

HRES Framework and Direction for Phase 2 - Hutt River Environmental Strategy Review

Framework & Direction for Phase 2

Prepared for Greater Wellington Regional Council

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CONTENTS

1.0	Background & Purpose	1
2.0	Summary - Direction for HRES 2017	1
3.0	Recommendations for HRES 2017	4
1	Environmental Strategy Purpose & Structure	4
2	Proposed Vision Statement	5
3	Proposed Objectives	5
4	Methods	6
5	Clarification of Roles and Responsibilities	7
6	Document Format	7
7	Mana whenua	7
8	Te Awa Kairangi/Hutt River	8
9	Statutory Context	8
10	Phase 2 Consultation and Approval Process	8
4.0	HRES Review Findings – Key Issues	9
5.0	Appendices	16

1.0 Background & Purpose

Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) are undertaking a review of the Hutt River Environmental Strategy 2001 (HRES 2001). The objective of the first phase of this review project was to understand the current issues and opportunities relating to the river corridor and how these align with the existing HRES. This information will guide the revision and updating of the HRES (HRES 2017) to ensure it addresses the communities' and stakeholders' contemporary management and development aspirations.

The purpose of this document is to define and recommend the content and focus of HRES 2017, based on the findings and feedback from Phase 1 of the project. It aims to identify the main strategic themes which should be focused on, and identify any gaps or omissions that are not addressed in the HRES 2001.

Phase 1 of the review sought feedback from a wide range of stakeholders, including GWRC, Hutt City Council (HCC), Upper Hutt City Council (UHCC), iwi, community stakeholder groups, utility stakeholders and the public. The consultation comprised three methods – a 'stocktake' workshop of HRES 2001, a user intercept survey, and community/stakeholder consultation meetings. The Phase 1 findings are summarised in **Section 2** & detailed further in **Section 4** and the **Appendices**.

In addition to considering the content of the HRES 2017, that document's framework and structure has been considered to ensure that it is accessible and user-friendly to the community as well as those responsible for its implementation. This document's recommendations also include the need to formalise a governance structure for the HRES and a framework for consultation.

The recommendations for the proposed format and content of HRES 2017 are grouped under 10 headings in **Section 3**; for consideration and approval by GWRC.

2.0 Summary - Direction for HRES 2017

The project team has considered the feedback received via the review process with a view to understand how both the content and format of the HRES 2017 can respond to current issues and clearly articulate long term objectives for the river corridor to the community. Refer to **Section 4** and **appendices**.

The table below considers the key elements of the review findings in relation to the HRES 2001 document and suggests how the HRES 2017 can address these.

HRES 2001 (Main Sections)	Review Findings	HRES 2017 Suggested focus /revisions
Vision	Vision does not fully capture current aspirations	Revise vision to capture diversity of use/desired outcomes. Prepare draft vision and consult with key stakeholders.
Purpose and Guiding Principles		
Purpose To guide management of Hutt River and its corridor while ensuring the integrity of the flood	Structure of Strategy Revise HRES to ensure its provisions are consistent with the current GW planning	Structure of Strategy Replace guiding principles with a set of objectives that are more directive.

HRES 2001 (Main Sections)	Review Findings	HRES 2017 Suggested focus /revisions
<p>defence system in a way that: (Abbreviated)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintains and enhances the river environment; • Provides a range of recreation activities; • Contributes positively to the communities' spiritual, mental and physical well-being. 	<p>framework.</p> <p>Objectives need to capture the contemporary issues and aspirations identified in the review process.</p> <p>Objectives should be worded in such a way that the issues that are being addressed are evident.</p>	<p>Replace general guidelines with methods. Develop set of methods that can give effect to the objectives.</p> <p>Supremacy of flood protection objectives. Clearly state relationship of HRES to FMP.</p> <p>Limitations of Strategy need to be stated. HRES is not a statutory document so need to clarify its status, how it will be used and how environmental improvements will be implemented and funded.</p>
<p>Guiding Principles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance the ecosystems of river and its margins • Protect and enhance the cultural and historic values of river and its margins • Protect and enhance visual qualities of river and its margins • Improve and extend passive recreation opportunities • Allow iwi participation in decision making and apply tikanga • Provide for continuing community input 	<p>Change terminology from 'guidelines' to methods in order to be more directive.</p> <p>Strategy Content Common themes raised during consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance • Management (particularly day to day management via River Ranger) • Iwi involvement • Community relationships/involvement • Stakeholder interest groups • Strong focus on terrestrial and recreation • Open space values • Connections across the river and beyond the corridor • Biodiversity – freshwater and terrestrial • Vegetation • River ecology • Inadequate coverage of river/water and riparian • Water quality • River flows in summer • Riverlink project-urbanisation • Hutt River cycleway/walkway & National Cycleway • Education opportunities • Interpretation & signage • Provision of facilities – more required • User conflicts and anti-social behaviour • General lack of awareness and understanding of the HRES in the community • Need to clarify clear scope 	<p>Iwi as treaty partners are integral to the HRES and its management.</p> <p>Strategy Content Huge appreciation of the river corridor by the community.</p> <p>Encourage and enhance the communities' ability to participate in the management of the river corridor.</p>
<p>General Guidelines (generic to river corridor)</p> <p>Direct what is appropriate in the linear park</p> <p>Identify actions for implementation</p> <p>Guideline topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecosystems and ecological processes • Maori history and cultural values • Contemporary history • Landscape and visual quality • Recreation • Tangata whenua and community 	<p>Clarify mandate of community groups such as Hutt Rotary Clubs in relation to the Hutt River Trail</p> <p>More focus on ecological values and water flow/ and quality of the river.</p> <p>Better balance between terrestrial and water/river.</p> <p>More explicit understanding of relationships between GWRC, HCC and UHCC and their respective roles in environmental management and enhancement.</p> <p>Clarify HRES scope and ensure objectives are realistic.</p> <p>Focus on most used areas – facilities/planting.</p> <p>Identify and develop opportunities</p>	

HRES 2001 (Main Sections)	Review Findings	HRES 2017 Suggested focus /revisions
Reach Specific Analysis and Key Proposals	<p>of HRES, avoid trying to achieve too much? too aspirational? Need realistic goals.</p> <p>Need for recommended Actions to be more directive and for greater clarity re responsibilities, timing and priority.</p>	<p>Recommended actions to be specific with respect to; what needs to occur, how it should be implemented, priority of the action and who is responsible.</p>
<p>Roles and Responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance • Implementation • Councils • Iwi <p>stakeholder groups, community, neighbours</p>	<p>Roles and responsibilities for ownership, funding and implementation of the HRES are not clear between GWRC and HCC/UHCC.</p> <p>Iwi partners to be involved in the development and management of the HRES.</p> <p>Desire for more structured involvement in management and implementation by the community.</p> <p>Need for establishment and co-ordination of community stakeholder groups.</p> <p>Need for clear governance structure for the river corridor given roles and responsibilities of the 3 Councils</p> <p>Clarify roles and mandate of key stakeholder groups (such as Hutt Rotary Club) and utilities, NZTA.</p>	<p>Clear governance structure needs to be developed prior to the completion of the HRES 2017 so this can be included in the strategy.</p> <p>How actions / implementation will be funded needs to be clarified (at least in general terms, better still if it can be specific.)</p>
Document Format	<p>Iwi and Maori cultural interests to be integral throughout the HRES not just a chapter.</p> <p>Format to be generally based on the 2014 Waikanae River Environmental Strategy.</p> <p>Need for clear directive actions to be provided for each reach to ensure implementation</p>	<p>Prepare traditional document suitable for print/web site, in order to develop content and circulation for consultation.</p> <p>Format to keep in mind achievement of better reach to the community – user friendly, use of plain English.</p> <p>Investigate community needs for preferred digital/interactive</p>

HRES 2001 (Main Sections)	Review Findings	HRES 2017 Suggested focus /revisions format.
		Opportunities for the Strategy to be 'live' with periodic updates of achievements and implementation of proposed works.

3.0 Recommendations for HRES 2017

Based on the findings of the review process, ten recommendations are provided to guide the preparation of the HRES 2017. GWRC confirmation of these recommendations is required to provide clear direction for Phase 2 of the HRES review.

1 Environmental Strategy Purpose & Structure

A strategy is a plan of action designed to achieve a long-term or overall aim. A strategy maps out a particular direction and provides the tools for how to get there. The *Hutt River Environmental Strategy* is a non-statutory document, which sits under the *Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan*. The provisions of the HRES need to be consistent with the structural and non-structural measures that are required to manage the river floodplain. The focus of the HRES is the enhancement and management of the river environment and the way it encompasses both natural and cultural aspects or uses of the river corridor, in the widest sense.

The HRES 2017 document is proposed to be structured as follows:

Proposed HRES 2017 Structure

Introduction and Background	This section will set the statutory and environmental context of the HRES including its scope and limitations. It will clarify; the status of the HRES in relation to the <i>FloodPlain Management Plan</i> , the roles and responsibilities of GWRC, HCC, UHCC, iwi, stakeholders and community.
Features and values of the river environment	Summary of the key features and values of the river corridor, the mana whenua, natural attributes, and recreational values. This will provide the current status situation and background detail for the subsequent management and development objectives, methods and actions that will follow.
Vision statement	This will provide an overarching, aspirational directions for the HRES 2017
Objectives	A set of objectives will support the vision statement by addressing/articulating the issues and aspirations identified in the HRES review. Some objectives will be generic to the length of the river while others will be specific to particular

	reaches.
Methods	These will provide the means for the objectives to be achieved. Methods are the ‘tools’ of a strategy and are particular procedures for accomplishing or approaching something, especially in a systematic or established way.
Reach analysis	A chapter for each reach of the river will briefly describe its particular features, management/issues and development opportunities. Each reach chapter will have a set of actions.
Actions	Actions will be defined for each reach of the river. The recommended actions will be specific with respect to: what needs to occur; how it should be implemented; the priority of the action and who is responsible.

2 Proposed Vision Statement

The current vision will need to be amended slightly to reflect the feedback received during the review, in particular to recognise the urban focus of the Riverlink project and the desire for more focus on the intrinsic values of the river itself. The objectives will tease in more detail particular values and aspirations that will support the overall vision.

A first cut for a draft vision statement is provided below; this will be agreed/refined during phase 2 in discussion with GW, HCC, UHCC, and Mana whenua.

