

OPEN

MINUTE ITEM

ATTACHMENTS

Ordinary meeting of the

Nelson City Council

Thursday 13 August 2020
Commencing at 9.00a.m.
Council Chamber

Civic House

110 Trafalgar Street, Nelson

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13 August 2020

Presentation to Nelson City Council on the inundation and flooding risks of building
in the Riverside Precinct

Dr. Aaron Stallard
Jenny Easton

Kia ora koutou. Thank you for this opportunity to speak to council. My name is Aaron Stallard. I am a geologist and climate change communicator. I speak today in association with my colleague Jenny Easton, a resource scientist.

I'll first say that although we are members of various groups such as the Nelson Tasman Climate Forum and Zero Carbon Nelson Tasman, and I am the Green Party candidate for Nelson, today we speak as individuals.

We are calling on the council to reconsider the proposal to relocate Civic House and to build a new library and climatorium in the Riverside Precinct, an area destined to become inundated by rising sea levels and to be increasingly affected by flooding relating to intense rainfall, storm surges and high tides in a high-risk coastal zone, all in the context of climate change.

Our message is that given the available public information, we consider any proposed development in the Riverside Precinct carries an unacceptable risk of being an expensive mistake.

We propose that the Riverside Precinct cannot be considered a suitable site until the following issues have been addressed:

- (1) That any decision be made according to the precautionary principle, in an intergenerational context, and consistent with the Zero Carbon Amendment Bill.
- (2) The site is inconsistent with a key objective of the Government's *New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement* to locate new developments away from areas prone to coastal hazard risks, taking account of climate change.
- (3) Our reduced emissions and energy budgets in coming decades mean that it will be much more difficult and expensive for our community to rebuild these facilities in the future. Therefore, we must build to last closer to 100 years than 50 years. There is real risk of the Riverside Precinct being permanently under water within 80 years, and being subjected to annual inundation and flooding in a much shorter timeframe.
- (4) Sea level rise and the increased frequency and intensity of storms arising from global warming will lead to more frequent flood and inundation events.

The information necessary to make an informed decision on the suitability of the site includes (i) the recurrence interval of inundation and flooding events at the site, calculated for each decade to come; and (ii) the year when the site is projected to become semi-permanently inundated.

We are aware of the proposal to raise the floor level of buildings in the Riverside Precinct or to raise the land level; however, this brings the downsides of increased construction cost, the diversion of floodwaters to surrounds, approachways, and adjacent businesses and infrastructure, and does not mitigate against contamination of the site by floodwaters that contain silt and mud, sewerage, and other refuse.

There are question marks over the process of selecting a suitable site for redevelopment of the library. We note that in 2015 the council investigated three precincts for the library: the Haven, Marina/Akersten, and the City Centre. By 'City center', we assume this means the Riverside Precinct. We note that all three sites are therefore coastal sites at high risk of inundation and flooding relating to climate change. We consider it essential that Council also consider an inner-city site on higher ground away from the river that would carry a minimal risk of inundation and flooding.

We have found that many in the public, including members of the Nelson Tasman Climate Forum and similar groups, are concerned at the inundation and flooding risks associated with development of the Riverside Precinct. Accordingly, we propose that the public be involved in the decision process, specifically that the public be provided with the latest flood maps, sea-level projections, and the key factors in making a decision (e.g., costs of construction and maintenance in a high-risk area, including raised floor levels or land surface, the lifetime of the buildings, and for how long those buildings will remain insurable). We ask that the public be invited to make submissions on the proposal, in the context of vulnerability of the site to flooding and inundation related to climate change, and that the Climate Forum be invited to submit an opinion, given the relevant expertise of members of the forum.

