

Land Drainage Recovery Programme

Reducing the risk of flooding throughout Christchurch City

Reduced flood risk, improved water quality, and a new recreational area

We're soon starting to build additional stormwater storage in Hendersons Basin (farmland bounded by Sparks Road, Hendersons Road, Cashmere Road and Sutherlands Road) to reduce flood risk along the Heathcote River. It's part of the new Eastman/Sutherlands/Hoon Hay stormwater facilities we've got planned to reduce flood risk along the Heathcote River, and the added benefits of improved water quality and a new recreational area.

The background

Changes caused by the earthquakes have increased flood risk along the Heathcote River. One of the key ways we can reduce flood risk is to store water during the peak of storm events. Modelling shows that additional storage basins in the upper catchment will help homes in the upper and mid Heathcote which have an increased risk of flooding as a result of the earthquakes.

So we're planning to construct four basins to store flood waters during the peak of a storm, and slowly release the stored water after water levels downstream have dropped. This would result in a lower peak water level. The basins will complement the existing Eastman Wetlands storage basins completed last year.

We have estimated that if the basins were in place during the March 2014 flood event, the number of houses flooded above floor level may have been halved. It is likely that in July 2017 a similar effect would have been achieved.

Work will be staged, with the first phase- Sutherlands Basins - expected to be constructed during 2018/19.

Water quality and recreational benefits

Improving water quality is a priority of the Council, with the goal to have healthy waterways within the city. Stormwater runoff contains pollutants harmful to aquatic life, from sediment through to heavy metals. These can be reduced through treatment basins and wetlands, reducing the impact of urban and rural development on water quality. Stormwater treatment is an important part of achieving the goal of healthy waterways.

This stormwater and land drainage facility will improve water quality by treating stormwater runoff from existing and new developments in the area. The facility will also treat the increased sediment coming down from the hills into Hoon Hay Valley Stream, due to reduced vegetation following the Port Hills fires.

In future stages, water quality will also be improved by removing stormwater and other sediment-laden water from a large section of Cashmere Stream. Cashmere Stream is spring-fed and has a high ecological value, and the stormwater management area within our planned facility is designed to protect this.

And once all the flood mitigation works are complete, in years to come, the Eastman wetlands will provide a recreational area with walkways and cycleways, grassland, wetland and forest habitats.

The map on the following page shows what we've got planned, and future works notices will give more information about the construction work and any possible impacts.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact us using the details below.

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