The Hutt River environment is managed and developed as a linear park to enhance its natural attributes and qualities, while providing for the communities’ open space and recreational enjoyment and benefit.

3 Proposed Objectives

A set of objectives support the vision statement by addressing/articulating key issues and aspirations as identified in the HRES review. Based on the review findings, the suggested themes for the objectives are listed below. (These require further development and will be refined during Phase 2 of the project to fully include the issues identified during the Phase 1 review (also refer to the summary in **Section 4**).

The proposed objectives below recognise the supremacy of flood protection objectives in the *Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan*.

HRES 2017 Proposed Objectives

Recognise and provide for mana whenua values and kaitiakitanga.	Incorporate mana whenua’s cultural associations with the awa and with the water, and their ongoing involvement with the management of the river corridor.
Encourage community awareness and structure community involvement	Community (including iwi) ‘ownership’ of reaches is an important aspect of the successful management and development of the river environment. There is a need to enhance the communities’ engagement with the river

	and HRES implementation through community events (for example). Develop a webpage or digital format for the HRES to improve its accessibility and visibility in the community.
Manage and enhance the freshwater resource	Water quality and flows, river biodiversity and habitat. Objectives and actions need to be realistic in terms of what can be reasonably achieved given these are catchment-scale issues and so there are limits to what can be achieved within the river corridor.
Manage and enhance the terrestrial biodiversity	Recognise role as a regional wildlife corridor, indigenous planting, habitat creation, and river margin contribution to water quality/habitat.
Maintain and enhance the open space/ green spine/greenway of the river environment.	Highly valued open space, local and regional, iconic and characteristic of the Hutt Valley. Natural character values are important. Open space provides offers an opportunity to escape the more urban environments, i.e tranquillity and naturalness.
Manage and enhance recreational activities	Develop opportunities, ban motorised vehicles, encourage passive and active recreational activity, provide facilities and opportunities at most popular places.
Identify and develop linkages with open spaces beyond the river corridor	Enhance the open space and circulation network within and across the valley.
Recognise that different parts of the river corridor offer particular opportunities and experiences.	Some parts of the river are more suited for particular activities than others, and not all activities can occur everywhere. The river corridor will essentially be a series of open space environments.
Identify and develop enhancement opportunities through the Riverlink project	Identify opportunities to work with the new urban activities in the river corridor and their contribution to the diversity and enhancement of linkages to the urban centre. Improve stormwater quality discharging into the river.
Identify and develop educational and interpretation opportunities	Freshwater systems, water quality river and river margin ecology, mana whenua associations and values, historic and cultural values.
Ensure public safety for river corridor users	Manage anti-social behaviours or 'design-out' where possible. Responses to water quality threats (eg algal blooms) to protect people and their pets.

4 Methods

Methods will be developed during Phase 2 of the HRES review process.

5 Clarification of Roles and Responsibilities

Clarification of the governance and management roles and responsibilities for the HRES needs to be confirmed early in Phase 2 of the review as this is fundamental to the drafting of the document.

There are several aspects to be considered and confirmed prior to the issue of the Draft HRES 2017 for consultation. While the Phase 1 feedback will guide this, there will need to be discussions initially between the primary stakeholders, GWRC, HCC, and UHCC to explore options and confirm the roles and responsibilities to 'own' and deliver the desired outcomes of the environmental strategy. These discussions will need to be led by GWRC and should consider the following:

- How will councils work together to prepare HRES 2017 and implement it? Need early buy-in and long term commitment.
- Long term governance structure for the strategy – who does this involve?
- Who will be responsible for implementation and funding of actions?
- What is the mandate of the HRES 2017 actions, in terms of council planning frameworks?
- Clarify Iwi role and responsibilities.
- Structure for stakeholder involvement – utilities, interest groups, Hutt Rotary clubs, community at large.

6 Document Format

The HRES 2017 document needs to be 'more visible' to the community and stakeholder groups and it also needs to be easily accessible to ensure it can provide clear and effective guidance to those responsible for its implementation, and for the community generally to understand the issues and engage on matters that affect the river corridor.

It is intended that the HRES 2017 document is formatted along traditional lines, consistent with the suite of GWRC planning documents. However, to improve its presence in the community an alternative digital or web based format may be required once the contents of the HRES have been developed and approved.

Development of a format to achieve a more 'visible' and 'accessible' HRES will be explored during consultation process in Phase 2 of the review.

7 Mana whenua

GWRC has a partnership arrangement with six manawhenua authorities of the region who continue to maintain kaitiaki roles over their ancestral lands. Ngati Toa Rangatira are mana whenua with primary interests in Porirua, Wellington and the Hutt Valley. Taranaki Whānui ki te Upoko o te Ika are mana whenua with primary interests in Wellington and the Hutt Valley. There have been a number of significant changes for mana whenua in the region since the HRES 2001 review.

Port Nicholson Block (Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika) Claims Settlement Act 2009

The purpose of the Act is to give effect to certain provisions of the deed of settlement, which is a deed that settles the historical claims of Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika. Section 23 of the Act provides for statements of association by Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika of their particular cultural, spiritual, historical, and traditional association with each statutory area. The Hutt River is a Statutory Area under Schedule 1 of the Act.

Ngati Toa Rangatira Claims Settlement Act 2014

The purpose of this Act is to give effect to certain provisions of the deed of settlement that settles the historical claims of Ngati Toa Rangatira. The Hutt River and its tributaries are acknowledged as statutory areas under Schedule 1 of the Act.

Engagement

Given the significant changes for mana whenua since the HRES 2001 review, a number of discussions are currently underway. GWRC, with assistance from Jade Wikaira (Boffa Miskell, Strategic Advisor Maori) are developing a mana whenua engagement strategy for the current works on the Hutt River/ Te Awa Kairangi of which the HRES review is a part. The engagement strategy is still in development but intends to recommend that a mana whenua working group is set up for the HRES review, to work with the project team.

It is proposed that the mana whenua working group would be part of the HRES working group to be set up for this project.

8 Te Awa Kairangi/Hutt River

It is proposed that the revised environmental strategy name should reflect the official name of the river, Te Awa Kairangi/Hutt River, now in use since the 2001 document was prepared.

9 Statutory Context

The vision and objectives of revised HRES will need to support and be consistent with the current statutory framework, in particular; *The Proposed Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region* and *The Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan*.

10 Phase 2 Consultation and Approval Process

The detailed consultation strategy will be prepared at the beginning of Phase 2 in collaboration with GWRC Communications Manager, Stephen Heath.

The overall structure of the HRES review process is set out below, together with how the suggested parties should be involved at the various stages.

Set up HRES review working group	Small group to provide consistent input and review throughout the project. With representation from GWRC, HCC, UHCC, mana whenua working group (recognising that additional technical input will be sought from council officers for specific matters as required).
Prepare Draft HRES 2017	Project team – in liaison with the ‘working group’, (and stakeholder groups if required for particular matters).
Approval of Draft HRES for consultation	GW, HCC, UHCC and mana whenua will need to approve the draft document prior to consultation.
Consultation on Draft	Consult with: Phase 1 ‘Stocktake Group’ (GW, HCC & UHCC officers)

	Stakeholder groups and utilities, eg Hutt Rotary, F&G, F&B. (Refer Appendix 4)
	Community workshops in HCC and UHCC.
	GW 'Have your say' web site
Incorporate consultation feedback	Collate comments, consider, revise document and finalise.
Final approval	Approval by GW, HCC, UHCC.
Issue final Document	

4.0 HRES Review Findings – Key Issues

This section contains the main findings from the consultation undertaken as part of the review;

- Mana whenua feedback on Riverlink project
- Stocktake workshop
- User intercept survey
- Stakeholder and community consultation workshops (x4)

Mana whenua feedback (Riverlink project)

Over the past couple of years GWRC have had ongoing discussions with representatives of Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust, and Ngati Toa about the proposed Hutt River City centre upgrade project (Riverlink). The key themes raised, in relation to the river are listed below;¹

- Greater reintroduction of native plant species and gradual reduction of the willow monoculture
- Support for the “Making Places” principle of reconnecting and redeveloping the relationship with the river
- Concern expressed about the ongoing deterioration of our rivers
- Concern expressed about the works in the river bed and the impact this has on the natural habitat
- Support developments proposed in the landscape concepts to reintroduce more natural patterns and based on sound ecological principles
- Would like to see greater awareness and interpretation of cultural and historical characteristics and linkages

¹ Source, GWRC Flood Protection team.

Stocktake Workshop

The 'stocktake' workshop was held in February 2016 with GWRC staff involved with, or with an interest in, the management and development of the Hutt River and the HRES; it was the first task in Phase 1 of the review.

The focus of the workshop was primarily to consider each of the river reaches identified in HRES 2001 and to comment on what had been achieved in relation to the 'Actions' listed; that is, whether the actions had been completed in full, in part, in progress, or are no longer valid, or need to be revised. The workshop also provided an opportunity to identify any new or additional actions that should be incorporated in the revised strategy.

It was generally agreed that the HRES 2001 has a very strong recreational focus and a terrestrial bias, which should be re-considered in the revised strategy to ensure a more balanced coverage. Also noted, was that the singular most important management objective for the Hutt River corridor is flood protection but that many secondary objectives can be achieved, but in doing so, flood protection cannot be compromised.

Other key points noted in the workshop were that HRES 2017 should:

- Include more on the aquatic ecology;
- Be more explicit re working relationships with HCC and UHCC;
- Look at opportunities for promoting linkages to areas of open space adjoining the river corridor.

In HRES 2001 the river is divided into 13 reaches. For each reach there is a stated Objective and a series of Key Proposals or Actions. The Key Proposals cover both broad and small scale initiatives.

For the workshop, aerial photographs of each reach, together with the list of Key Proposals were displayed and comments on each recorded. The main themes and points in relation to the reaches were:

Management

- Appointment of a River Ranger as identified in the 2001 HRES has been an overwhelming success.
- The significant increase in the level of public use of the river corridor warrants appointment of a second Ranger. This would provide better opportunities for the Rangers to focus on education and other aspects rather than dealing with an increasing workload of negative issues (e.g. illicit activities, removing dumped rubbish, vandalism, etc.).
- Monthly Ranger reports provide an excellent record of current issues and activities.
- Installation of track counters have confirmed the increasing levels of public use; unfortunately track counters are sometimes vandalised.

