The Peninsula Project

Working together to protect our people, property and environment

Kia mau ki te mauri o te taiao o Hauraki

What council decided

Proposed stop-log gate at Te Puru

In March this year we sent you a newsletter outlining a proposal for a stop-log gate on the reserve opposite West Crescent and a proposed rating classification to cover the cost of the gate.

These proposals were also included in Environment Waikato's 2007/08 Draft Annual Plan for consideration by the wider community, and a submission form was inserted into the newsletter we sent you so you could send us your written comments.

Fifteen submissions (representing 30 per cent of the affected property owners) were received.

This newsletter confirms the decision Environment Waikato's council made regarding the stop-log gate.

What we proposed

1. The construction of a stop-log gate on the reserve opposite West Crescent and adjacent to the sea at Te Puru to reduce ponding along the foreshore by allowing floodwaters from the river to pass safely out to sea. We estimated the total cost of the gate would be $62,500.

2. A rating classification, which proposed three different rates for 50 properties that would directly benefit to some degree from the stop-log gate.

3. Two methods of rating – annual rate spread over 20 years or a one-off lump sum payment.

To give you an indication of the potential impact the proposed rating classification would have on rates, we included the following information. This information was based on 50 per cent of the cost being paid by the 50 property owners that would benefit from the gate.
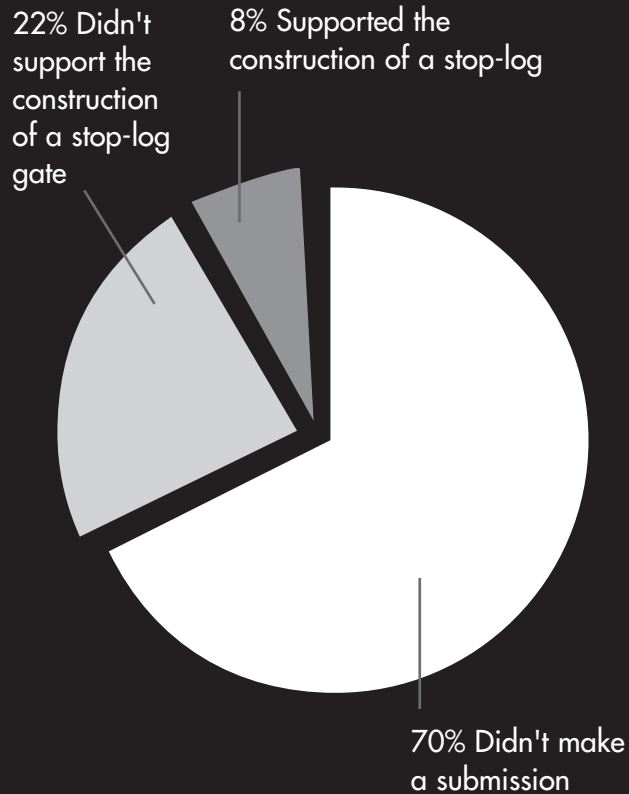
Rating layer	Annual rate (per property)	Lump sum payment (per property)
Stop-log 1	$109.67	$1,037.95
Stop-log 2	$54.84	$518.97
Stop-log 3	$10.97	$103.79

What you told us

Of the 15 submissions we received, four supported the construction of a stop-log gate and 11 were against. Similarly, four supported funding the cost of the gate by rating property owners who would directly benefit from the gate and 10 were against.

22% Didn't support the construction of a stop-log gate

8% Supported the construction of a stop-log

70% Didn't make a submission

Submitters told us they didn't support the construction of a stop-log gate because:

- there would be no benefit to their property
- their property had never been affected by flooding
- the previous stop-log gate didn't work and/or another one would be of little value
- people with properties that flood were aware of the flood issues when they purchased them, so it's their problem.

For more information

If you need more information, please call Environment Waikato's freephone 0800 800 401.

What we decided

Given that there was mixed support for a stop-log gate when it was first proposed in our 2006-2016 Long-Term Council Community Plan, the purpose of this process was to get a clear indication of how much support there was and whether those who would directly benefit from a gate were prepared to pay for it.

Although there was a low level of feedback from the affected property owners, those who did make a submission clearly didn't support a stop-log gate.

While a gate would provide some intermediary benefit to the area prior to the stopbanks being built, and act as an additional means of flood mitigation once the full scheme is in place, it is not a priority component of the overall flood protection scheme for your community.

On the basis of the reasons outlined above, Environment Waikato's council decided not to proceed with the construction of the stop-log gate. The proposal was withdrawn from our 2007/08 Draft Annual Plan, along with the associated expenditure.

Where to from here?

Replacement of the Te Puru bridge by Transit New Zealand is expected to commence within the coming year. Environment Waikato is currently working on detailed design proposals for the stopbanks along the Te Puru Stream, which will be constructed following the bridge replacement. We will also be talking to land owners directly affected by the proposed works.

The Peninsula Project partner responsible for flood protection works is:

Environment Waikato
REGIONAL COUNCIL