

## Resilient Westport Steering Group Minutes

Friday, 26 July 2024, 10:00am – 12:00pm (Zoom meeting)

### Present:

Mike Mendonça (Chair)  
Mayor Jamie Cleine, Mayor BDC  
Peter Haddock, Chair WCRC  
Darryl Lew, CEO, WCRC

Brett Cummings, D/Chair, WCRC  
Simon Pickford CEO BDC  
Paul Barker, DIA  
Simon Chambers, NEMA

### In attendance

Paul Zaanan, BDC  
Amanda South (Communications)  
Shanti Morgan, WCRC  
Philippa Casagrande, DIA

Penny Bicknell (PM)  
Peter Blackwood WCRC  
Chantel Mills, WCRC  
Tom Hopkins, WCRC

#### 1. Welcome and introduction

The Chair welcomed Steering Group members and other attendees.

#### 2. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Andrew Basher, D/Mayor BDC and Francois Tumahai.

#### 3. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were submitted.

#### 4. Confirmation of minutes

The minutes of the 31 May meeting were confirmed.

At the 31 May meeting the Steering Group agreed to retain the schedule of meetings occurring every two months. Quarterly meetings were discussed, but as the pace of the project has picked up, the two monthly schedule will be kept for now. The two-monthly meetings will coincide with the quarterly reports enabling the group to endorse and finalise the reports. The meetings for September and November have been scheduled.

#### 5. Status Report, Financial Dashboard and Stormwater update

The Steering Group **noted** the supplied reports and **noted** that locally fortnightly standups are being held to stay on top of the issues. The Worley report on stormwater to be provided to BDC by the end of August.

#### 6. Programme risk register

The Steering Group updated the risk register, adding two new risks. Future Risk Register will be provided in A3 format.

#### 7. Update from DIA

Minister Brown is a member of the Regional Development Ministerial group that considers applications for the Regional Infrastructure Fund. The criteria for Regional Infrastructure Fund include stormwater initiatives where they are part of flood protection schemes. A regional growth summit led by the Minister of Regional Development is planned for August on the West Coast. Minister Brown went to the West Coast last week and met with the West Coast councils Mayors, Chair and CEOs. Some constituents have been writing to the Minister regarding relaxing of the building restrictions within the area to be protected by stop banks.

DIA have had discussions with WCRC on integrated quarterly financial and milestone reporting. The Department will work with Tom Hopkins on this.

The Steering Group **noted** a recent report for Hawkes Bay Regional Council on Cyclone Gabrielle flooding which identified a number of issues around flood risk management. The Master planning workshops on adaptive building systems noted that the residual risk also includes liquefaction.

A recent regional sector CEs meeting noted that structural flood protection is a critical and useful part of flood resilience. Cyclone Gabrielle was a super design event meaning that the flooding exceeded the design of the flood banks. Councils are finding dealing with planning for super design events and Building Act controls around flooding challenging. For example, how big should the over design flood be that we need to plan for?

#### **8. WCRC drawdowns**

The Steering Group **noted** the paper which identified invoices to DIA for processing. Capability around using GIS is increasing as staff have been trained successfully on this and feel supported using it.

#### **9. Progress update on preliminary designs**

The Steering Group **noted** the updates on structural protection design including breach modelling at six locations covering seepage and undermining. The file size of maps showing the different locations are too big to circulate so will need to be made available separately along with associated communications messaging. Options for Carters Beach are being prepared for consideration by WCRC in September. Snodgrass residents have been engaged.

#### **10. Emergency management update programme and report**

The Steering Group **noted** the update provided including the integration of flood forecasting information and preparedness at the property level for large flood events. The Buller District is well positioned with this capability.

#### **11. Master planning update**

The Steering Group **noted** that master planning work is going well. Next workshop will discuss spatial planning for the first time with four scenarios to test with the community. Regional deals could be explored to support the work. Noted recent reports on residential insurance including from GNS and Treasury.