Biodiversity

- From a biodiversity perspective, there are significant opportunities for riparian planting along the entire length of the river corridor.
- Fish passage and habitat on tributary streams could be improved (e.g. Silver Stream, Black Creek, Te Mome Stream).
- Identify best areas to achieve ecological outcomes rather than trying to achieve results everywhere.
- Melling Bridge is the end of the tidal reach so there are different biodiversity opportunities between the mouth and Melling Bridge.
- Given its importance, the estuary provides any opportunities for improving ecological function.

- The rip rap and rubble lined banks of the estuary appear very utilitarian and 'brutal' and could be improved in terms of ecology, recreation and landscape.
- Toxic algae is an ongoing, complex issue.

Community Relationships

- Some communities adjoining the river have a poor relationship with the river and this is evidenced by rubbish dumping, vandalism and graffiti.
- Some reaches are more unsafe than others. Need to understand the reasons for this. Improved lighting in some places could assist.
- Taita reach is a problem spot in particular – very high stopbank separates the community from the river corridor.
- Vehicles illegally accessing the corridor, including motorbikes, is an issue in places.
- Improvements to views of the river needed in places.
- Opportunities to improve landscape character of some sections of the corridor which are very open, exposed and desolate.
- There is a demand for toilets and rubbish bins in the river corridor.
- Signs and maps were installed following HRES 2001 but the focus of maps is on the corridor and there is no information on facilities on land beyond the stop banks.
- Hutt Rotary Club has been heavily involved over a long period in the development of the River Trail – from raising money through grants to implementation on the ground.
- Things are being done by UHCC and HCC at a decision making level that are not always in synch with what is occurring at an operational level.
- Role of Hutt River Trail Committee and their mandate to influence development and management.
- Community involvement in the river corridor and what it offers is a key to ongoing management.

City Centre Project (Riverlink)

- This project was the main driver behind the review of HRES.
- Likely to be more rock rip rap and rock groynes with planting as part of the works in this area.
- Potential for more residential housing in CBD.
- Design and treatment of this area will be very urban and totally different to the rest of the river corridor – it will provide some diversity.

Cycling

- Cycling overall along corridor has markedly increased since the 2001 HRES.
- Significant increase in commuter cycling in some reaches.
- Two parallel trails along several sections of the corridor have been developed, one sealed and one unsealed. This will continue because of the National Cycleway initiative and the NZTA funding contributing to a faster, sealed commuter cycle route.
- Safety improvements to the Estuary and Silverstream Bridges are required to improve safety for cyclists.
- There is a conflict between sealing and straightening sections of the River Trail and displacing users.
- Opportunities to link River Trail with other cycle routes.

Planting

- More shade tree planting required, especially in swimming and picnic spots (e.g. Taita Rock, confluence of Whakatikei River).
- More plantings of native species required along the length of the river.
- From a river management perspective, native plant species are more expensive to maintain and they take longer to establish.

- Planting should be prioritised in high use recreational areas.
- Greater diversity of planting is required in places, as opposed to dense willow planting.
- Dense willow planting inhibits access and views to river.
- Willow planting on immediate river banks is a key management tool – willows are cheap, establish readily, grow fast, are easy to maintain, can be coppiced.

Full notes from Stocktake Workshop included in Appendix 3

User Intercept Survey

A user intercept survey of the Hutt River corridor was carried out during a long period of dry sunny weather from March through to early April 2016. 960 people using the river corridor in the evenings, weekends and during the Easter break were asked a carefully crafted set of questions at locations between the Hutt River mouth and Harcourt Park.

Four surveyors situated at various locations along the river (i.e. 'beats') were employed to stop and question users. Of the respondents, 51% live in Hutt City, 34% in Upper Hutt and 10% in Wellington.

The purpose of the survey was to identify how the corridor is used and by whom, what they currently think about it and the key issues faced, and what they would like to see happen in the corridor in the future. The survey was designed to allow it to be replicated in the future and for change to be measured over time.

The key findings from this user survey were that:

- Five main activities were identified – walking, dog-related exercise, cycling, running and swimming; collectively these activities account for 89% of respondents.
- The majority of respondents (60%) considered the corridor to be the same or better than when they first visited.
- 33% of respondents thought that it had not changed.
- The longer their experience in the river corridor, the more respondents felt the corridor had changed for the better, particularly with regard to access, planting and recreation amenities.
- The level of perceived conflict between uses is low overall, with 4% of respondents experiencing a negative interaction.
- Water quality improvement (through the management of algae) was the top management priority identified by users of the corridor.
- Those that believed the river corridor had worsened overtime primarily attributed this to algae, lower water levels in the river, and rubbish.
- Other worst aspects included dog poo, dogs off leads, personal safety, track quality and anti-social behaviour.
- The best aspects included the quality of the scenery, the cycle and walking tracks, separation from the traffic, the River itself, peace and tranquillity, the dog-friendly setting, and open space.

A copy of the report, Hutt River Corridor User Survey 2016 from Rob Greenaway & Associates is included as **Appendix 2**.

Stakeholder and Community Consultation

The project team held stakeholder workshops with Upper Hutt and Hutt City staff and representatives from other stakeholder groups and communities to understand the current issues in the Hutt River corridor. Each meeting included an overview illustrating how the Hutt River corridor had changed and an outline of the HRES review process, followed by a question and answer session. There was also an opportunity for people to provide site-specific feedback on issues at particular locations along the river, and many did this by writing their comments on Post It notes and sticking them on a large aerial photograph of river corridor.

The workshops held were with:

UHCC, HCC & GWRC staff	22 June 2016
Utilities (NZTA, Hutt Chamber of Commerce, Wellington Water, etc.)	24 June 2016
Stakeholder groups, Upper Hutt	28 June 2016
Stakeholder groups, Lower Hutt	29 June 2016
Site visit with Ngati Toa	29 July 2016

A list of all the organisations and groups invited to the workshops is included in **Appendix 4**.

In addition, feedback and comments on the HRES review was invited via 'Have your Say' on the GWRC website.

Summary of key themes raised during consultation in table below:

Themes

What people appreciate about the river corridor	Great tracks, freedom to ride, picnic, fishing, swimming, dog walking Views, scenery, sounds of river & birds, Native vegetation, habitat for fish, eels, water, intrinsic values of river Iconic, defines the city Natural beauty, clean and safe, open space, peaceful Free access, easy access Off-road recreation – no vehicles
Flood risk management	Climate change effects, cross blading works in river
Water flow & water quality	Low summer flows, cyanobacteria/algal blooms
Valued recreation resource	Walking, swimming, biking, dog walking, relaxing, fishing, need recreation lake.
Valued landscape/open space	Remoteness, peaceful, scenic, heart of the Hutt valley, openness
Facilities /infrastructure/services	Need more – tables, seats, toilets, rubbish bins, bbqs, wider paths, access across river, loop tracks, security cameras, cycle/horse friendly

		gates, children's facilities/playground/bike area.
Vegetation	– Need more	Native species, shade trees, species diversity, less willow plants, planting for insects, park-like forests
	– Need less	Blackberry, weeds in river margins
Ecology		Intrinsic values of river more important than people, current strategy light on ecology, river to provide a bird corridor, manage tributaries for native fish
Education/signage/interpretation		More interpretation about the river/river health/catchment management, history of river is being lost – heritage trail, use webcams or QR codes for information, more information about recreation. Signage uncoordinated.
Community involvement		Better communication about operational work, community arts can lead, need more volunteer groups, encourage community to be involved in new facilities/toilets, get kids involved with the river, consult with younger generation, groups adopt sections of river.
Anti-social behaviour/conflicts		Install security cameras, detect and prosecute fly dumpers, keep cars & motor bikes out of riverbed & river margins, better social behaviour campaign needed, litter in river
On-going management		Need another ranger Environmental enhancement lacking, too focussed on recreation Roles & responsibilities of HCC, UHCC, GWRC need clarification Golf course responsibilities need clarifying Need to balance limited funds & high community expectations
Council Officers' issues		Constant request for new activities Rebrand the river Need realistic expectations of HRES Is scope of strategy too large to manage successfully? Ranger role should be enhanced
Awareness of HRES 2001		Generally, within the community there seems to be a widespread lack of familiarity of the HRES 2001, knowledge of its existence, content and purpose.

A full list of comments made by participants at the workshops is included in **Appendix 3**.

5.0 Appendices

Appendix 1 Stocktake Workshop – Summary notes from meeting

Appendix 2 User Intercept Survey – Final Report

Appendix 3 Stakeholder and community consultation –Notes

Appendix 4 List of invitees to HRES review consultation

Appendix 1 Stocktake Workshop

Summary notes from meeting held on 22 June 2016 with GWRC Officers

Hutt River Environmental Strategy Review: 'Stocktake' Workshop

The 'stocktake' workshop on 1st February 2016 involved staff from different GWRC Departments who are involved or have an interest in the management and development of the Hutt River and the review of the Hutt River Environmental Strategy (HRES).

The focus of the workshop was to consider each of the river reaches identified in the 2001 HRES and to comment on the 'Actions' listed (i.e. whether the actions listed had been completed in full or in part, are in the current work programme, or were no longer valid or needed to be revised). The workshop also provided an opportunity to identify any new or additional actions that should be incorporated in the revised strategy.

It was generally agreed that the current HRES has a very strong recreational focus and a terrestrial bias, which should be addressed in the revised strategy. Other key points noted in the discussions were that the HRES should:

- Include more on the aquatic ecology;
- Be more explicit re working relationships with HCC and UHCC;
- Look at opportunities for promoting linkages areas of open space adjoining the river corridor.

Comments on the Actions for each of the 13 river reaches as identified in the HRES are set out below. The bullet point Actions at the beginning of each reach are those noted in the current HRES with points raised in the workshop following.

River Mouth/Harbour Actions

- Plant bank edges from the river mouth and Waiwhetu Stream confluence up to Estuary Bridge with eco-sourced native estuarine and coastal species.
- Use planting to relate the two sides of the river mouth.
- Create a recreation link along Waiwhetu Stream.
- Develop a walkway linking the Hutt River Trail to Seaview Marina. The design of the walkway should reflect the area's strong industrial character and history, and the relationship with the harbour.
- Improve recreational links north around Estuary Bridge.
- Provide platforms on Estuary Bridge for fishing to minimise conflicts with pedestrians and exclude fishing from between central piers.

