

Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū
Banks Peninsula Community Board
MINUTES ATTACHMENTS

Date: Monday 12 May 2025
Time: 10 am
Venue: Wairewa Little River Boardroom, 4238 Christchurch
Akaroa Road, Wairewa Little River

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Little River Wairewa Community Trust
PO Box 100
Little River 7546

6 May 2025

Mary Richardson
Chief Executive
Christchurch City Council
53 Hereford Street
Christchurch 8013

Flooding in Little River

Kia ora Mary,

The Little River Wairewa Community Trust met on Monday night to discuss community issues, including the severe flooding in the Little River village as well as the state highway and local road network last week. We are writing to express our concern that the flooding risk appears not to have been mitigated by the city council through opening the lake, resulting in needless damage and disruption, and to ask for you to investigate these concerns further with urgency. We ask for urgency because we are likely to experience more storms this winter that will be as severe as last week's and believe some immediate lessons need to be learned.

Our major concern is that Te Roto o Wairewa Lake Forsyth was not opened to the sea ahead of the storm. Although the lake level would not have been the sole cause of the flooding, it is clear that the inability of the Okana River to clear into the lake was a major factor in the flooding in the village. The high lake level was the single most important factor in the closing of State Highway 75 for two days.

Our major questions around the lake opening are around process:

Was the decision-making quick enough when the lake reached the trigger level?

Did decision-makers take enough account of the severity of the coming storm, given you have leeway to open the lake in emergencies?

Did decision-making to open the lake prioritise the flooding risk to the village enough?

We are keen to hear your initial thoughts on these and related questions. We would like the chance for the community to feed its experiences and observations into those early discussions. And we are keen to hear about how you, the rūnanga and other bodies plan to review the lake opening and how we can feed into that planning.

In addition, we ask that you use the damage we have suffered as an opportunity to increase the pace of other discussions around flooding prevention and mitigation in Little River. In particular, can you let us know when updated flooding modelling will be available to the Little River Flooding Group?

We also ask you to investigate tarsealing the informal road that runs behind the Little River village from Council Hill Road to Barclays Road, as it was the only through route during the flood but has a very poor surface.



We are sending copies of this letter to the Banks Peninsula Community Board, to the mayor Phil Mauger to the Banks Peninsula councillor, Tyrone Fields and to the Banks Peninsula Community Advisors.

Many thanks for your time. We look forward to talking more.

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Tori Peden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Tori Peden
Chair, Little River Wairewa Community Trust