

Executive Summary

The Severe Weather Emergency Recovery Legislation Act 2023 (SWERLA) commenced on 12 April 2023 for the principal purpose of assisting communities and local authorities affected by severe weather events to respond to, and recover from, the impacts of the severe weather events. Section 7 of the SWERLA provides for the Governor-General to grant exemptions from, modify or extend any legislation listed in Schedule 2, including the RMA, by way of Order in Council (OIC). Subsequently, the AC-OIC was enacted on 25 October 2024. This application is to be considered under the AC-OIC as detailed further in the application.

The January 2023 floods, followed closely by Cyclone Gabrielle, marked a period of unprecedented weather challenges for Auckland. The events underscored the city's vulnerability to extreme weather, prompting Auckland Council to endorse the "Making Space for Water Programme" developed by Healthy Waters. This initiative aims to mitigate flood risks through a series of blue-green networks, addressing critical flood-prone areas with sustainable stormwater solutions.

The Harania catchment was one of the worst affected areas of Auckland following the January 2023 floods. Auckland Council identified significant flooding, causing risk to life, and widespread flood damage to approximately 60 homes, which occurred due to poor flood conveyance at the locations of the current Tennessee Avenue and Blake Road embankment dams. The outlet culverts of the dam embankments have limited capacity, and they are also submerged below the watercourse beds causing elevated floodwaters on their upstream sides. Proposed flood resilience works at these two embankment dams will remove all of the flood risk from these properties. The works are being progressed in two stages with the first resource consent application being:

- Works at the Tennessee Avenue embankment dam, being the Tennessee Bridge works.

The proposed flood resilience works relevant to this application involve removing the current embankment which carries the existing Eastern Interceptor, an approximately 2.6 m diameter reinforced concrete wastewater pipe. The replacement will comprise a new pipe and pipe bridge in the coastal marine area (CMA) to open up the waterway capacity to allow increased flood conveyance. Diversion chambers are required at either end of the new pipe, connecting it to the existing pipe to facilitate the change over from the old pipe to the new pipe bridge diversion. A pedestrian bridge is proposed on top of the pipe bridge.