Points Noted:

- Most things one way or another are in place

- The underpass on the right bank and more recently on the left bank provide a great link with all sorts of interesting spin off benefits and allowing people to walk to work from the Seaview area
- Estuary area – important for sea birds, and habitat, nesting though estuary not in best health
- Improving the ecological function of the estuary in this reach is the most important element
- HRES needs to include objectives around the function of the estuary system
- HCC have done a lot of work around the Hikoikoi Reserve – public use of this area is returning as the area is developed
- Sand dredging and effects will be a long-term management issue for Rangers
- Winstones sand excavation at mouth of river and how the plant looks and how much a commercial operator can be expected to do is an issue; Winstones wharfing is starting to look tired and vulnerable and at some point will need to be upgraded. That mix between commercial and environmental activity causes friction in this reach
- With Unilever being sold, GWRC been trying to facilitate access on both sides of Te Mome stream
- New Ryman Retirement Village provides link opportunity
- Big issue on left bank is the rubble lying along there in poor condition and will require a lot of money spent on it to get it in condition, an expensive item. Walkways and planting there are vulnerable
- The reclamation is managed by HCC and is not the responsibility of GWRC whose responsibility is the river
- Waiwhetu Stream would still be used by HCC for emergency discharge
- Erosion along Port Road section is difficult to manage and area of prolific graffiti and drag strip for boy racers
- Sea level rise, erosion important considerations for this reach
- Recreational links along the Waiwhetu Stream and Seaview marina, plans for expansion of Waiwhetu stream link to Wainuiomata and the river corridor, Hikoikoi to Estuary Bridge is work planned to occur over the next few years. It would be good to get an understanding from HCC where these projects are at?
- Fishing platforms have not happened – fishermen are usually on Estuary Bridge – traffic hazard?
- Health of the area isn't too bad – big kahawai are caught off this bridge
- Estuary bridge not suitable for cycling
- Legacy of industrial area: potential of this as a recreational area shouldn't underestimated because of its current use as industrial area
- Quality of cycle trail on true right bank is not as good as it is on the true left. National Cycle Trail aligned on true right bank.

Ava Actions

- Plant the river edge and Black Creek with low native grasses and sedges suitable for whitebait spawning and to improve visual amenity.
- Enhance the Sladden Park boat ramp area with plantings of similar species.
- Plant blocks of vegetation on the berms to create interest, while recognising the importance of these areas for recreation.
- Keep planting predominantly low to maintain visual connections with the river, river mouth and harbour.
- Investigate the feasibility and benefits of re-introducing through-flow to Te Mome Stream.
- Enhance existing planting along banks of Te Mome Stream.

Points Noted:

- Highest use area per month as far as numbers go -on the true left bank (city side 11,000 in December 2015)
- School kids, commuters use this reach frequently
- Lighting along one side of the river stops and then goes across the bridge – is this for commuter cyclists? There are public safety issues around this reach, could explain the arrangement of the lights
- The counter is downstream of the rail bridge, the people being counted are coming from the previous reach (River Mouth) through to the city reach so not sure where they are coming from? Wainuiomata?
- Greatest mix of recreational and commuter cycling due to residential areas on both sides of this reach using this as a corridor to get to work and school
- Quick access/route along Ewen Bridge
- Great recreational spot for young children, nice and flat and planting on berm makes this an attractive spot. There are a variety of views and experiences from the top of the berm to the river's edge. A lot of work on this reach over time making it an attractive place to come
- It would be good to review the scale of the objectives
- This reach has a separate sealed track on the stopbank
- There is a lot of space on this reach, the separation of the lower unsealed paths and the upper sealed path has worked well for separating users
- Cyclists use the sealed trail on top of the stopbank, which is much more exposed than the lower trail adjacent to the river, which is more sheltered and tends to be used by walkers and runners
- Pleas for all native plants to be used in the corridor – it does take time to establish native species and working into a fairly hostile environment and substrate is difficult
- Native planting is costly from a maintenance point of view
- A lot easier to prioritise planting in high use areas /good recreational spaces

- Use of a variety of plants important for fish spawning are key– sedges and flaxes – important to get the right species working for better ecological outcomes
- Important to look at the reach as a whole to get the right spots for best ecological outcomes rather than trying to put everything everywhere
- Objectives are very terrestrial –we could refresh this with some more aquatic objectives
- Potential here for large chunks of open space to be used/directed for recreational uses
- Within planning horizon now (20-40 years) river is aggrading. Perhaps this material could be used in the city centre development?

Central Business District Actions

- Replace willows with strong “urban” character river edge, backed by specimen trees and other planting on berms.
- Terrace river edge at strategic locations to give access to the river.
- Incorporate river-edge tracks and paths and create new walking/jogging loops between Ewen and Melling Bridges.
- Remove car parking spaces to allow a greater emphasis on recreational uses.
- Strengthen pedestrian access to and from the city.

Points Noted:

- Channel widening, higher stopbank and larger stopbank footprint
- New stopbank raised on true right by 700mm
- Removal of properties on true right bank
- Stopbank on true left edge remains roughly in the same place
- Currently talking about better links to the river corridor as per Making Places (via Andrews Ave and Margaret St)
- Potential for moving the railway station slightly further south for more efficient transport purposes
- Consideration of a cycle/pedestrian bridge to encourage use of rail and link from railway station to city
- Potential for more intensive housing on the Pharazyn Street side close to the railway station – undecided what will happen here at this stage
- Potential for more residential accommodation in the CBD to create better mix, make it more lively
- Potential for accumulating important services around the railway station for commuting rail users and also perhaps residential development
- Consents to be lodged in 18 months’ time.
- Full level of flood security will not be achieved until Melling Bridge is replaced but a lot can be achieved before this time

- Constrained spaces for National Cycleway and commuting cycleway. National = recreation, urban = commuting. National Cycleway doesn't need to be sealed
- Opportunities for connection on the true right bank are very important for recreation and commuters.
- Overall, the Hutt River trail will be the jewel in the crown of the Hutt River corridor and cross connections are really important to achieving this
- There is still conflict between sealing and straightening sections of the corridor and displacing users
- Dog walkers prominent here and are in conflict with fast cyclists on the same paths
- Diversity of habitat – riffles and pools – can work for ecological reasons and for recreation, the two must be in harmony
- Melling Bridge is the end of the tidal reach
- Conflict of planting for amenity and for flood protection – views to the river, use of the river and strong enough vegetation to withstand flooding. Vegetation can become a barrier to viewing and accessing the river
- Likely to be more rock rip rap and rock groynes with planting with the City Centre reach project works
- At the moment GWRC uses willows – quick, effective, easy and cheap to grow, but if people want rid of the willows a whole different regime will need to be developed to replace them – increased rates perhaps to pay for maintenance which will be ongoing

Avalon Actions

- On both berms, screen roads with further blocks of eco-sourced native planting, while recognising that it is important to maintain open stretches for visual access, and create special interest areas adjacent to access tracks.
- On the eastern bank, use planting to improve spaces linked to access points along the river. Improve visual connection to the river with gaps in the vegetation and by pruning willows. Rationalise vehicle access.
- On the western bank, improve visual and physical access to the river with gaps in willow plantings and pruning.

Points Noted:

- Croquet club is going to move
- Widening will occur on the true right bank – 30m of width will be lost on the bank, the open space on the berm will be lost
- Potential for 10m increase in width of motorway according to NZTA
- Most established recreation groups in this reach, highly used area and so most vocal in terms of public feedback

- A counter at Block Road in Melling area and numbers are fairly high here
- This reach is popular with dog walkers – Kennedy Good Bridge to Melling Bridge on the true right
- Toxic algae territory: 10-11 dog deaths on the Hutt River around the Belmont School area. Sediment (washed down from hills) is one of the key drivers. Timing of recreational activities is something to be aware of in relation to algae
- Good car parking at both ends. Not as many cyclists to interfere with dog walkers and good separation of uses is achieved here.
- Potential for more explicit linkages between the recreational strategy and the environmental strategies. Along this reach there are very limited views of the water.
- Overspill of birds from adjoining native forest areas on western escarpment – swooping tui are getting hit by cars; important to think about planting in relation to bird behaviour to avoid being hit by cars
- Introduction for legume plantings may be considered to improve ecology
- Objectives for need a total review; would be nice to see recreation, cultural, ecological enhancement objectives being clearly articulated in the actions for each reach. Different themes could be applied to each reach
- This section has the newest section of sealed trail – friction of cyclists vs. pedestrians in this reach
- From the river mouth to Taita is pretty good standard, then you get to Taita where the open access track is and conflict arises here between users. Below Taita everyone seems to be happy
- Much more exposed on top of the stopbank [so people don't tend to use so much?]
- For some reason the community and younger people are not involved in this part of the river corridor – still graffiti and vandalism by young community members. Community ownership is lacking and connections to the river are lacking.
- How do we create these connections for younger people to get them interested and involved in the river corridor?
- Better link into Boulcott Street planned – half way there at the moment
- Ideas from users [who have spoken to the Ranger] – it's a bland area, could there be playgrounds and fitness stations? There are issues with this equipment in terms of flooding but it could help connect people to the area
- Design standard issues in terms of higher speed cycle paths needing to be widened. Currently too narrow and may need to be widened to accommodate passing
- Lack of signage for connections and facilities along the trail – we don't need to provide for everything everywhere but the connections back into the community need to be emphasised
- People want toilets and rubbish bins in the corridor
- Avalon Park is being redeveloped by HCC
- Vehicle traffic going in long stretches along the trail in this reach, do we really want them driving along long sections of the river? Could there be strategic points to get vehicles into the corridor

- Shade plants needed along this stretch. Concern for how to balance this with dumping in highly vegetated areas.
- People congregate further up the river where public toilets are
- Death in this reach due to vehicle misuse in recent times
- Access does need to link in with NZTA's Ngauranga to Upper Hutt project

Taita Actions

- Improve the visual character of the eastern bank with eco-sourced native planting to provide variety and better spaces.
- Improve visual connections with the river by providing gaps in the willow plantings or by pruning.
- Improve connections between the local community and the river with the creation of walking loops incorporating the river berm and the existing open spaces within the Taita community.
- Control vehicle access to the eastern berm.
- Strategically plant the western bank as a backdrop for recreation on the eastern bank. Views from the motorway should be maintained.

