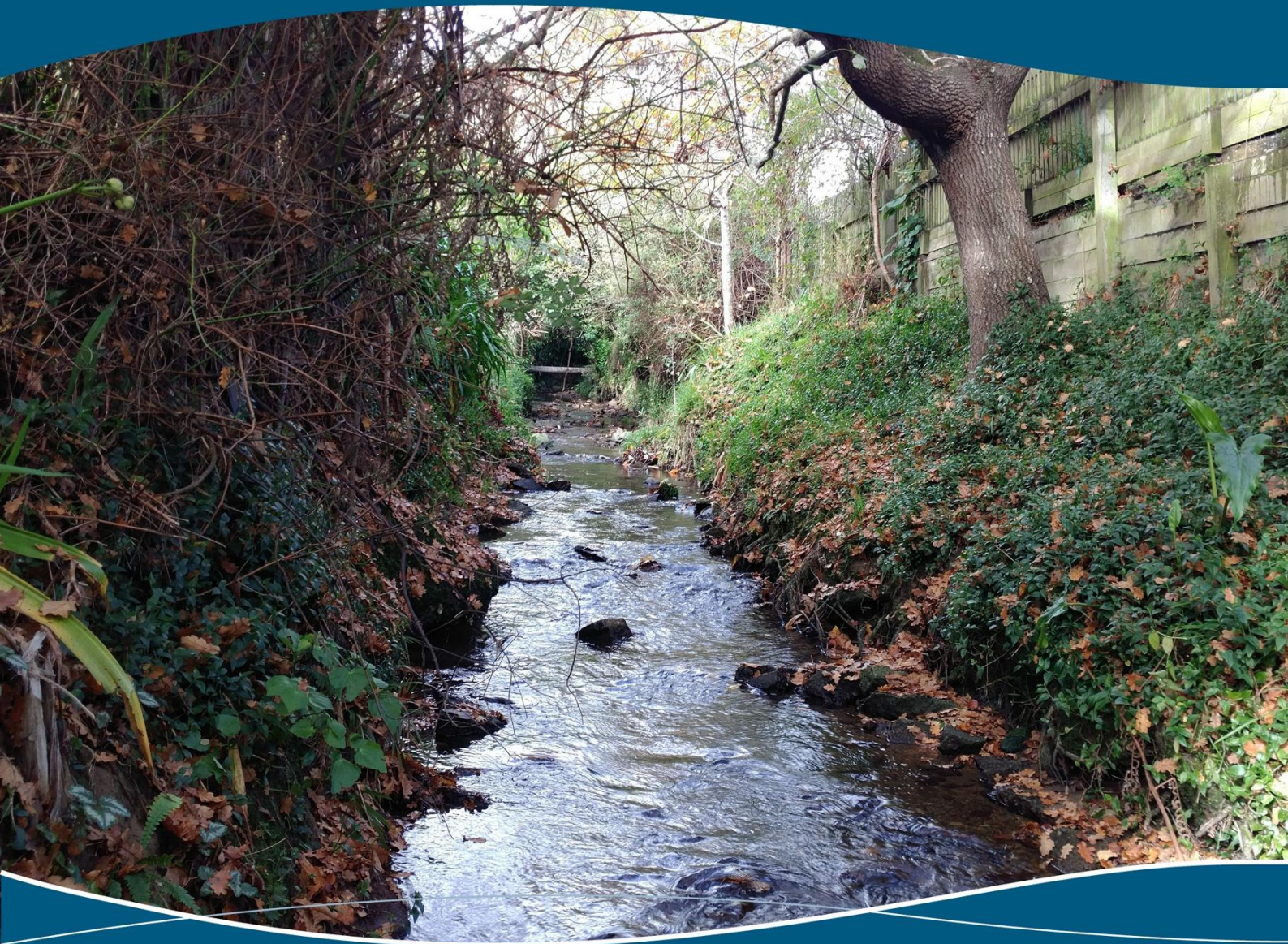




Pinehaven Stream Improvements

Resource Consent Application and Notice of Requirement – Executive Summary

September 2019



Pinehaven Stream Improvements Executive Summary

Overview

Pinehaven Stream, located in Upper Hutt, has a history of flooding. A Pinehaven Stream Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) was developed to address the causes and issues associated with flooding in the catchment. The Pinehaven Stream FMP included proposed in-stream structural methods to assist in flood mitigation.