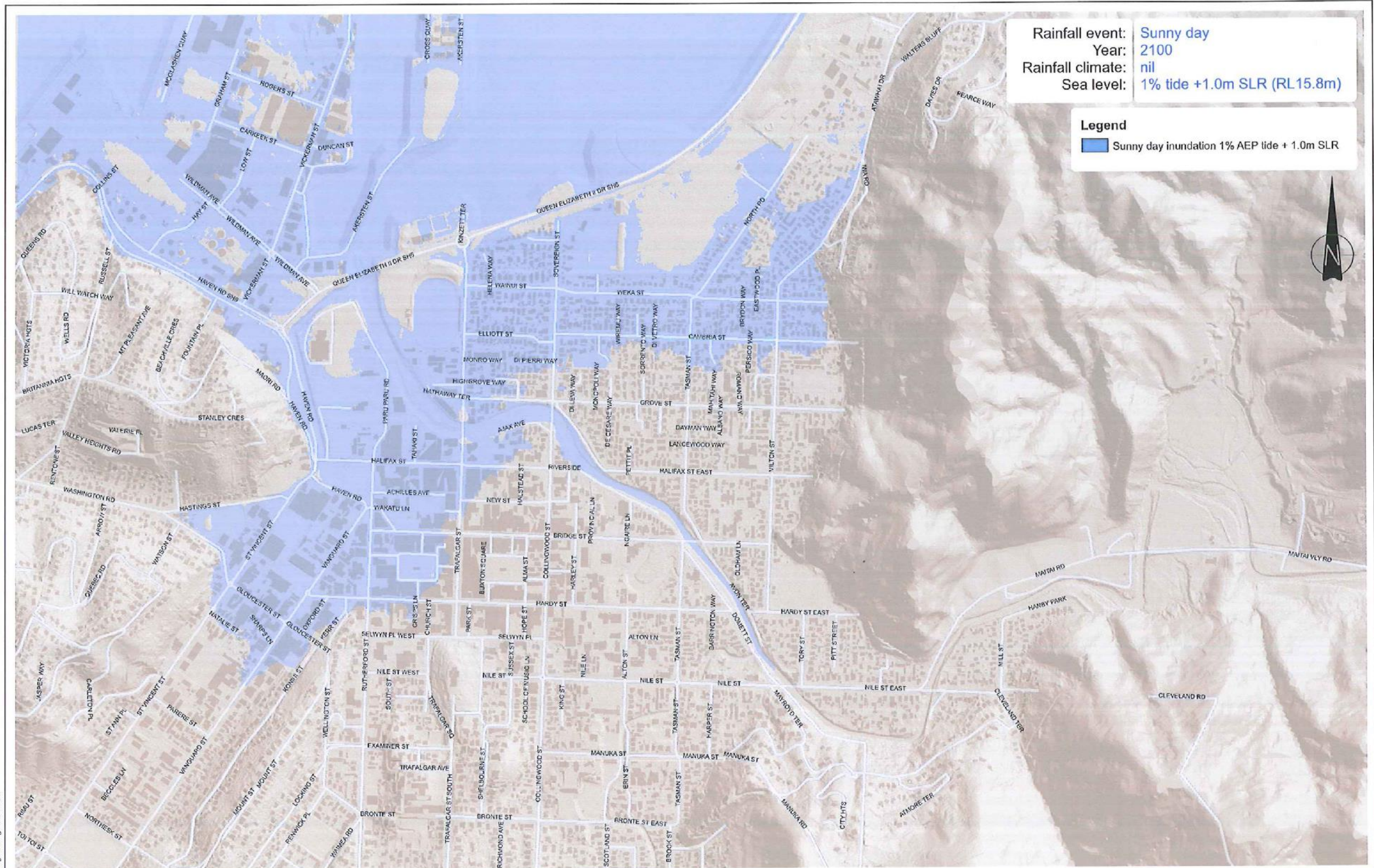
We are concerned that public consultation to date has been based on the desirability of the site, in terms of the link between river and city centre, rather than the suitability, or indeed unsuitability of the site, in terms of inundation and flooding in the context of climate change.

We note that feedback on the library site was encouraged through the 2016/2017 Annual Plan consultation but it is unclear if the public were provided information related to the inundation and flooding risks of redeveloping the library in the Riverside Precinct. On 11 May 2016, council confirmed that the library redevelopment would occur on the existing site but it appears this decision was made without consideration of the inundation and flooding risk related to rising sea levels. In April 2019, a contract was let for the Community Engagement component of the Library redevelopment to Athfield Architects Limited. The report has not been finalized but the authors have stated that 'all sectors of the community endorsed the site of the river precinct for the Elma Turner Library redevelopment'. We ask that the sectors be listed and we would like to know if inundation and flooding risks, climate change considerations and intergenerational equity were a focus of this report and if these considerations were communicated to all sectors of the community so that they could make an informed decision.

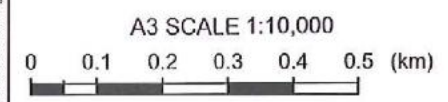
We specifically ask the council if the consultation and feedback processes to date have carried a focus on these risks, the associated high costs of construction and maintenance in the face of these risks, and intergenerational equity.

We note that Wakatū Incorporation has asked Council for a decision to be made as quickly as possible (5.16), but we caution against haste because as we have said, the development should have an intergenerational context and serve the community for 100 years, and for these reasons a sound and well-informed decision is essential, rather than a quick decision.

In coming decades, Nelsonians will not look kindly on today's decision-makers if confronted with the financial, social and environmental disaster of having invested tens of millions of dollars in buildings in a high-risk area and then having to build again at a higher site because of inundation and flooding. This council has declared a Climate Emergency and states that "all activity is to be viewed through a climate change lens" so we ask for leadership and processes that do indeed meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations.



Notes: Based on NCC LiDAR data collected 2007 and 2010



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DRAWN	DNV	Feb.13
CHECKED	DCL	6.8.13
APPROVED	F	6.8.13
ARCFILE Figure D6.mxd		
SCALE (AT A3 SIZE) 1:10,000		
PROJECT No.	870888	

NELSON CITY COUNCIL
MAITAI RIVER FLOOD HAZARD MAPPING
 Modelled floodplain
 2100: Sunny day, 1% AEP sea level +1.0m SLR

FIGURE No. Figure D6
 Rev. 0

Allocation of the Emergency Fund for Community organisations.

