



Water New Zealand Stormwater Conference
23-25 May 2023 | Auckland
Te Roopu Wai Āwhātanga

*Stormwater Delivery – An Opportunity
to Reset?*

Kaikōrero / Presenter
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In pictures: Cyclone Gabrielle
broken trees, storm surges ▶

02:00, Feb 14 2023



New Zealand World Politics Pacific Te Ao

NEW ZEALAND / NATURAL DISASTERS

**Flood-affected Auckland
beg council to clean streets
mayor tells them it'll cost**

New Zealand floods: State of emergency declared in Auckland due to torrential rain

🕒 27 January · 💬 Comments

21:38, Feb 17 2023



**Auckland floods: More heavy
rain ahead for New Zealand's
largest city**

🕒 30 January

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**Auckland floods
ahead for New**

**New Zealand's biggest city braces for more
heavy rains after deadly floods**

🕒 30 January

1. Introduction & Research Question
2. Four Stormwater Delivery Focus Areas
3. Next Steps and Recommendations
4. Conclusion

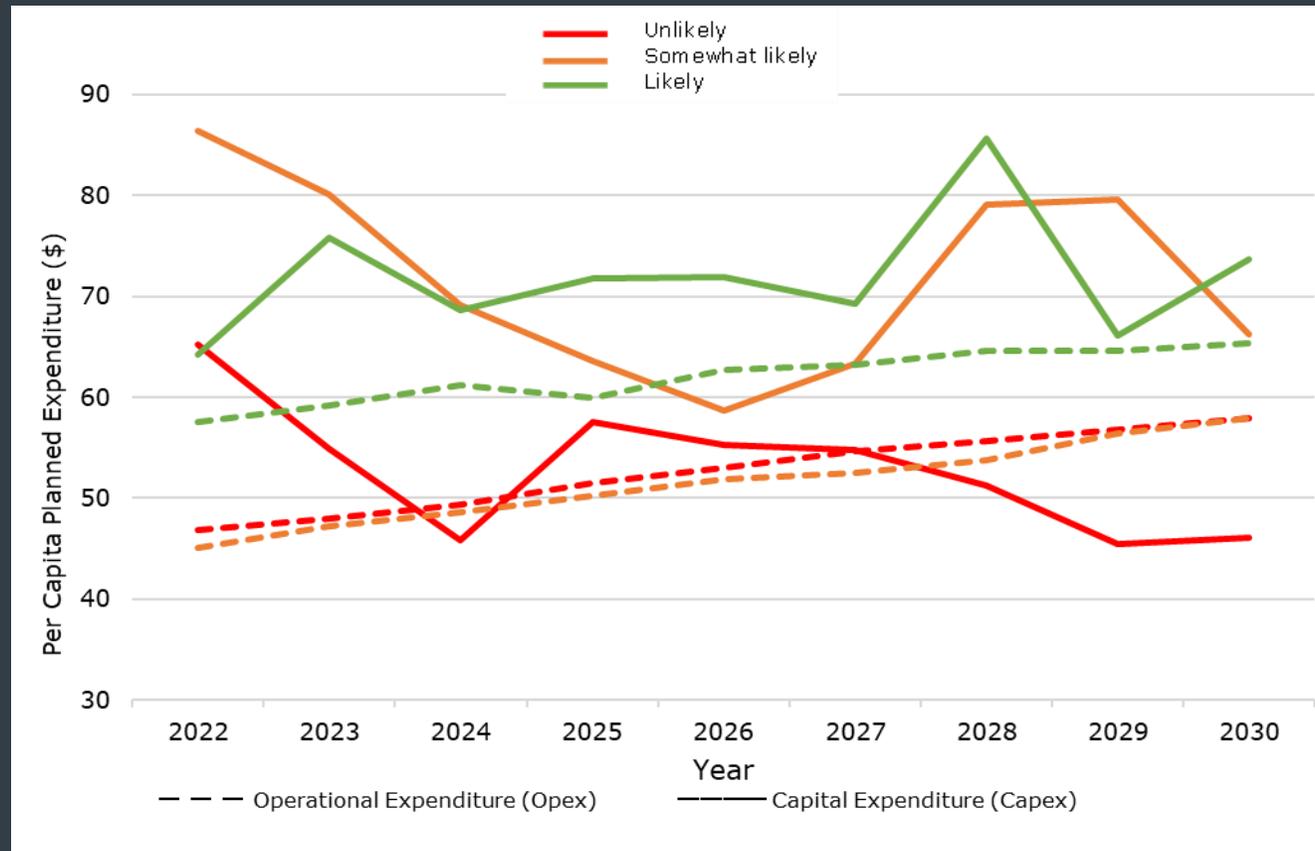


Research Question

Are our 67 territorial authorities (councils) appropriately allocating funding to improve stormwater quality outcomes, enabling the enhancement of our waterways?