The proposed structural methods require approval under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). This includes approval in relation to the use of land, use of river beds, water, and discharges of contaminants. This joint application has been lodged as a:

- Notice of requirement (NoR) to Upper Hutt District Council (UHCC) for a designation for a public work to address the restrictions on the use of land imposed by section 9(3) of the RMA in relation to the Pinehaven Stream Improvements project, under the Upper Hutt City District Plan; and
- Resource consent application to Greater Wellington Regional Council (GW) to authorise those aspects of the proposal under the regional plans in respect of sections 9(2), 13, 14 and 15 of the RMA.

The Pinehaven Stream FMP includes proposed structural works within the lower reaches of the stream as well as in the upper catchment. It is intended that the designation cover sections of the Pinehaven Stream in the lower reaches from Pinehaven Reserve to the Whitemans Road inlet where the majority of the works will take place. This will provide for the construction and maintenance of those structural works designed to achieve increased stream flood capacity within that area in accordance with the Pinehaven Stream Floodplain Management Plan.

The project has been collaboratively developed and jointly funded by the Upper Hutt City Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council with Wellington Water acting as project manager. Upper Hutt City Council will have overall financial responsibility for the project in relation to section 168A of the RMA. The Upper Hutt City Council is the requiring authority for the designation in respect of this application as it will be the owner and operator of the instream assets once completed.

Location

Pinehaven Stream is located on the eastern side of the Hutt Valley, to the south of the Hutt River, running from the Pinehaven Hills down to Hulls Creek. The catchment includes the suburbs of Pinehaven and part of Silverstream. The project is proposed to take place in the lower catchment of the Pinehaven Stream, from the Pinehaven reserve downstream to Whitemans Road at the point at which the stream is piped to Hulls Creek, as shown in Figure 1 below.

The Project

The proposed stream improvements include works to the Pinehaven Stream channel and crossing structures to provide for a 25-year channel capacity.¹ These include:

- Creation of naturalised channel sections with suitable riparian planting;
- Construction of vertically sided lined stream sections;
- Securing secondary flow paths;
- Replacing private vehicle crossings;
- Blockage reduction for inlet structures;
- A low wall along the southern boundary of Willow Park and 10a Blue Mountains Road;
- Construction of a private road access to 30, 32, 34 and 36 Blue Mountains Road; and

¹ The proposed works to be authorised by the application exclude the replacement of the road crossing culverts and upper catchment work. These will be consented through separate processes.

Pinehaven Stream Improvements Executive Summary

- Relocation of utilities which cross the stream to avoid blockages.

The construction works will include works adjacent to and within the stream channel. A description of the proposed construction methodology is included in the joint application document.

Why the stream improvements are needed

The Pinehaven Stream Improvements address the unacceptable risk of flooding faced by the people and communities in the Pinehaven Catchment, and the subsequent risk to their health, safety and wellbeing.

Pinehaven Stream has a long history of flooding. An assessment of the flooding issues found that much of the stream channel has a flow capacity less than what would be expected in a 5-year event. A number of bridges and culverts constrain the stream flow, and there is a high potential for blockages which significantly increase the extent of flooding. As a result, the Pinehaven Stream struggles to convey the runoff generated by heavy rain, causing flooding in the surrounding area.