Points Noted:

- Rubbish dumping occurs here
- Lots of bad stuff happens at night in this reach, calls to close access off at night – but likely gates will be vandalised
- A problem spot on the Hutt River. Potential for improving this area – it's a blank slate.
- The area is unused by the community and they do not engage
- Playground at Taita is continually vandalised need to engage with the community to develop solutions to create a sense of ownership
- Very high stopbank separates the community from the river, a strange, unwelcoming area
- Consideration for riparian wetlands to manage the high nitrogen content (2x greater than most locations along the river).
- One of the most popular swimming holes but the problem is people also abuse it through littering
- Vandalising of any infrastructure in the river corridor is highly likely
- Mowed once a year but otherwise little investment in vegetation here due to vandalism and theft of plants.
- Need more planting in this area as there are very few trees to sit under for shade/shelter
- The community need to feel responsible for creating the river environment here
- Desolate open place that people come to abuse

- Intensify and really invest in key recreation areas in this reach
- Hutt City Council have put a new bridge across creating a full circle
- Trail developed on the right bank

Taita Gorge Actions

- Actively manage the mature willows in the former nursery area to enhance picnic spaces.
- Improve recreation links to the south including a new footbridge across Hull's Creek.
- Plant eco-sourced native vegetation to screen the recreation trail from the road on the eastern bank.
- Recognise the long-term potential for large-scale habitat restoration in this area by creating ecological corridors linking the adjacent hills and areas to the north. This may require land acquisition.
- Recognise the potential for enhanced recreation in association with habitat restoration proposals.

Points Noted:

- Ecologically this is a significant site – upwelling of groundwater from aquifer, double of nitrogen concentration here, which is driving algal blooms – anything that could be done to soak up some of these nutrients would be useful
- Fish passage – Silverstream weir structure is a barrier for fish. Other structures in tributaries which are also an issue
- Concern raised about what is being done to address the weir. Need to work with HCC to address fish passage and the weir
- Nice reach for a variety of reasons – the eastern bank trail drops below the road, you feel quite remote there. HCC and Hutt Rotary Club are working hard to complete the loop through the golf course
- The old Willow Nursery – nice open spaces, not too manicured and rock groynes creating eddies. Overall very pleasant area but not so well recognised
- Lovely place to walk on the left bank – much more intimate experience due to narrow winding track
- Commuter cyclists stay on the road, minimising conflict
- Access on the right bank around the golf course will be located against the rail track
- New SH 58 interchange happening now – finishing 2018? Not expected to impact current environment with more people coming to the area
- Large culvert access where you can go under SH2 – there's one past Silverstream Bridge that takes you into Dry Creek, used for events. Possible to use more regularly? A culvert that you can walk/bike through – links to other recreation areas on SH2
- Reach suffers around the weir – lots of chicanes

- Clip on the side of the bridge for walkers – people used to walk across the pipe
- Sewer pump station and storage tank for emergency capacity – issues with the smell
- Hulls Creek community group and Forest & Bird have done a lot of planting
- Issues with safety and the golf club
- Most flood protection is in place up here – so could more resources be put into this area
- School groups go here to look at Hulls Creek
- A very popular swimming hole at Silverstream Bridge is located in this reach
- Good area to create a destination with additional car parking

Heretaunga Actions

- Maintain or increase planting to buffer the river corridor from urban development on the eastern bank (particularly in the area affected by the proposed Valley Plaza, formerly the ProMall development proposal).
- Increase opportunities to view the river from the eastern bank.
- Where the river is visible from the eastern bank, the western bank becomes important as a backdrop. Plant the western bank as a backdrop to river access points on the eastern bank.
- Continue current exclusion of vehicles.
- Investigate the feasibility of flooding Barton's Bush.

Points Noted:

- Delete 'Promall development' from Strategy as this is out of date
- County Lane busy all the time – very popular with dog walkers, second most popular dog walking area after Belmont
- Mountain biking occurs here but not so many commuters
- 10km running circuit for many people
- Recently a legal public access opened through the Royal Wellington Golf Club, but there are conditions for the use of this
- One of the areas UHCC want to put a cycle way on the eastern bank – potential for huge conflict
- Nitrogen upwelling in this reach – toxic algae dangerous for dogs
- Access is difficult along the western side
- A lot of the so called trail – these tracks have developed out of construction routes for flood protection so are not all perfectly designed trails for people
- Valued nesting site for sea gulls in this reach
- The need for Bartons Bush to flooded from time to timeo maintain water table and viability has not been explored. Is it realistic and should this still be included as an Action in the Strategy?
- Bartons Bush would be perfect location for soaking up nitrogen

- New access developed from Whirinaki Crescent
- Lots of events along here
- Link formalised through Heretaunga Park and is very popular, creates a link that is missing from the Silverstream - Heretaunga to the River Trail
- Upper Hutt city have put a cycle link along the rail corridor
- NZTA doesn't like access for vehicles on the true right bank – but this isn't highly used because it is close to the highway. NZTA did put planting buffers up but didn't bother to maintain them
- Moonshine Park popular destination for picnicking and river access
- River used to be pushed hard against the hill and was moved because of the State Highway, now this area is a mess – blackberry grows here

Moonshine Actions

- Redevelop the existing recreational focal point at the Whakatikei River confluence (needs to be able to cope with intensive use).
- Control vehicle access.
- Improve visual connections with the river.

Points Noted:

- Another reach where you can drive a car along the whole length – Whakatikei to Poet's Corner
- It's come a long way – was a terrible place where car bodies and rubbish accumulated – amazing progress and now is a very popular swimming hole and picnic area
- Specimen trees all the way through – could make this reach a key destination
- Opportunities to continue the line of totara up the corridor to the bend at Whakatikei which is lacking coverage
- Good swimming holes in this reach
- Poets Corner is lovely where all the trees are but is disconnected and access isn't quite as good
- Campervans stopping at the public toilets overnight
- Shingle plant is well screened with native planting, blocking off an ugly area
- Lack of development of berm (that juts out on the river bend) on eastern side (across the road from Whakatikei Park) because it's meant to come off as part of river re-alignment
- Upper Hutt sealed the top of the stopbank – quite a good commuter route, closer to communities but use is low. As a commuter you need to cross busy roads and don't have right of way. Recreational users stay in the river corridor
- Mainly put the cycleway there to direct people into the city centre

Totara Park Actions

- Create a wetland and native bush areas on the western bank downstream of Totara Park.
- Rock line sections of the western bank to give views into the wetland and bush areas from the State Highway.
- Screen the State Highway from the access tracks on the eastern bank with eco-sourced native planting, while still maintaining views from the road to the new habitat area.
- Enhance the existing sports fields with groups of specimen trees (totara and beech).

Points Noted:

- No progress with developing the wetland and native bush areas downstream of Totara Park. Questioned whether this action is still valid for this area?
- Horse/pony club use this area
- Tracks on Whakatikei area is good
- Bridge over Whakatikei River could open up recreation potential of this area (likely that this could be in place in 3 years.
- Good track links to walkway to Cannon Point
- What's the advantage of having horse people using area on true right bank land?
- Planting native tree species is a goal for this reach
- Could be a place for big ecological wins
- Good links, pedestrian cycle access ways on Totara Park bridge, improved by Upper Hutt on true right into the trail that wraps around to the Awakairangi Park
- Kayaking in the eddies and rocks in the corner bend (between Awakairangi Park and Te Haukaretu Park)
- Upper Hutt improved access down to the river from the Totara park Bridge
- Gravelled the top of the stopbank, improved surface
- Want to encourage use of true right bank to take pressure off true left. GWRC and UHCC working together to resolve access with landowner
- Would this become the only area on the river corridor that you couldn't pass through if they blocked this off?
- Quite an important take off point into wider recreation opportunities

Maoribank Actions

- Replace former swing-bridge (pedestrians only) at Maoribank corner creating a loop walk with Harcourt Park.
- Enhance Maoribank corner and the swimming hole as a second recreational focal point on the new loop track.

- Plant eco-sourced species that strengthen the local identity, for example, totara (Totara Park) and beech (Birchville).
- Create a community park between the swimming hole on Maoribank corner and the adjacent community.

Points Noted

- Swing bridge has been replaced
- Fault line traverse through here – a natural swimming hole and is very popular
- The corner on the Totara Park side feels very isolated, most people stick to the park
- There has been work done in the river – where the fault line has been eroding through the Norbert street section, GW put rocks in there to try and hold it together amongst the fault line and it has worked very well
- Private property owners with land titles to the centre of the river in this reach
- Most of the track through Harcourt Park to the 'Duck Pond' area is all tar sealed through here
- National cycle way goes on true left bank, using the existing Hutt River Trail; it goes across private land but there is verbal agreement with landowners to allow this
- Historic stuff through here – swing Bridge? Opportunities for interpretative signage.

Birchville Actions

- Plant eco-sourced native beech wherever possible in new plantings to build on existing remnants and reflect the origins of the area's name.
- Define and enhance existing easements and access points to the river with planting.
- Use existing roads/tracks and riverside easements on the western bank to give public access through the area and link tracks from the south to Kaitoke Regional Park.

Points Noted

- UHCC has done a lot of work on the true left bank to get it up to cycle standard – now well used for cycling
- You can go right up to Mangaroa now
- Left bank has a lovely rural lifestyle character
- Behind the motor camp at Harcourt Park, the gradient of the River Trail might not meet the standard, it's very steep and winding.
- Access from Bridge road to Totara Park – bridge is washed out – could this track be made permanent? It was meant to be temporary solution. It's sealed with lights. Upper Hutt CC has not indicated that this will be permanent – need to define the situation
- Birchville dam track is very important walking track and is a one way down to Cannon Point

- Trail along the river is not suitable for children.
- Native beech planting is a goal for this areas
- Significant clumps of native vegetation at Birchville, behind the school is particularly rich in species.
- Need to acknowledge settlements of the Hutt River –Te Atiawa
- Lord of the Rings filming sites – Poets Park and Harcourt’s Park
- Gillespie’s Road/track a dead end – but there is a bit of use here

Te Marua Actions

- Acquire land adjoining the river or an easement on western bank.
- Create a recreation trail and ecological corridor along western bank linking with Kaitoke Regional Park.
- Secure other reserve land where desirable, especially on the western bank to link new western bank corridor with surrounding hills.