Council established a \$200,000 Emergency Fund for community organisations impacted by Covid-19 at its emergency meeting on 9 April 2020, as below.

Resolved CL/2020/001

That the Council

16. *Approves an Emergency Fund of \$200,000 to support community organisations impacted by COVID-19; and*
17. *Delegates the setting of criteria and distribution of funds to support community organisations from the Emergency Fund to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and the Chair of the Community Services Committee, with the criteria to be reported to the next Council meeting; and*
18. *Notes that the criteria for granting funds from the Emergency Fund will include that the organisation has applied for any applicable Central Government support, for example wage subsidies.*

Sanson/Noonan

Carried

The fund's criteria are attached.

Online applications were received from community organisations,

During May and June Council received 33 applications, requesting \$486,694. Staff assessed these applications against the fund's criteria, and provided them to the Council panel, comprising the Mayor, Deputy-Mayor and chair of the Community Services Committee.

Grants totalling \$82,220 were made to 18 organisations.

It is proposed that the balance of \$178,780 will be carried forward to 2020/21.

A further four applications, requesting \$37,785 were received in July 2020. These applications have not yet been considered by the Panel.

A schedule of the applications and grants is attached

Attachment 1: Nelson City Council Emergency Fund Criteria

Purpose: To ensure that community organisations involved in the city's response to COVID-19 are supported to maintain their existing and continuing services for the benefit of the Nelson community. The additional financial support being provided is to help organisations to continue to operate in the response/recovery phase of the pandemic.

Scope: Grants are provided to assist not for profit organisations to deliver services. Funding will be available to support organisations to maintain a level of service and for some a need for an increase in capacity for a short time to respond to the COVID-19 recovery.

Who Can Apply: Organisations must be locally based and not for profit, provide services to the wider community or specific community sectors, be able to provide verified accounts on request, and provide a budget showing the shortfall in expected funding and any predicted demands on future services in relation to the COVID-19 recovery. Priority will be given to Community and Welfare activities.

What can be Funded: Costs associated with administration and office costs, staff, loss of income and predicted increases in demand relating to COVID-19.

Other Conditions:

- Services must be of direct benefit to the people of Nelson City.
- Grants will not be considered for costs associated with previous debt servicing.
- Applicants must have applied for all Central Government support that may be eligible for such as wage subsidies.
- Applicants must account for the expenditure of funds specifically for the grant received.

Monitoring and Reporting:

Organisations receiving funding are required to provide a short summary on how the funding was utilised, services delivered and proof of expenditure with six months.

Decision Making:

Written requests to be made directly to the Community Partnerships Contracts Advisor using a simplified application form. Allocation decisions to be made by the panel consisting of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chair of Community Services Committee on a weekly basis.

Item 7: Mayor's Report: Attachment 1 A2439373

Attachment 2 – Schedule of applications and grants

Emergency Fund Schedule of Grants		
Applicant	Requested	Grant
Age Concern Nelson Tasman	6,500	3,500
Alzheimers Society Nelson	18,270	1,470
Broadgreen Society Inc	2,500	2,500
Brook Waimarama Sanctuary	35,588	5,000
Community ArtWorks	5,000	5,000
Enner Glynn Community Hall	6,172	1,000
Friends of Old Fairfield	6,000	5,000
Male Room Inc.	6,580	3,500
Nelson Cente of Musical Arts	8,250	8,250
Nelson Community Foodbank	15,000	5,000
Nelson Environment centre	40,000	10,000
Nelson Tasman Business Trust	5,000	5,000
Richmond Christian Fellowship Trust	15,000	5,000
The Nelson Historic Theatre Trust	40,000	10,000
The White House	1,500	1,500
Whakatu RDA	5,000	3,000
Whanake Youth	5,000	4,500
Whenua Iti	20,000	3,000
Basketball Nelson Development Trust	20,000	Declined
Diabetes NZ Nelson Youth	8,570	Declined
Kiwi Kai Nelson Ltd	25,000	Declined
National Heart Foundation NZ	9,866	Declined
Neighbourhood Support	4,832	Declined
Nelson Marlborough Rescue Helicopter Trust	75,000	Declined
Nelson Railway Society	6,282	Declined
Nelson Symphony Orchestra	11,000	Declined
No Child Left Behind	23,000	Declined
On Cue Conferences & Events Ltd	20,000	Declined
People First NZ	3,784	Declined
Presbyterian Support Upper North Island	10,000	Declined
Rainbow Snow Sports Club	11,000	Declined
RNZ Foundation for the Blind	7,000	Declined
St John Area Committee Nelson	10,000	Declined
Total to 30 June 2020	486,694	82,220
Balance 1 July 2020		117,780
Applications received - July 2020		
Nelson Surf Lifesaving	5,000	Pending
Tasman Bays Heritage Trust	18,987	Pending
Nelson Tasman Hospice	10,000	Pending
Iron Duke Sea Scouts	3,888	Pending
	37,875	
Total Applications received	524,569	