

# HEAD OF LAKE WAKATIPU

COMMUNITY UPDATE 08 | JUNE 2021



*Image: Overhead view of Kinloch and Dart River*

Tēnā koutou katoa. Welcome to the Head of Lake Wakatipu newsletter, June edition. We hope you have been staying warm this season so far.

## **What have we been working on?**

The Natural Hazards team at ORC has been working closely with NIWA to study your feedback from the [community discussion event](#) that was held on 8 April. Your feedback ranged from suggestions of adaptation options (summary table [below](#)), who should pay for their costs and bear responsibilities. You also gave us insight into your concerns, such as the town's growth in risk areas.

Resources that were shared with you at the event, as well as Professor James Brasington's presentation, can be found [here](#) under *Presentations and other resources*.

We also presented at a recent ORC [Council meeting](#) updates on the Head of Lake Wakatipu natural hazard adaptation project (the report can be found [here](#), which includes a summary of this project

so far). At this meeting, the Council endorsed the use of the adaptation pathways approach we are taking with this project, and supported a continued collaboration with our project partners, including QLDC, DoC, Aukaha and Te Ao Marama. Thanks to the local residents, James from University of Canterbury and Paula Blackett from NIWA who attended this [Council meeting](#) held in Queenstown.

### What next?

Our next steps will involve reviews and discussions of your feedback with our project partners, evaluation of the need for additional natural hazards and risk information, and for assessments of feasibility of potential adaptation options or pathways.

**The next community adaptation discussion event is planned for late 2021.** At this event, we will talk about possible pathways and adaptation options for further discussion.

### Head of Lake Wakatipu newsletter sign-up

We have created a [sign-up portal](#) on ORC website so you never miss out on our monthly newsletters. Archives of past newsletters can also be found [here](#) under the *Newsletter archives* tab. We would appreciate if those of you who currently receive this newsletter could sign up through this portal, so we can make sure that you are getting updates in a timely manner.

### Contacts

If you have any questions or would like to get in touch with us, please email us at [headofthelake@orc.govt.nz](mailto:headofthelake@orc.govt.nz).

You can check the water levels of rivers and lakes [here](#) on our website at any time.

### Summary of adaptation options suggested at the community meeting on 8 April 2021

#### Suggested adaptation options (at the meeting on 8 April 2021)

##### Status quo

Small-scale reactions to hazards

Not being proactive in addressing the natural hazard risks, and accepting that their impacts may become more severe over time

### **Accommodation**

Adjusting existing assets to anticipate hazard risk and reduce their future impacts

- Raise buildings or land levels
- Flood response planning
- Realign or repurpose road to Kinloch

### **Defence**

‘Holding the line’ using natural buffers or hard structures

- River control structures, floodbanks or flood walls
- Gravel extraction or channel realignments
- Raise Rees bridge
- Willow control

### **Retreat**

Moving existing people and assets away from the hazards in a managed way over time, or as a consequence of damage after natural hazard events

- Retreat or relocation from at-risk areas

### **Avoidance**

Stop putting people and assets in harm’s way

- Planning/zoning rules