Points Noted:

- Don’t believe land has been acquired for public access (referring to first point) it was originally meant for a subdivision so this land would have been acquired to preserve the trail along the river
- Rotary would like to see a track on each side of the river.
- Fault line goes through here - evidence of erosion
- Slip that blocked the whole river pushed the paddocks and golf club, meaning the river was flowing down the fairway
- Points of constriction: Te Marua on the left hand side of SH2. Properties very close to road. Crossing further up is hazardous.
- Track goes under Mangaroa Bridge but doesn’t go alongside – a clip on could allow riding all the way through
- Old Pa site on the Teesdale land?
- Railway line used to go across leading to a track that went up the gorge at upper dotted red line on aerial
- UHC have done a lot of work on the trail from Birchville to Mangaroa Bridge, a lot more rideable. Eroding on one side at the moment.
- Still an intention to move SH2 east a bit but not sure where this is at currently.
- Te Marua entrance to Kaitoke – dog walking and walkers. Lots of day use. Swimming hole right by the twin lakes.
- People jumping off rocks – parking on one side of the highway and walking across to access the river

Kaitoke Regional Park Actions

- Use eco-sourced native plant species only.
- Establish recreation trail links south.
- Short-term – create a cycleway along State Highway 2.
- Long-term – establish trail along the historic logging route on western escarpment.
- Erect a swing bridge linking the historic logging route across the river into Kaitoke Regional Park.

Points Noted:

- Last reach – from here recreation users veer over to Pakuratahi Forest park
- Crosses into the Parks Network Plan – would be useful to establish a link between plans to avoid conflicting messages. This plan starts at the boundary of the park.
- Erecting a swing bridge not a priority and little awareness of this when Parks Network Plan was prepared
- Trail along the historic logging route not identified in the Parks Network Plan
- Logging route not even a track at the moment and not visible on aerial
- Better lowland links from Waterworks Road to Te Marua talked about
- Connection on River Trail south of Mangaroa Bridge to the north (a clip on to the bridge) would be a big win

Other Notes and General Comments

Any improvements that could be done in short/long term that could have influence on the strategy?

- What are the drivers going into the future?
- Level of service issue / what sort of vegetation issue – how do you prioritise planting and where it goes? Do we want to frame the river more as a park
- A conversation about what the Hutt River should look like from a vegetation perspective?
- Hutt River Trail Committee – what kind of mandate this group has for influencing how things collectively happen on the corridor. Things are happening at councils that aren't necessarily in synch (at an operational level vs. what happens at a decision making level)
- The Hutt River has to be looked at holistically – vehicle use, alignment issues, erosion issues, friction between users. The Hutt River Trail is one component of the corridor
- Singular most important management objective is flood protection – but lots of secondary objectives can be achieved underneath this.
- Connections with the TAs and iwi are important

- Next step is getting the User Survey, then talking with user groups to obtain their feedback? A 12 month exercise where the consents being lodged for City Centre project tie in with the completion of this strategy. Along the way this will feed into the City Centre project

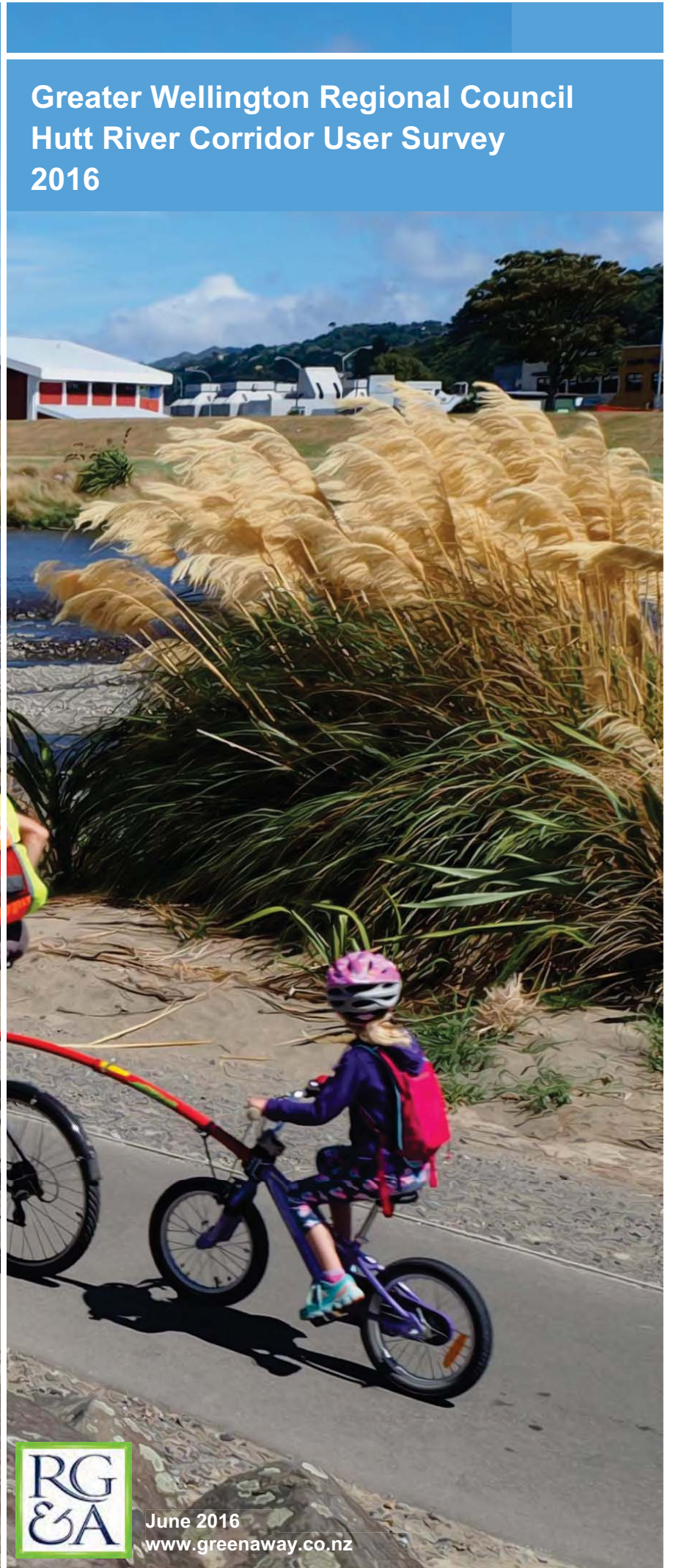
How employing a river ranger has been working:

- A big area to cover for one person, you can't work the whole river every day.
- It's worked exceptionally well, but where the conflict has been is we've developed the area and there's more demand for services from the ranger = more than what one river ranger can provide.
- Dividing into the reaches is effective because each is distinctive and has particular issues.
- Community involvement is the main thing.
- Spending time on negative things (like graffiti and vandalism) can be really draining. One person dealing with this all the time is really tough. It will only work as a team working towards a common goal.
- Flood protection work is the most important thing.
- Part of the job is also managing the expectations of user groups so they understand limitations.
- Communication amongst the team/group is key so people know who to talk to and who to connect with over certain issues.

Appendix 2 Intercept Survey

Final Report - *Greater Wellington Regional Council Hutt River Corridor User Survey 2016*. Prepared by Rob Greenaway & Associates

Greater Wellington Regional Council Hutt River Corridor User Survey 2016



June 2016
www.greenaway.co.nz

Greater Wellington Regional Council

Hutt River Corridor

User Survey 2016

Prepared for the Greater Wellington Regional Council
by Rob Greenaway & Associates www.greenaway.co.nz

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Greater Wellington Regional Council

Hutt River Corridor User Survey 2016

Contents

1 Summary	5
2 Introduction	7
2.1 Method.....	7
2.2 Survey sites.....	7
2.3 Error and bias.....	8
2.4 Refusals.....	9

2.5 Weather and river flows	9
3 Results.....	20
3.1 Demographics	20
3.2 Activities, location and frequency	22
3.3 Change over time, best and worst aspects	26
3.4 Conflicts	31
3.5 Improvements	34
3.6 Final comments.....	40
4 Reflections on the method.....	41
4.1 Timing	41
4.2 Questions.....	41
4.3 Intercept method	42
4.4 Coding, grouping and analysis	42
Appendix 1: Full data tables	43
Appendix 2: Intercept survey schedule	88
Appendix 3: Questionnaire	90

List of Figures

Figure 1: Rainfall and Hutt River flows at Taita Gorge - midday flow in m ³ /s for survey period	9
Figure 2: Hutt River corridor survey sites	10
Figure 3: Weather record – temperature and wind	11
Figure 4: Hutt City River Corridor sections	12
Figure 5: Upper Hutt River Corridor sections	13
Figure 6: Age group and sex compared with Wellington Region 2013 Census data	14
Figure 7: Origin of respondent by section of River corridor used - count	15
Figure 8: Main activity by use of River corridor	17
Figure 9: Change over time (better, same, worse) by experience (years)	20
Figure 10: Safety perceptions by survey site (count)	23
Figure 11: Priorities for improvement (count)	27
Figure 12: Top Priorities for improvements by origin	28
Figure 13: Second priorities for improvements by origin	28
Figure 14: Third priorities for improvements by origin	29

List of Tables

Table 1: Non responses – reasons by activity (count)	9
Table 2: Origin	15
Table 3: Main and other activities	16
Table 4: Days of use and loyalty by main and all activities	18
Table 5: Loyalty and total loyalty data from other surveys	18
Table 6: Corridor sections used by site intercepted	19
Table 7: Change over time by activity	20
Table 8: Reasons better	21
Table 9: Reasons worse	21
Table 10: Best aspects	22
Table 11: Worst aspects	22
Table 12: Comparison of interactions	24
Table 13: Negative interactions by complainant.....	25
Table 14: Positive and neutral interactions (main activities only) – count	26
Table 15: Activities to reduce the risk of flooding	29
Table 16: Activities to make the River more fish friendly	30
Table 17: Activities to protect and enhance cultural and historic values	30
Table 18: Activities to make the River margins better for natives birds, insects and lizards	30
Table 19: Activities to improve water quality	31
Table 20: Activities to improve recreation activities	31
Table 21: Activities to improve landscape and visual qualities	32

Table 22: Other activities	32
Table 23: Origin by suburb / city	36
Table 24: All activities (count)	38
Table 25: Reasons changed (count)	39
Table 26: Best aspects	41
Table 27: Worst aspects	42
Table 28: Reasons for negative interaction	44
Table 29: All activities to reduce the risk of flooding	46
Table 30: All activities to make the River margins better for natives birds, insects and lizards	47
Table 31: All activities to improve water quality	48
Table 32: All activities to improve recreation activities	50
Table 33: Reasons for 'Other' priorities	51
Table 34: Final comments	52

1 Summary

This is a report on the results and method of a survey of recreational use of the Hutt River Corridor, with 960 respondents. The data will be used to advise the review of the Hutt River Environmental Strategy and to provide a baseline against which the effects of management activities can be measured.

