



FAQs

Te Ararata Creek and Harania Creek flood resilience projects

Community meetings Q&A

What is council doing to reduce flooding in Māngere?

Te Ararata Creek and Harania Creek flood resilience projects

Auckland Council, alongside the Government, is making significant investments to reduce the flooding risk in this community. Māngere is the first community to be receiving priority funding for flood resilience projects. This includes \$53 million for the rapid delivery of two specific flood resilience projects dedicated to addressing urgent stormwater infrastructure needs at Harania Creek and Te Ararata Creek in Māngere.

Upstream flood reduction work in Te Ararata Creek will be investigated once downstream works are completed. The proposed work is part of a separate fund and process which does not fit the criteria in the current prioritisation framework, as there are other areas in Auckland that also face extreme flooding risk that must be prioritised. While it cannot be delivered at the same time, work is progressing to develop a project as soon as we can.

Delivering projects as soon as possible

To complete physical works at Te Ararata and Harania creeks and reduce flood risk in Māngere as quickly as possible, Auckland Council has requested an 'Order in Council' from government, under the Severe Weather Emergency Recovery Legislation Act 2023. We are waiting to hear back on the outcome of this request.

This would make construction of the project a permitted activity and remove the requirement for a resource consent which could delay the project by 12-18 months.

For more information visit <https://environment.govt.nz/acts-and-regulations/orders-in-council/>

Increased maintenance and inspections

Some of the things that council has done, and is continuing to do in Māngere since the major storms last year are:

- Removed tonnes of debris from streams – including the Mahunga Drive culverts
- Increased inspections and maintenance of key pipes and streams to address issues early
- Increased catchpit cleaning (deep pits within roadside drains that are designed to catch debris before it enters stormwater pipes) from once to twice a year
- Upgrading to specially designed catchpits that allow water to flow in from behind or from the side if the top grate is blocked (over 100 installed so far)
- Investigating the installation of hotspot cameras at two locations in Māngere cameras to identify blockages for faster removal by Operations teams
- Partnered and funded community organisations (Te Ararata Stream Team and Māngere East Family Services) to do local clean up and workshops about flood resilience.

What is the flood risk at my home?

Why did flooding occur in 2023?

The weather events in early 2023 were extreme. The Auckland Anniversary storm was the largest and most intense regionwide rainfall event in Auckland's history since records began. This was followed by Cyclone Gabrielle, the most severe tropical cyclone in 50 years.

The Auckland Anniversary storm dumped more water on the city in a single day than it would typically see in three months. In Māngere (like many other parts of Auckland) this was more than double the amount expected in the largest rainfall events. It caused persistent rainfall for more than 24 hours, exceeding 230mm in many locations across the city and was very widespread impacting around 60% of the urban area. Having rain of that duration across such a wide geographical area is very unusual for Auckland.

The very high rainfall during the 2022 spring meant that soil was already saturated when the heavy rain came in January and the ground couldn't soak up more water. This caused flash flooding as water ran across the ground.

This video '[Why does Auckland flood?](#)' is part of a flooding series from the council's Healthy Waters team, designed to inform residents about flooding, flood safety and flood resilience.

Will flooding occur again?

The stormwater network is designed for Auckland's regular rainfall events and will continue to function to deal with normal rainfall. The 2023 storms were not typical and our city's stormwater piped system is not designed to handle extreme storms of that size.

Unfortunately we cannot predict if or when another large storm may happen again. However the flood resilience projects in Māngere will reduce risk by providing a greater level of protection against future flooding events. Any remaining flooding in residential areas will occur at a lower level and less frequently.

Every property has a different flood risk. The risk of your home flooding again depends on the size of the storm, your location and how close you are to the stream or other flood hazards, your style of house and the height of your floors, and things on your property or your neighbours which alters the flow of water (such as solid fences with no gaps at the bottom that cause pooling).

What can you do to reduce flood risk?

The stormwater system is made up of public and private watercourses which means all of us working together to achieve best outcomes. There are things you can do to prepare your whānau for storms and minimise flood damage to your property. Go to the 'Get Prepared Section' of our [Flood Viewer](#) tool for more information on:

- How to prepare your home for flooding
- Dos and don'ts of flooding
- How to stay safe during a flood

You can also help prevent flooding by reporting dumping in streams and stormwater blockages to council by calling on 09 301 0101.

Other questions

What is happening with property categorisation?

Auckland Council is assessing homes severely impacted by the 2023 storms with a focus on finding if there is a serious risk to life from future storms and flooding, and if they qualify for a buy-out or construction grant.

Thank you to everyone who has registered and is waiting for their category. We know it's been a long and difficult wait. With the Harania and Te Ararata stormwater projects now confirmed, we are moving forward with risk reports and will be in touch when we have confirmed your category. Each home will still receive a category based on the individual risk at their home, so there will still be a mix of Category 3, Category 2 and Category 1 properties.

We strongly encourage you to register before the **30 September 2024 deadline** if you had over half a metre of flooding in your home or received a red or yellow placard. For more information and translated materials visit ourauckland.nz/storms, or phone our Recovery Office team on 09 884 2070.

Why are new developments approved in areas that are at high risk of flooding?

It's very difficult for councils to stop people building in these areas with the current nationwide planning rules having an extremely high threshold. This means that when councils refuse consents, developers can take their case to the Environment Court and have our decisions overturned.

Auckland Council is progressing work on a change to the [Auckland Unitary Plan](#) to increase resilience to natural hazards. While this won't completely prevent building in floodplains it will strengthen the standards that must be met by developers when applying to build in areas that are at a high risk of natural hazards, like flooding. We encourage everyone to participate in the submission process for the Natural Hazards Plan. More promotion on this will be forthcoming, but your input is crucial in shaping a safer future.

What is happening next?

Flood resilience projects in Māngere

We are committed to keeping you informed and involved every step of the way. Here's what you can expect:

- October 2024 - February 2025: Detailed design phase for the upcoming projects.
- November 2024: We will be applying for consents and will hold a community update meeting towards the end of the year.
- Early 2025 - mid 2026: Construction.

We meet regularly with the Community Working Group throughout the design and construction phases.

Introducing the Project Manager

Leighton Gillespie is the Auckland Council Healthy Waters Project Manager for both flood resilience projects in Māngere. If you have questions about either project, you can email him at bluegreen@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz or call 09 301 0101 to request a call back.

Further information

Once we have more details about the design and construction of the projects we will share this information with the local community. In the meantime further information be found at aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/bluegreen

If you have a query about the council's Tāmaki Makaurau Recovery Office and the services available (including support), please email: recoveryoffice@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz or phone 09 884 2070.

You can also visit our partners I Am Māngere at the Māngere Town Centre, shop 16a.



Need help?



Visit: aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/bluegreen



Phone: 09 301 0101



Email: bluegreen@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz