

27 March 2024

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Christchurch City Council
Resource Consents team
Via email: Hermione.Blair@ccc.govt.nz

Attention: Hermione Blair
Resource Consents Team, CCC

Dear Hermione,

As discussed over a Teams' meeting on Monday 18 March 2024, please see below for a response to Item 4 of the Request for Further Information, issued for RMA/2023/3243.

As discussed, Item 4 is key to enabling other matters to be addressed. Given these other matters have considerable implications in terms of information required to support, it is important Item 4 is able to be agreed before progressing with obtaining further information.

Set out below is our response to Item 4. We would welcome further discussion if required, otherwise we look forward to receiving confirmation of the approach outline below in order to enable us to address the other aspects of the RFI.

Item 4

The consent application notes the design life of the structures is 20 years but a 35 year (regional) consent term is sought, and the assessments note the structures will endure with maintenance longer than the 20 year period. If a practical 35 year life is sought, please advise why the effects of climate change and sea level rise over this 35 year period has not been factored into the design, noting the direction in the District Plan and higher order documents to consider this.

Alternatively, please provide an assessment of the effects of climate change over the practical life of the structures (see also 7. below), acknowledging the application already includes this for the twenty year period in terms of the effectiveness of the structures, and incorporate any projected vertical land movement into this assessment.

The purpose of the project is to provide the community with sufficient confidence in Council's ability to address 'earthquake legacy issues' and enable engagement on the wider Coastal Hazards Adaptation Planning (CHAP) Programme. This was based upon community feedback following the flooding events occurring in 2017 and as part of subsequent Council processes (reporting and decision making). At that time, it was agreed by Council to provide a similar stopbank crest level and network durability as was offered on the rest of the Ōtākaro Avon River temporary stopbank network.

The CHAP programme is currently underway and aligns with the MfE guidance for Local Government on Coastal Hazards and Climate Change. This project provides a temporary option to address earthquake legacy issues, providing more time to find a suitable solution to address coastal hazards and climate change. Potential outcomes of the CHAP process may be to recommend construction of more robust defences within the life of the consent. Any recommendations made through the CHAP process will be subject to their own assessments and resource consents sought where required to give effect to adopted recommendations.

CCC will revise the requested duration of consent sought to a 20-year life to allow for the CHAP process and implementation of any immediate interventions recommended by that process.

Information on vertical land movement (VLM) has continued to improve over the period since engagement with the community and Council decisions were made. In the time available it would not have been possible to achieve complete alignment with the higher order documents in accordance with the MfE guidance for Local Government on Coastal Hazards and Climate Change.

We look forward to receiving confirmation of the approach as soon as possible to enable the remaining RFI items to be addressed.