

5 August 2020

ORC Glenorchy flood response

Update 01 | August 2020

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Glenorchy Community Association's AGM last month. We appreciated the opportunity to speak with you about the work we've been doing behind the scenes, and to listen to your experiences of the flood event on 4 February, this year. Your suggestions on how we can move forward are helping with our planning for our Long-term Plan 2021-31.

We're committed to keeping the Glenorchy community informed on what we have planned, what we are doing, and what we have done. The next update will be provided in early September. Here's what we've been working on:

1. **Lagoon Creek vegetation clearance**

Earlier in the year, we were given feedback that the willows and other vegetation that have grown in Lagoon Creek are clogging up the natural flow of the river. In response, we have collaborated and shared costs with the Department of Conservation (DOC), to remove trees from the right bank of Lagoon Creek (see photos below). It is expected this vegetation clearance will be concluded by the end of August 2020. We will include inspections of Lagoon Creek into our river inspection programme and will undertake future clearance works as necessary.

2. **Channel realignment at the Rees River mouth**

Gravel removal as a method to realign the channel is underway this week as a short term measure to assist the drainage from the Lagoon Creek into the Rees River. It is expected that this channel work will be completed by the end of August 2020. This work has involved excavation of a channel about 250 metres long on the western side of the Rees delta (see photos below).

3. **Progress for a water level monitor in the lagoon**

We have a concession application sitting with DOC to install a water level monitor in Glenorchy Lagoon. This is proposed to be located at a site along the south-eastern shoreline of the lagoon as shown in the map below. This monitor 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>). We expect to receive a decision on our application by the end of August. If approved, hardware is ready to go and will be installed within one to two weeks of receiving permission.

4. **Emergency Management Otago planning**

Dan Andrew from Emergency Management Otago, based in Queenstown, will soon begin consultation on thresholds for alert levels, evacuation plans and other emergency communication. It is proposed a dedicated Glenorchy flood emergency evacuation plan will be in place before spring (the snow melt). Stay tuned.

5. **Investigation - protection of the Glenorchy flood bank**

Investigations are underway for erosion protection of some sections of the Glenorchy flood bank. The final report is expected around mid-August.

For our future

6. Additional lake level recorder

At the AGM some of you asked for an additional lake level recorder, near Glenorchy. The existing recorder is at the other end of the lake, near Willow Place in Frankton. We are investigating sites near Glenorchy and if a suitable site is found then we will make a funding allowance in the draft Long-term Plan 2021-31 for community feedback.

Photos showing works in progress to remove willow trees from the right bank of Lagoon Creek



For our future

Photos showing works in progress on the Rees delta to realign the Rees River channel towards the western side of the delta.



For our future

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



Contact

If you have any questions or queries, please contact:

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