

Plain Language Summary – Natural Hazard Information for LIMs

This summary provides a general overview of the Waikato Regional Council's Position Statement as at 8 October as to how it is complying with requirements under the LGOIMA Act and regulations to provide natural hazard information to territorial authorities. It is intended to help users understand the key points in plain language. Please refer to the full Position Statement document for legal and technical details.

Key Points:

- Waikato Regional Council (WRC) must provide natural hazard and climate change information to territorial authorities for inclusion in Land Information Memoranda (LIMs), if the information is known and meets legal thresholds.
- This includes hazards that affect land now or in the future, combined effects, and supporting information to help make the data understandable.

Types of Hazard Information:

WRC classifies hazard information into four stages:

1. Work in Progress – Too uncertain or incomplete to meet legal disclosure requirements.
2. Draft – Reviewed internally and meets the legal test for disclosure, but may not be scientifically robust.
3. Finalised – Approved for public release, but still subject to limitations and updates.
4. Superseded – Replaced by newer or better information.

Hazard Information Hierarchy:

WRC uses a hierarchy to help users understand how hazard data should be interpreted:

- Property to Local Scale – Suitable for LIMs, consents, insurance, and safety decisions.
- Local to Regional Scale – Useful for planning, not suitable for property-specific decisions
- Regional Scale – For regional policy and studies; not suitable for property-specific decisions.
- General Information – Indicative only; not suitable for decision-making.

Important Notes:

- Not all hazard data is suitable for property-level decisions. Territorial authorities must decide what is relevant for each LIM based on whether the information affects land in the territorial authorities district.

- WRC provides all known hazard information in good faith, but inclusion in a LIM does not mean the information is complete or endorsed. It is to put recipients on notice that information exists so that recipients can do their own due diligence.
- Users should refer to metadata and disclaimers to understand limitations and appropriate use.
- Plain language summaries will be provided where helpful, but technical reports and spatial data may still require expert interpretation.

Please refer to the full Position Statement for further details. This summary is for general understanding only and does not replace the official document.