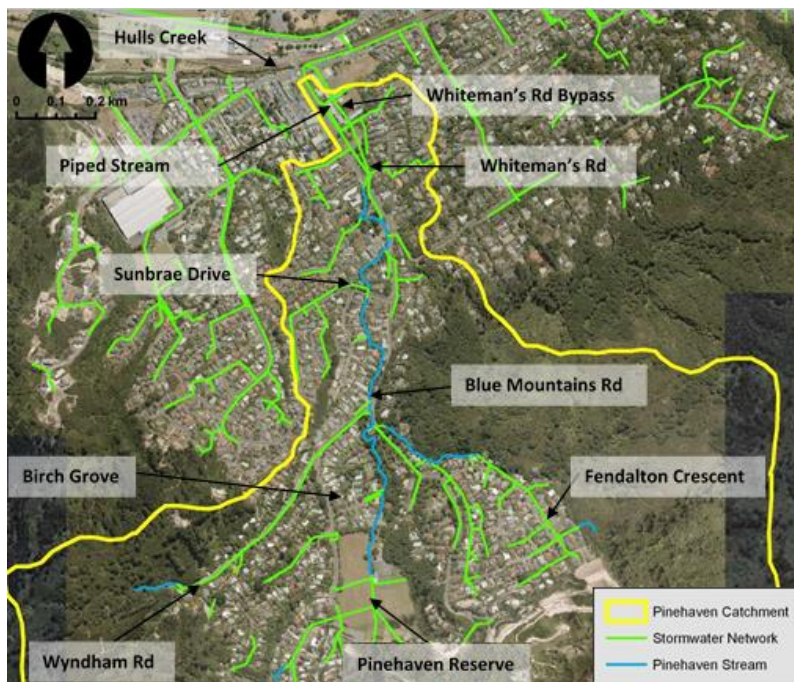


Figure 1: Pinehaven Stream catchment area

A Floodplain Management Plan 2016 (FMP) was developed for the Pinehaven Stream through a partnership between the UHCC and GWRC. The Pinehaven Stream FMP sets out methods to respond to the identified flooding issues. A combination of methods to manage flooding are proposed across structural, non-structural and river management options. The Pinehaven Stream Improvements project addresses many of the physical works as recommended in the FMP and are part of a wider integrated set of methods responding to the flood risk in the catchment.

Project Benefits

The proposed stream improvement works covered by the joint application will have a range of social, economic and environmental benefits for the Pinehaven community. In particular, there will be a substantial reduction in flood risk. The main benefits of the works include:

- Capacity in the stream channel to convey a 4% AEP (1 in 25 year return period) flood event level;
- A reduction in the potential for blockages cause by stream crossings to exacerbate flooding in high rainfall events;
- A reduction of 67 habitable floors and 31 non-habitable floors within the 1-in-100 year flood plain;
- A reduction in risk of injury or harm from fast or deep flowing water in Pinehaven Stream and its tributaries;

Pinehaven Stream Improvements Executive Summary

- Overland flow paths will be secured and integrated into the wider stormwater network, ensuring that potential flooding from obstructions in these flows paths is avoided; and
- An improvement to the amenity within the majority of the Pinehaven Stream corridor over time as the proposed landscape planting becomes established.

Proposed Designation

A designation is proposed through a Notice of Requirement to address required land use approvals under the RMA. The proposed extent of the designation is shown in Figure 2 below.

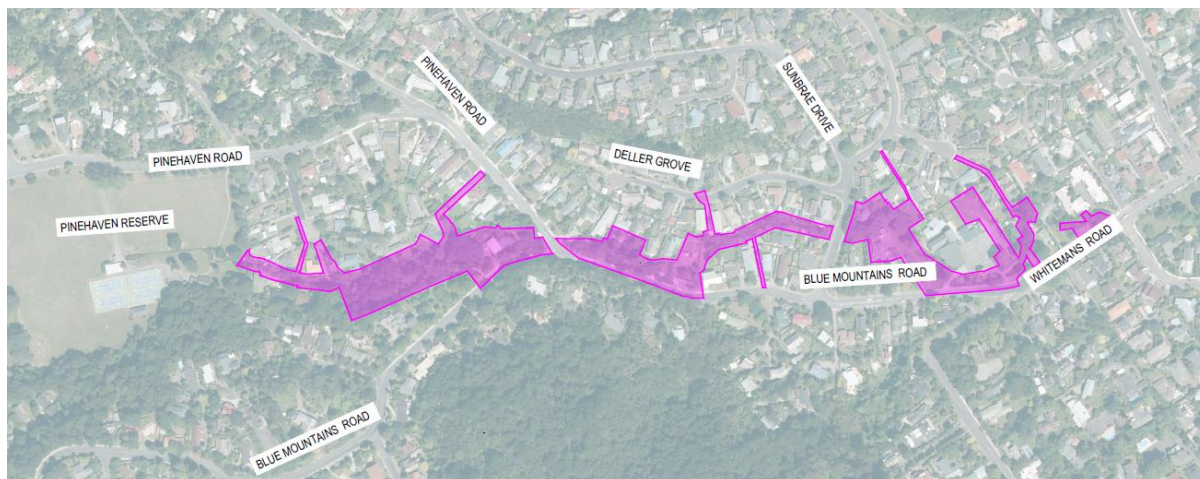


Figure 2: Proposed designation extent

The proposed designation will cover sections of the Pinehaven Stream in the lower reaches from Pinehaven Reserve to the Whitemans Road inlet, to provide for the construction and maintenance of the structural works proposed. The proposed designation would restrict the use of the land affected for purposes other than the Pinehaven Stream Improvements project to ensure that the works are not compromised.