Key points from the results:

- Improving water quality in the Hutt River was considered the top priority management activity. More than double the number of respondents considered water quality a top priority for action compared with reducing the risk of flooding businesses and houses.
- Most respondents (60%) considered that the River corridor was better compared with when they first visited it, and 33% thought it had not changed. The longer a respondent's experience with the River corridor, the more likely they were to think that it had improved: 82% of respondents with more than 20 years of experience thought it was better.
- The level of conflict between users is low, with 4% of inter and intra-activity interactions being reported as negative, while 87% of interactions were reported as positive.

The intercept survey was carried out between the 5th of March 2016 and the 3rd of April 2016 with 293.5 hours of effort expended. Survey days were picked to coincide as much as possible with high use periods – weekends, Easter and weekday evenings.

The survey had six main focus areas:

1. **Demographics.** Those aged under 15 were not interviewed and were treated as nonresponses.¹ The 15-24 age group was under-represented in the survey results compared with the regional population, while the 50-64 age group was over-represented.² Men made up 54% of respondents and 48% of the regional population. Older women were relatively unlikely to have been encountered in the River corridor compared with the regional population. This spread of data suggests that the survey results are reasonably representative. Hutt City residents made up 51% of respondents, Upper Hutt residents 34% and Wellingtonians 10%. Only 1% were of international origin. The Census population ratio between Upper Hutt and Hutt City is 1:2.5 (102,900 Hutt City and 40,600 Upper Hutt residents at 2013). The ratio for respondents is 1:1.5, meaning Upper Hutt residents are over-represented in the results compared with their population.
2. **Activity.** The four main activities recorded were walking, dog-related activities (mostly walking the dog, but also swimming and driving² them) and cycling (collectively representing 85% of respondents) and running (at 4% but a sufficiently large group to use in further analysis). Swimming and running were important activities undertaken at other times (not on the days of the interviews), and are likely to be under-represented in the data set in comparison with 'average' use over a full year. Cyclists and runners use the entire length of the River corridor, while walking and dog-related activities wane a little in the middle reaches. Twenty-seven percent of respondents did their main activity in only the River corridor, and 61% of all respondents' activity time for their main activity was carried out in the corridor.

¹ Standard survey etiquette requires permission from a guardian or parent for potential respondents aged under 15. ² Over-representation does not mean that the results are biased and therefore skewed towards a group that is overrepresented. It just means that, in comparison with some benchmark (such as Census data) there is more of a sub-group in the data-set. This is a reality of the survey sample and not necessarily a sampling problem – although it could be if, for example, the survey sample was 80% male, and this was considered unlikely in reality.

² Having them run beside a moving vehicle.

3. **Change over time.** Respondents were asked if, in their opinion, the River corridor was better, worse or the same as the first time they had visited it. They were also asked how many years they had been visiting the River. Overall, 60% of respondents with enough experience over time felt the corridor was better, 8% felt it was worse and 33% thought it had not changed. Those with a longer period of experience tended to think the corridor had changed for the better (82% for those with more than 20 years of experience). Better tracks and paths and other forms of access, planting and recreation amenities were frequently cited as reasons for improvement. Issues with algae, lower flows and rubbish were frequently cited as reasons for negative change.
4. **Best and worst aspects.** Respondents were asked to name their best and worst aspects of the River corridor via an unprompted open question. There was almost 1.8 times the number of best aspects compared with worst. Best aspects included the quality of the scenery, the cycle and walking tracks and general accessibility, separation from traffic, the River itself, peace and tranquillity, a dog-friendly setting, open space and safety. The main worst aspects were rubbish, dog poo and dogs off-lead, algae, personal safety, track quality and anti-social behaviour.
5. **Conflicts.** Respondents were asked whether they saw or interacted with other visitors to the River corridor on 'this or other visits'. Sixteen percent of respondents said they had no interactions. Runners and dog-related respondents had the highest levels of negative interactions at 8% and 5% respectively. The total level of negative interactions was low at 4% (compared with other settings where this question has been applied, where the range has been 1% to 14%). These results do not mean that 4% of interactions within the corridor were negative, but that 4% of respondents who reported interactions had a negative one. Those visiting the corridor with a dog described cyclists as the main cause of negative interactions (15 of 33). Cyclists were also the main cause of negative interactions with walkers (9 of 20 negative interactions). However, it is important to note that the majority of interactions between these and other parties were positive. For every 9 negative interactions between walkers and cyclists (with walkers as the complainant) there were 155 positive interactions. Anti-social behaviour, car-related activities and motorbiking/quad gained no positive or neutral interaction responses.
6. **Improvements.** A closed question was provided with the options of ordering three top priorities from the following list:
 - Reducing the risk of flooding houses and businesses
 - Making the river a more fish-friendly environment
 - Protecting and enhancing cultural and historic values
 - Making the river margins better for native birds, insects and lizards
 - Improving water quality by better controlling algae, and bacteria and other pollution
 - Improving the river corridor for recreation activities
 - Improving the landscape and visual quality of the river corridor

Improving water quality was the top issue by a wide margin, with 674 of all respondents deciding this was the top or second priority. Water quality was identified as a priority (1, 2 or 3) by over 80% of all respondents. Compared with reducing the risk of flooding – which was the second-rated top priority – more than double the number of respondents considered water quality to be a priority 1 issue. Priorities were quite consistent regardless of respondents' origin, although Upper Hutt respondents were slightly more interested in water quality issues compared with Hutt City respondents, and Wellington respondents were more interested in recreation facilities. Respondents were also asked what actions should be carried out to support their priority action. Managing algae was the top action for improving water quality.

2 Introduction

The Greater Wellington Regional Council is carrying out a review of its Hutt River Environmental Strategy. The data from this survey are intended to support that review by:

- Providing a description of the characteristics and preferences of users of the Hutt River Corridor,
- Quantifying opinions about the quality of natural values and built features in the River corridor,
- Providing a baseline against which changes in the effects of management activities can be measured,
- Identifying preferences for future development of the River corridor, considering both natural and built features.

2.1 Method

The research method was an intercept survey of users of the Hutt River Corridor from the rivermouth to Harcourt Park. A target response rate total of 1000 respondents was set, subdivided by four main corridor sections; with targets of 250 respondents for each of: the mouth to Ewen Bridge; Ewen Bridge to Fraser Park; Fraser Park to Trentham Memorial Park; and Trentham Memorial Park to Harcourt Park. Almost all corridor users encountered were interviewed and so little random selection was required.

The questionnaire was designed by Rob Greenaway of RG&A, in consultation with the project team of Ross Jackson and Susan Jones of the GWRC and Boyden Evans of Boffa Miskell. The questions used were based on those used in other similar river studies. The survey method was designed and recorded so that GWRC will be able to easily replicate it if required.

Four surveyors were employed. Their activity schedule appears in Appendix 2, showing date and the individual surveyor's time-inputs by colour.

The aim of the survey method was to gain the maximum number of respondents, rather than to collect a truly representative sample of all River corridor users. Therefore, survey days were timed to coincide, as much as possible, with statutory holidays and weekends, and sunny weather, with some week day evenings included to ensure that commuters were canvassed.

The questionnaire is included in Appendix 3.

2.2 Survey sites

Figure 2 (page 10) shows how the corridor was subdivided into four 'beats' for surveying purposes. Appendix 2 shows the schedule applied by the surveyors to each of these. The intent was for each surveyor to move along the beats and to intercept all users they met, or to randomly select an individual from within groups or in busy areas. The beats above Fraser Park feature long sections of river trail between entry and exit points, and only those sites where the most respondents were likely to be encountered were surveyed. Below Fraser Park, it was expected that surveyors would be busy along the entire length of their beats. However, McEwan Park at the river mouth was often deserted and there were safety concerns about intoxicated Park users. The lower beat was shortened to focus on mostly the left bank nearer the CBD. Similarly, the right bank in the Ewen Bridge to Fraser Park beat was very quiet and some potential personal safety issues arose. The focus in this beat became the left bank.

Figure 4 and Figure 5 (pages 12 and 13) show the River corridor sections referred to in the questionnaire (Q5 – *Which parts of the Hutt River are you using today?*). Respondents were presented with these maps on a laminated card. These match the corridor sections used in the Hutt River Environment Strategy.

The objective of gaining 250 responses from each of the four beats almost achieved with: 66 hours spent in beat 1 (with 236 forms completed); 90 hours in beat 2 (229 forms); 72 hours in beat 3 (250 forms); and 66 hours in beat 4 (254 forms). The low response rate in beat 2 was a surprise considering it was nearer the Hutt City CBD, but it lacked weekend activity.

2.3 Error and bias

An error in a survey is defined as a difference between the data gained through research (usually in average values) and the true characteristics of the study's target population. Bias is one cause of error, and can be caused by strategic responses from respondents, poor or inconsistent interviewing techniques, and leading or unclear questionnaire design. An example of bias in this survey is its focus on high-use periods (there is a bias against visitors who prefer using sites when no-one else is around). There is no way of compensating for or measuring this type of bias with the results gained, as the scale of its effect is unknown.

Some other forms of error, such as sampling error, can be quantified, but only if the sampling technique relies on the random selection of respondents. While this survey targeted almost all users encountered, the sample periods were not randomly selected; and so the sample is neither the population nor randomly selected from the population.

With those errors in mind, surveys of this type can be considered in two ways. At one level they are merely the collection and presentation of a large number of opinions and the provision of descriptive data. At another level, they are a quantitative representation of the likely use patterns and recreation values of a resource. This survey is largely the former due to the targeted survey method – that is, survey days were not randomly selected and therefore do not show truly representative use patterns. Consequently, the level of statistical error in the results is not known (because the selection method was not truly random).

However, if the same selection method is used in the future and the same errors are applied, trend analysis should be possible. Also, response levels (shown as *n* in data tables and figures)³, were high at 960. If 960 respondents were randomly selected from any sized population, the margin of error would be $\pm 3.1\%$ where there was a 50 / 50 split in response to an either / or question (greater agreement or disagreement to a question means lower error).

The author of this report agrees with Ziliak & McCloskey⁴ in relation to the danger and irrelevance of applying tests of statistical significance to survey samples which are clearly non-random, and as result, none is used in this report.

Some missing data are evident in several data tables (where *n* is less than the total number of responses). These gaps result largely from several questionnaires being only partly completed during the interview, with the respondent running out of time or interest. Where enough of the questionnaire was completed, the available data were coded. Rounding results in a few data sets not adding to 100%.

