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ISSUE 121



Tūtaenui Reservoir, Marton

# New dam safety regulations lead to new classification of Marton B Dam

Following the introduction of new government regulations, Marton B Dam, located at Tūtaenui Reservoir, has been classified as a 'dangerous dam'.

Whilst the classification is new under the Building (Dam Safety) Regulations 2022, the risk that the Marton B Dam poses has not changed and is well known to Council. Mitigations have been in place to manage the risk for many years as required under the Building Act 2004. A recent independent engineering assessment has also identified the risk of a sudden failure as highly unlikely.

"The greatest risk to the Marton B Dam is a significant rain event causing overtopping into the Marton C Dam," says Council's General Manager - Assets and Infrastructure, Arno Benadie.

"To mitigate the ongoing risk, we aim to keep the reservoir level of the larger dam between one and two meters under the spillway, which gives us capacity to handle heavy rain events and overflow from the smaller dam.

"A failure of the B Dam structure itself without a trigger, event, or warning is highly unlikely. However, we have a plan in place should the unlikely eventuate," adds Arno.

Inundation mapping of a catastrophic failure of the whole reservoir shows that the flood channels are almost identical to what is already known from previous flooding events.

Council will now be working to determine if the dangerous dam classification will have to be noted on LIMs of properties that are already noted as being in a flood hazard zone. If this is the case, residents will be notified.

Options for what will happen to the dams once the new Marton Water Supply is commissioned are also being assessed. These options could include reducing the reservoir water levels to below the risk level, or decommissioning the dams entirely.

Marton's new water supply is currently going through a robust trial and testing period to ensure the bore water and innovative nanofiltration system will be able to deliver what Marton residents expect from their drinking water.

In an abundance of caution, Council and Stantec have drafted an Emergency Action Plan in the unlikely event of either dam structure failing. This Action Plan is now going through a robust review before being finalised to ensure all possible eventualities are considered.

As the regulator of the Building (Dam Safety) Regulations 2022, Horizons Regional Council were also notified of the "dangerous dam" classification of Marton B Dam. Under the Building Act 2004, Horizons Regional Council must have a policy on dangerous dams, earthquake-prone dams and flood-prone dams for the region that aligns with the Dam Safety Regulations. This policy outlines their approach and priorities as the regulator.



## Tyrewise programme extended to include Bulls Transfer Station

In December 2024, Council signed up to Tyrewise, which allows residents to drop off up to five tyres of any size to be recycled for free.

This service was made available to customers of our Taihape and Marton transfer stations. And, now because it has been a success, we've extended this service to the Bulls Transfer Station

#### Please remember:

- Tyres need to be relatively clean and de-rimmed
- Tyres must be whole tyres. No tyres with walls cut/removed
- No legacy tyres (i.e. if you've been hording them for years and the rubber has degraded).

When buying new tyres, the retailer charges a compulsory \$6.65 + GST fee, which applies to all new tyres in NZ. This aids Tyrewise and their recycling efforts around the country.



#### AKE AKE AKE MÅ AKE TONUTE REC

#### Nau mai ki Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori!

This year we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Te Wiki o te Reo Māori (Māori Language Week). This years theme is 'Ake ake ake – A Forever Language'. It represents the resilience, adaptability and endurance of our language. It also reflects the commitment New Zealanders have to embracing and learning te reo Māori long into the future. See more about how you can get involved at ReoMāori.co.nz

Kia Kaha Te Reo Māori!





### Communications and Engagement Survey

We're keen to hear from residents about how effectively you think we communicate with our residents. Sign up to our mailing list: www.rangitikei.govt.nz/connect

Please take the time to provide us your feedback by scanning the QR code or visiting

www.rangitikei.govt.nz/comms-survey







**VOTING IS OPEN UNTIL 12PM SATURDAY 11 OCTOBER 2025 Scan the QR code for more information about how to vote.** 





