

Sea-level rise resilience through volunteer group actions in the lower Ōpāwaho - Heathcote River

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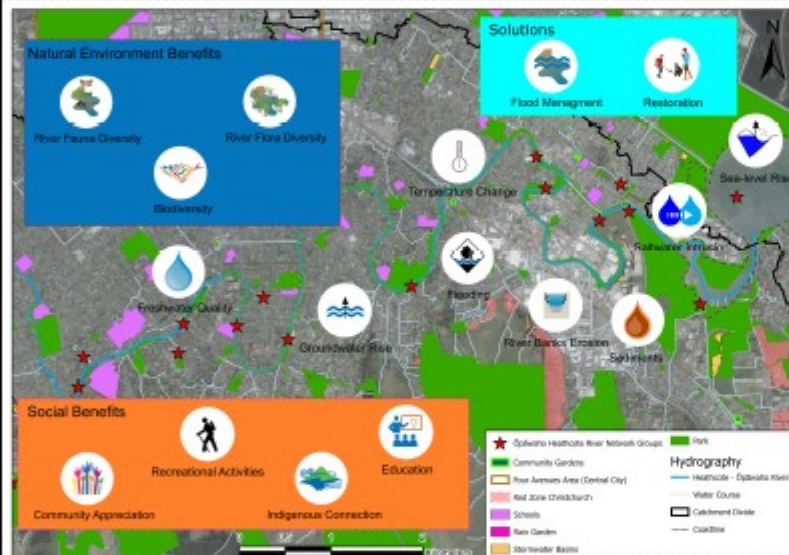
Sea-level rise will increase flood risk for residents along the Ōpāwaho Heathcote River.

Through our research, we aim to:

- understand the volunteer perspectives on the impacts of sea-level rise,
- describe how blue-green infrastructure systems are used and perceived by the groups,
- make recommendations about green spaces which could mitigate flood risk.

Methods:

- Literature Review
- Interviews
- Geospatial Mapping (below)



- Groups plan to work with the risk of salinization.
- Erosion is already an issue that will be exacerbated by sea-level rise.
- Groundwater rise inland due to sea-level rise.
- Effect of rising temperature on river ecology.

Discussion and Recommendations

We found that the groups have a good understanding of the flood risk caused to by sea-level rise and have plans to mitigate those effects through restoration.

We recommend:

- saline resistant plant species to help protect against bank erosion,
- the groups further their understanding of both sea-level rise and vertical land movement,
- a more collective approach to the sites to encourage a holistic view of the whole catchment.

Group:	1	2	3	4
Is SLR in the main goals and activities of the groups?	No	No	Maybe	Yes
Is flooding from SLR an issue for this site?	Maybe	No	Yes	Yes
Do groups think SLR will impact existing projects?	Maybe	Maybe	Yes	Yes
Is SLR being planned for by these groups?	No	No	Yes	Yes



Conclusions

- Sea-level rise is a concern of the volunteer groups.
- Interviews helped summarising the key concerns of the lower catchment ŌHRN groups, one concern being limited resources to prepare for sea-level rise.
- Nature-based solutions will help mitigate the impacts of sea-level rise and build resilience for the environments and community.