

3 September 2020

ORC Glenorchy flood response

Update 02 | September 2020

Here's what we've been working on to improve flood resilience in Glenorchy since our last update in August. We expect the next update to be in early October.

1. Lagoon Creek vegetation clearance and channel realignment at the Rees River mouth

Community feedback regarding willows and other vegetation clogging up Lagoon Creek prompted us to collaborate with Department of Conservation (DOC) to clear this vegetation to assist draining Lagoon Creek into the Rees River. This work was completed last month. We'll keep an eye on how it's performing, particularly at times of moderate to high river flows and make adjustments if required.

Last month we also completed work to realign the channel at the Rees River mouth toward the western side of the delta (sediment build up where the river meets the lake). By doing this, it will assist with drainage into Lake Wakatipu during high river flows. As with vegetation clearance, it is a short-term measure and we will keep an eye on how the realigned channel performs.



Left: Lagoon Creek before– July 2020

Right: Lagoon Creek after vegetation clearance and channel realignment - August 2020

For our future



Lagoon Creek cleared of vegetation – August 2020

2. Progress for a water level monitor in the lagoon

We expect a decision from DOC on our concession application for a water level monitor in Glenorchy Lagoon in the next couple of weeks. The monitor, to be installed along the south-eastern shoreline (see map), will provide valuable data as to what the level of the lagoon is – which will then provide a better understanding of how the lagoon is changing over time and assist with the community flood response.

The data from this monitor will be available in real-time on our WaterInfo website for the community to access (<http://water.orc.govt.nz/WaterInfo/Default.aspx>). If our application is approved, hardware is ready to go and will be installed within one to two weeks of receiving permission.



Map showing the proposed location for a water level monitor in the Glenorchy Lagoon.

3. Investigation - protection of the Glenorchy floodbank

We've received an assessment on the impacts of Rees River erosion on riverbank and floodbank stability. This is currently being reviewed by QLDC and ORC. Once reviewed, the report will be made available to GCA.

4. Additional lake level recorder and river flow monitor

We currently carry out flow monitoring in the Dart River and we are investigating possible sites for installing a flow gauging station for the Rees River. We're also looking for a suitable site for a lake level recorder at the Glenorchy end to help us understand if there is any difference in lake level between Glenorchy and the monitor located in Frankton.

For both of these monitoring sites, we will make a funding allowance in the draft Long-term Plan 2021-31 for community feedback.

5. Civil Defence and Emergency Management (CDEM) planning

Craig Gibson joined the Emergency Management Otago team based in Queenstown last month, working alongside Dan Andrew. Craig is a real asset to the team, with years of experience in Police, Search and Rescue, and a unit leader in the NZ Army.

Dan and Andrew held a meeting in Glenorchy last month to discuss emergency planning and are currently preparing the first draft of the Glenorchy flood emergency evacuation plan. This draft plan will soon be available for review from the Glenorchy community, ORC and QLDC, before being finalised.

If you have any queries or feedback, please contact Dr Jean-Luc Payan, Manager Natural Hazards
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