Results

- **54%** of Councils have **water quality** as a desired stormwater outcome
- **11%** of Councils have **improved stormwater quality** as a level of service



2022-2030 average per capita district expenditure by score and expenditure type. Population projections based on StatsNZ (2020)

Industry Interviews



“If money was not a constraint, how would you go about delivering better stormwater outcomes for your community?”

Research Question 2.0

We currently have an opportunity to reset stormwater management in Aotearoa New Zealand. How do we capitalise on this opportunity to deliver on the aspirations of Te Mana o te Wai?

Four Key Focus Areas

- Mindset Shift
- Funding
- Technical Resourcing
- Entity and Policy Support

Section 2

Mindset Shift



Mindset Shift

- Historical approach to drain as efficiently as possible
- Paradigm shift towards management of flood risk
- NPS-FM introduced drivers for water-sensitive design
- Holistic, multi-valued, catchment based approach



Kirimoko Park, Wānaka - Ecco Landscapes, 2020

Section 3

Funding



Funding Gap

- Competing with funding for other public services
- Three waters fund shortfalls:
 1. **Auckland Council** \$2.1 to \$9.3 billion required to achieve their stormwater level of service commitments
 2. **Wellington Water** ~\$2 billion required to support a proposed Stormwater Discharge Consent application
 3. **Nationally** \$120 to \$180 billion required over the next 30 years to address the three waters renewal backlog and upgrade assets.
- Cost-effective solutions, that achieve multiple benefits are sought



Auckland Anniversary Flooding-
Local Government Magazine, 2023

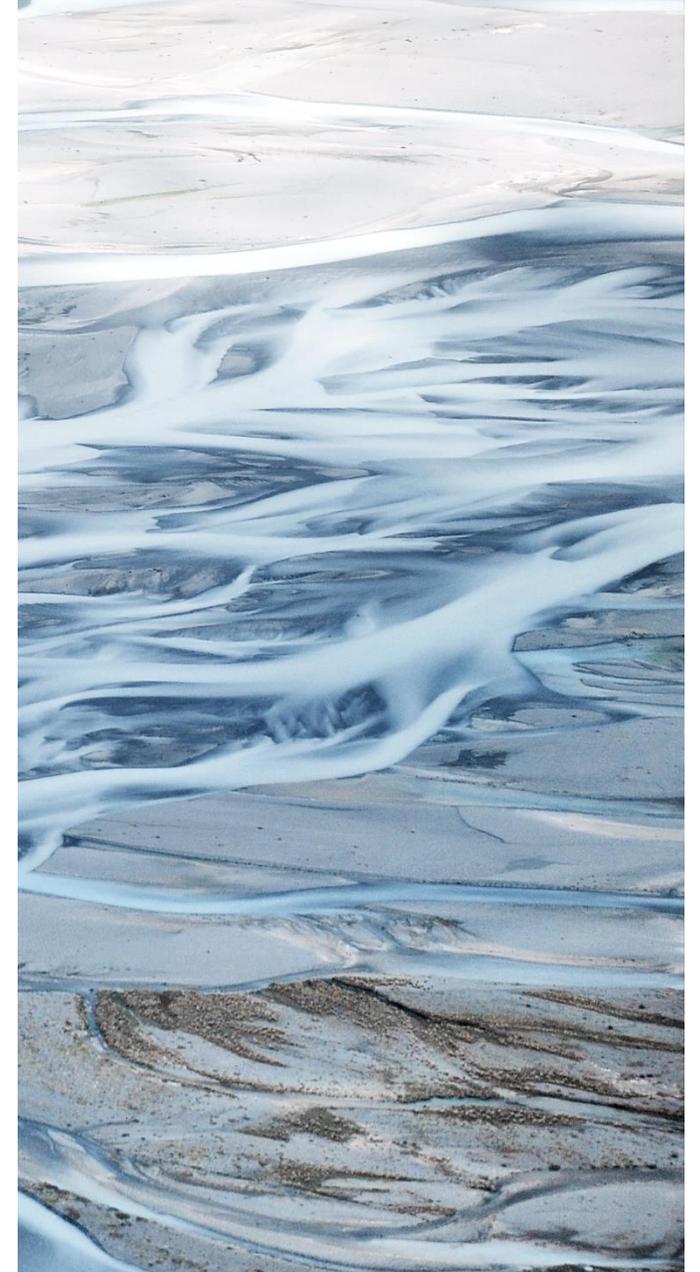
Section 4

Technical Resourcing



Technical Resourcing

- A lack of technical expertise and technical guidance documents
- Felt most acutely by small and rural councils
- A “one size fits all approach” cannot be applied to stormwater guidance



