



# RiverLink— what it's about and what happens next

## February 2021





RiverLink is a transformative project for Lower Hutt, with a total budget of about \$450 million. It aims to revitalise Te Awa Kairangi Hutt River for a more resilient, more connected, more vibrant city.

The main themes of the project are a healthier river and environment with better flood protection; better transport connections; recreation opportunities in an improved river park; and a vibrant, prosperous central city.

Your feedback from the Open Day in November 2020 indicated your three top priorities are:

- A healthy and resilient river
- Moving around
- Being a river city

With a focus on these themes, at Open Day 2 on 13 February we provided more information about the plans for RiverLink including draft construction phasing and more detail on the plans (including the proposed network and width of shared paths and the height of the stopbanks).

If you can't make it to the Open Day you can find out more about what's proposed at [Riverlink.co.nz/yoursay](http://Riverlink.co.nz/yoursay) and share your views.

This leaflet tells you more about the project and what happens next.

### Where?

The site extends from State Highway 2 in the northwest across the river to the connection with Lower Hutt city centre, and between Kennedy Good Bridge to the north east and Ewen Bridge to the south west. It takes in an area four kilometres in length, including existing residential and business land next to the existing stopbanks.

### Who is leading this work?

RiverLink is a partnership between Greater Wellington Regional Council, Hutt City Council and Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency working together with Taranaki Whānui ki te Upoko o te Ika and Ngāti Toa Rangatira as mana whenua.

Together, we're investing over \$450 million:

- NZ Upgrade Programme (Waka Kotahi) \$258 million
- Greater Wellington \$125 million
- Hutt City Council \$73 million

We are working closely with mana whenua to enhance the mana and mouri of Te Awa Kairangi / Hutt River through this project. This means putting the river first and keeping a balance between the health of the river and its use by the community—minimising harmful impacts.

Mana whenua have a strong interest in making sure this project respects the river, strengthens our relationship with our environment and improves the ecology and water quality in the area.

### What are the next steps?

Following the Open Day on 13 February we will the designs and apply for designations and resource consents in mid 2021. The consenting process is likely to involve further opportunities for you to have your say, through submissions to the consenting authority. If we are successful in getting a resource consent, we estimate RiverLink construction work will begin in late 2022.

### Questions or comments?

You can call RiverLink on 0800 496 734 or email [riverlink@gw.govt.nz](mailto:riverlink@gw.govt.nz)

### NZ Upgrade Programme

Announced in January 2020, the New Zealand Upgrade Programme is investing \$6.8 billion nationwide to get our cities moving, save lives and boost productivity.

Willow and native planted river edge

Realigned river channel

Gravel beach

Rock-lined river channel

New stopbank

Pathway

New Melling Interchange

New Melling bridge

Park and Ride

Relocated Melling Station

New pedestrian and cycle bridge

Urban development

New stopbank







Te Awa Kairangi / Hutt River looking north

2009	Hutt City Council 'Making Places' concepts
2012	Greater Wellington flood protection option development
2015	Greater Wellington flood protection option selected
2017	RiverLink preliminary design
	Waka Kotahi Melling intersection indicative business case
2019	Waka Kotahi Melling transport improvements detailed business case
2019–2021	RiverLink Pre-implementation Planning and Design
Mid 2021	RiverLink resource consent lodged
Late 2022	RiverLink detailed design and construction begins
Late 2026	Melling Interchange construction complete



Te Awa Kairangi / Hutt River looking north