Stage 3 of the master planning work will occur from April 2025. Stage 3 will be informed by a Martin Jenkins report being prepared for Kainga Ora and other possible policy changes for housing growth.

#### **12. Communications and engagement update**

The Steering Group **noted**:

- a) the report updating communications and engagement initiatives,
- b) some confusion in the public domain with different initiatives including recent TTPP information on coastal hazards, and
- c) due to heightened local tensions, there are health and safety implications for staff that need to be managed.

Resilient Westport website is now live, and a newsletter has been sent out. Key messages sent through to staff to help have conversations with landowners with consistent messaging.

A hazard risk assessment will be commissioned to ensure safety of staff.

#### **13. Afforestation of Organs Island proposal/PCNs**

The business case development included funding for reforestation for Organs Island, but the Crown funding was for land acquisition. Land acquisition will be achieved through a Crown-to-Crown transfer (LINZ to DOC) with subsequent management of Organs Island by WCRC. Remaining funding after transactions costs have been paid for surveying and valuation has been placed in the general programme contingency.

Organs Island reforestation is a nature-based solution and considered part of the flood protection package through its longer-term impact on slowing flood flows. The Steering Group **agreed** that costings should be developed for the reforestation project and consideration given to other sources of funding for afforestation. The Crown position is that all potential calls on the general contingency including construction cost over runs, Organs Island afforestation etc should be considered at the same time to be managed within the overall total budget envelope.

The Steering Group **resolved** to not erode the General Contingency (apart from the Secretariat costs) until Organs Island afforestation costs have been identified.

#### 14. Secretariat

The Chair identified a conflict of interest with his role in this item and recused himself. Simon Pickford chaired this item.

The Steering Group **endorsed** the Secretariat budget for Year Two of \$227.8k with funding of \$160k required to be drawn from the general contingency fund through project change notices as set out in this paper supplied to attendees.

The Steering Group requested a paper for the next meeting summarising the different draw downs and funding for the Secretariat.

#### Other business

Workshop to be confirmed for August to discuss/brainstorm how the adaptation fund could be developed.

**MEETING CLOSED**

### Resilient Westport Actions List -following 26 July 2024 Steering Group meeting

	Who	Action	Status
1	DIA + WCRC	DIA and WCRC to discuss the process for transfer of ownership of Organs Island and management arrangements going forward.	In progress
2	NEMA	To share advice on how East Coast property level adaptation funding could inform design of Resilient Westport adaptation fund.	Complete
3	BDC, + WCRC	Councils to present paper outlining the work required from the Resilient Westport secretariat, options for delivering this, and recommendations.	Complete
4	Secretariat	Book two-monthly Resilient Westport Steering Group meetings. To be held in Westport	Completed for 2024
5		Identify funding options to cover year two of the communications and engagement budget.	Complete and signed off
6	Secretariat + DIA	Complete financial and project dashboard so it can be submitted at upcoming Steering Group meetings	Completed
7	Secretariat	Update status report Gantt chart to align with the milestone and timeframes tables that WCRC has sent to DIA	Completed
8	BDC & WCRC	Plan a workshop to define the objective for the \$2 million adaptation fund and management of residual risk from the flood protection scheme.	Planned – 30 August 24

9	Secretariat	Change risk review date for the risks reviewed at this meeting to six months from 31 May 2024	Complete
10	WCRC	WCRC to circulate a report from Land River Sea on breach modelling at Westport to Steering Group members	Complete
11	WCRC & DIA	<b>Quarterly financial and milestone reporting</b>	<b>In progress</b>
12	WCRC	<b>Commissioning hazard risk assessment for staff engagement with community</b>	<b>September meeting</b>
13	WCRC	<b>Develop costs for afforestation of Organ's Island and explore alternative funding arrangements</b>	<b>September meeting</b>
14	Secretariat	<b>Write and submit a paper to an upcoming steering group meeting summarising the different draw downs and funding for the Secretariat.</b>	<b>September meeting</b>