Maitai

About the area

Maitai features:

- Predominantly lower density residential areas, including residential units for elderly people.
- Suburban commercial spaces, including Cawthron Institute.
- Several large open space areas, including Branford Park, Botanic Reserve, and Queens Gardens.
- Several swimming areas along the Maitai River.
- Several heritage precincts, and numerous heritage buildings.

What's at risk?

At present day:

- This area is outside of present day 1% AEP coastal inundation extents.
- The area is included in 1% AEP river flood extents for the Maitai River. Properties affected include those on some parts of Hanby Park, Mill Street, Nile Street East, Clouston Terrace, Pitt Street, Hardy Street East, Milton Street, Avon Terrace, Halifax Street East, Shakespeare Walk, Grove Street, Domett Street, Bridge Street, Riverside, and Collingwood Street.

In future:

- This area is outside of future 1% AEP coastal inundation extents.
- Future flood maps for 1% AEP river flooding associated with higher intensity rainfall show significant increases in river flood depth, speed, and extent.

What's happened previously?

- The largest recorded Maitai River flood events occurred in August 1970 and January 1986.
- The August 1970 flood affected most areas shown on the map.
- The 1986 flood led to the precautionary evacuation of residents from the Hanby Park area, however, this area did not flood. Clouston Terrace and Nile Street properties were flooded.
- More moderate Maitai River flood events occurred in February 1995 and December 2011
- Following the 1970 flood, the stopbank at Hanby Park was constructed and a flood wall was installed near Clouston Bridge. This has helped prevent river overflow towards Pitt and Milton Streets.

What's being done?

- Funding is allocated in the Long Term Plan to develop a stormwater strategy for central Nelson, including the city centre. This will seek to address network limitations from sea level rise through to 2090, as well as higher intensity rainfall events.
- Funding is also allocated in the Long Term Plan to develop and implement options to improve Maitai River flood management.
- Stormwater upgrades in 2018/19 have helped alleviate an area of Nile Street East previously affected by stormwater and debris flows from slopes above.
- Flood protections works, including stopbanks, provide some protection for Hanby Park, Mill Street, and Clouston Terrace.

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