The designation shown in Figure 2 includes the temporary extent of land required for the construction of the proposed works. The designation is proposed to be amended under section 182 of the RMA following completion of the construction to only include land that is required for the long term operation, maintenance and mitigation of effects of the project within the designation.

Environmental effects

The assessment of environmental effects of the proposed works and designation included in the joint application considered the actual and potential effects anticipated during the construction and operational phases. The anticipated environmental effect of the proposed works and designation are summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Summary of environmental effects assessment

Assessment Topic	Effects Summary
Flood risk	Significant positive effects in terms of the mitigation of flood risk
Social effects	Significant positive social effects during operation associated with the reduction in flood risk Significant effects on personal and property rights due to land requirements
Ecology	Loss of significant trees and impacts of the stream bed during construction. However, both effects will be mitigated through proposed mitigation planting ratios, riparian planting and construction methods.
Landscape and Visual effects	Moderate short term effects on landscape values, landscape elements and character, with improved amenity of the corridor over time.

Pinehaven Stream Improvements Executive Summary

	Significant visual effects during construction due to the loss of vegetation and encroachment on to properties. These reduce to minor effects once mitigation vegetation is established.
Cultural values	Short term limited effects on cultural values due to importance of the mouri of the stream to Tangata Whenua. However, long term improvements to the health and mouri of the stream improve the provide significant positive ecological benefits.
Air quality	Some temporary construction related adverse effect minimised as far as practicable through the implementation of the Construction Management Plan.
Historic Heritage	No anticipated effects on historic heritage resources.
Stormwater and hydrology	Beneficial but limited effects on stormwater and hydrology.
Water quality	Temporary adverse effects on water quality during construction, and beneficial but limited effects on water quality during operation.
Traffic and transport	Some temporary construction related adverse effect minimised as far as practicable through the implementation of the Construction Management Plan.
Noise and vibration	Noise and vibration effects may be moderate for some adjacent properties. Minimised as far as practicable through the implementation of the Construction Management Plan.
Future maintenance activities	Positive effects in providing for future flood management maintenance activities.

The objective of the Pinehaven Stream Improvements is to avoid potential adverse effects, or where avoidance is not possible, to remedy or mitigate actual or potential adverse effects associated both with the construction stage and the operation and maintenance requirements following construction. Mitigation measures will be used to minimise the potential effects of the physical works, primarily in relation to the landscape planting of the riparian area adjacent to the stream, and management of the construction phase of the project. Mitigation for the construction phase is to be implemented primarily through conditions on the designation and resource consents and management plans.

The project will result in some adverse effects, particularly in relation to water quality and stream ecology, landscape and visual amenity, and general amenity during construction due to noise. However, the project will result in significant positive effects, particularly in relation to a reduction in flood risk and associated social and economic wellbeing. Overall, the construction effects of the proposed works are considered to be acceptable, while the operational/maintenance phase will have significant positive effects. However, the most significant adverse effects are those on private property during construction due to the need to encroach on private land to complete the stream improvement works.

Statutory requirements

The RMA outlines a number of relevant considerations for the determination of applications for resource consents and notices of requirement.

The Pinehaven Stream Improvements involve a range of activities which trigger the need for resource consents from GWRC, as works will be undertaken in the bed of the stream, adjacent riparian area, within private property and the road corridor. Overall, the proposal is to be considered as discretionary activity, meaning GWRC may decide to grant or decline the resource consents, and if the consents are granted may impose conditions. In relation to the proposed designation, the UHCC may make recommendations to the requiring authority on whether to confirm, modify or withdraw the notice of requirement, and on conditions to be imposed.

The statutory assessment set out in the joint application concludes that the project is generally consistent with the relevant objectives and policies of the relevant national policy statements, Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region and Upper Hutt City Council District Plan and relevant regional plans. The project is considered to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources and is consistent with the purpose and principles of the RMA.

A suite of recommended consent conditions is proposed in the application, addressing the proposed designation and resource consents.