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From: Andy Thompson (Ops manager) <athompson@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, October 9, 2023 3:05 PM
To: David Aires <David.Aires@ecan.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Selwyn River Stop bank

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Kia ora David

Thank you re below I know it's not easy getting that kind of news

Not in scope

From: David Aires <David.Aires@ecan.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, October 9, 2023 2:07 PM
To: Andy Thompson (Ops manager) <athompson@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Mailee Stanbury <mstanbury@doc.govt.nz>; Tim Davie <Tim.Davie@ecan.govt.nz>; Shaun McCracken <Shaun.McCracken@ecan.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Selwyn River Stop bank
Importance: High

Kia ora Andy,

Thanks for your prompt response below regarding the Selwyn River stop bank, and I have spoken with Tim and understand more fully the protection to conservation values which could potentially be threatened by removal of existing stop banks.

We will consider alternative options to repair the upstream stop bank damage.

Not in scope

Ngā mihi
Dave

From: Andy Thompson (Ops manager) <athompson@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 5:35 PM
To: David Aires <David.Aires@ecan.govt.nz>
Cc: Mailee Stanbury <mstanbury@doc.govt.nz>; Tim Davie <Tim.Davie@ecan.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Selwyn River Stop bank

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Kia ora David

The photo is great at showing the problem you are trying to fix. One of my staff (Robin Smith) has been involved in discussions on this matter in the past.

The area you are proposing to lower the banks on is an area we purchased 6-7 years ago because of its outstanding ecology. It offers valuable habitat for a wide range of plants and wading birds. None of the rationale and benefits below seem to benefit conservation or contribute to restoring the mauri of Waihora.

This is a precious, protected area – it's not wasteland. This work has the potential to destroy or alter these significant conservation values especially during a flood event if water is moving at speed. This defeats the very purpose of why we purchased this land in the first place.

If I can even authorise this (and it's a big if), it's certainly not something we can do quickly or lightly. Certainly not without significant ecological review and involvement from manawhenua etc.

I have copied Tim Davie into this email. Tim's awesome and can give you some guidance and background here.

Also, I'm not opposed to a broad discussion and plan on how we maintain drainage functions around Waihora but I have to be certain it benefits conservation and all parties agree on this.

Thanks for getting in touch and providing the material to clarify our discussion David

Ngā mihi

Andy Thompson
Pou Matarautaki / Operations Manager Mahaanui
Te Papa Atawhai / Department of Conservation Māhāanui



Andy

From: David Aires <David.Aires@ecan.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 4:58 PM
To: Andy Thompson (Ops manager) <athompson@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Shaun McCracken <Shaun.McCracken@ecan.govt.nz>; Emily Carroll <Emily.Carroll@ecan.govt.nz>
Subject: Selwyn River Stop bank

Kia ora Andy,

Thanks for the phone conversation yesterday.

Here is the section/typical extents of stop bank on DOC land which Environment Canterbury would be interested in lowering (Map 1 below).

This would serve two critical purposes.

1. During high flow / flood events where water would currently be overtopping sections of stopbank further upstream, this would decrease water levels resulting in increased resilience for landowners currently affected by over topping events and the two huts settlements.
2. The material is needed for an urgent repair approx. 3km upstream. In the flood event in late July flood waters breached the stop bank. (Map 2 below). We consider, subject to final geotechnical testing, that this material will be suitable for making the repair and is the closest source of such material to the breach site.

Due to the multiple benefits described above we believe this is the best option for the community, a combination of reduced flood levels and an affordable repair solution make this an attractive solution. Further, we believe removing this section of stopbank is consistent with our river management approach of making room for the river while enabling more nature-based solutions and improving natural character to achieve flood protection outcomes.

It was briefly explored in the attached issues and options paper, (sections 4.1 and 4.2). A 60m gap in the stopbank was initially modelled a little upstream of the DOC parcel, however I think spreading the flow even more (100-200m gap in stopbank) would be preferable.

See attached photo of breach site in July flood event (looking downstream showing extent and magnitude of breach-waters).

Environment Canterbury are keen to get on with this repair as soon as is possible and look forward to any feedback or comments you have with regard to our ability to access the stop bank materials. We are happy to meet with you on site to discuss any matters.

Ngā mihi nui
Dave

Map 1 – Potential borrow site for upstream stopbank repair (Doc land in blue and green).



Map 2 – Showing breach site (orange square)



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