Section 5

Entity and Policy Support



Entity and Policy Support

- Currently a quickly changing space
- Implementing strong policy requires strong leadership
- A “whole system” stormwater management framework with clearly defined roles is needed



Section 5

Next Steps and Recommendations



Lessons and Opportunities



Improve our water management in catchments



Streamline and improve our policy & legal frameworks



Accelerate digital & analytical approaches



National approaches to communication and education



Consolidate approaches to delivering alternative future funding opportunities



Shifting our delivery to total expenditure (TOTEX) thinking



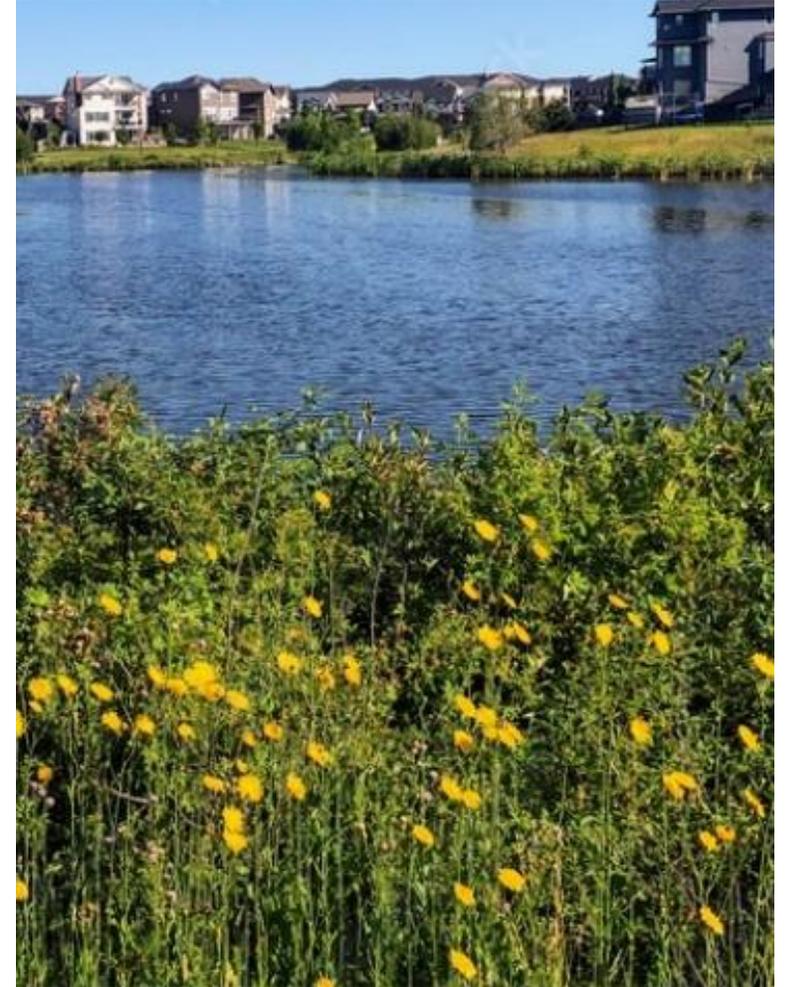
Prepare our waterways for the future – deliver a vision for each waterbody



Making stormwater a career of choice

Conclusion

- We have come a long way in our thinking and management of stormwater.
- We should be proud of many recent achievements
- Analysis of AMPs and LTPs confirms that stormwater funding is not set up to deliver enhanced outcomes.
- Four key barriers: funding, mindset shift, technical resourcing, and entity and policy support
- All four of these areas need to be addressed to deliver appropriate outcomes under the NPS-FM framework.



Thank you



Ka ora te wai

If the water is healthy

Ka ora te whenua

The land is healthy

Ka ora ngā tāngata

The people are healthy



wsp.com/nz