³ 'n' describes the number of completed responses (the 'sample') of relevance to the analysis being described. Where a table describes only percentage figures, n describes the size of the sample (or number of 'observations') the percentage figures refer to. Where n is low and those data are being used in a cross-tabulation, there is likely to be a high level of error. In mathematical terms, 'n' is any indefinite number.

⁴ Ziliak, S.T., McCloskey, D.N. 2008. *The Cult of Statistical Significance*. University of Michigan

2.4 Refusals

Table 1 shows the reasons by activity for a questionnaire not being completed when a potential respondent was available. A total of 238 non-responses or refusals was recorded, 18% of whom were respondents who had already been questioned. Cyclists made up 45% of refusals, with most not stopping for the surveyor.

Table 1: Non responses – reasons by activity (count)	Cycling	Walking	Running	Dog walking	Fishing	Relaxing	Playing in river	Driving	Blackberrying	Total
Passed by	61	1	24	1						87
Declined, not interested	12	30	4	14		2		2	1	65
Repeat – surveyed before	19	9	1	12	1		1			43
No time	13	8	9	3						33
Incapable - hard hearing / stoned	1	3			2	1	1			8
In river					2					2
Total	106	51	38	30	5	3	2	2	1	238

2.5 Weather and river flows

Figure 3 (page 11) shows the NZ Meteorological Service weather records for the survey period for Wellington Airport. The survey period was generally quite warm. Two survey days were cut short by strong winds.

Flows on the Hutt River were consistently low and mostly below 4 m³/s for the survey period (Figure 1). The seven-day mean annual low flow for the Hutt River at Taita Gorge is 3.7 m³/s with an annual median of 14.2 m³/s, and a lowest record of 1.6 m³/s.⁵ Flows were therefore generally at the lowest users would normally experience. Rainfall was slight with only 40 mm within the survey period in the Hutt Valley.

Figure 1: Rainfall and Hutt River flows at Taita Gorge - midday flow in m³/s for survey period

⁵ Hudson, H .R. 2010. *Assessment of potential effects on instream habitat with reduced flows in the Hutt River at Kaitoke*. Environmental Management Associates, Christchurch.

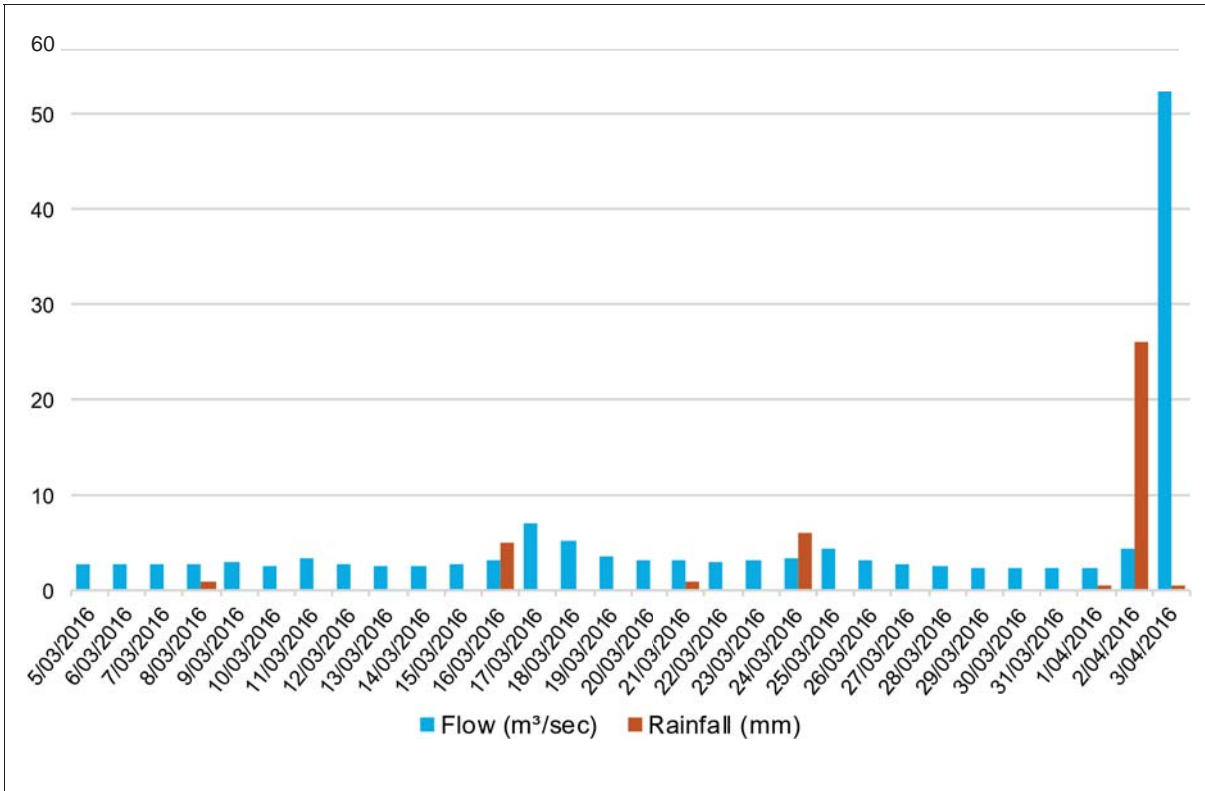


Figure 2: Hutt River corridor survey sites

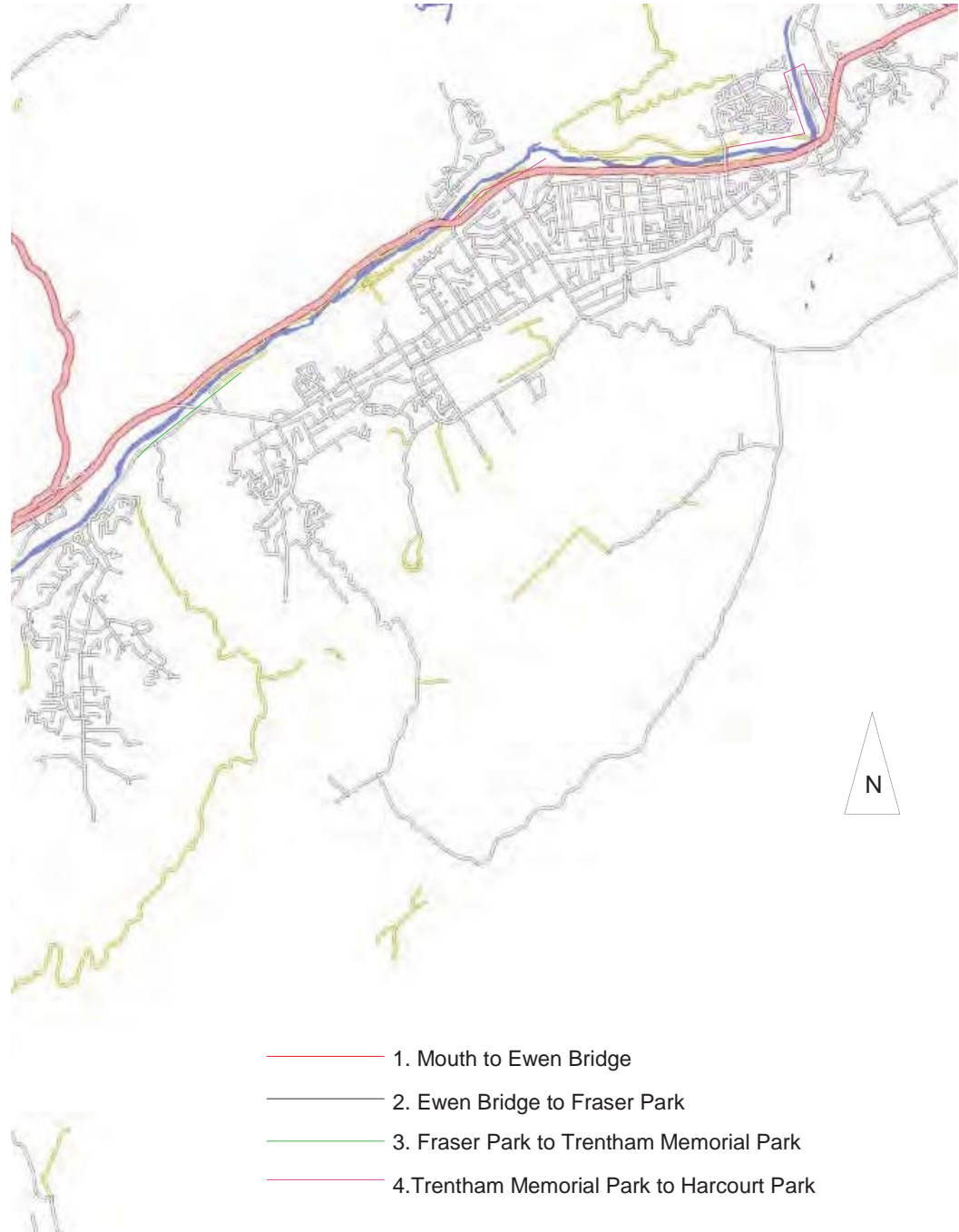
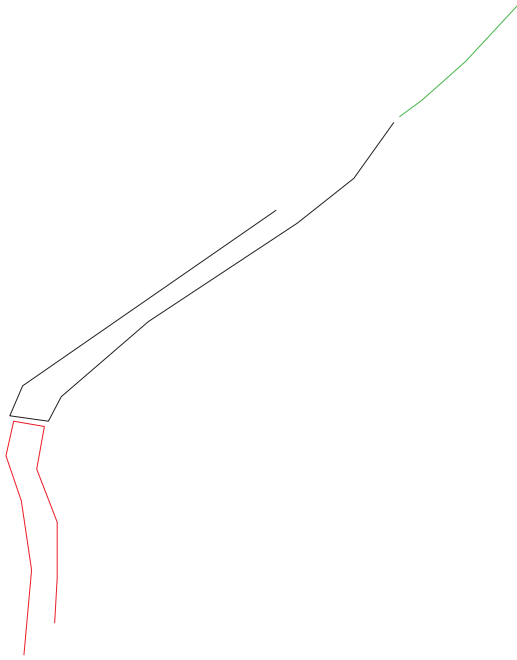


Figure 3: Weather record – temperature and wind - for Wellington Airport for 3 March to 3 April 2016. Source: NZ Met Service

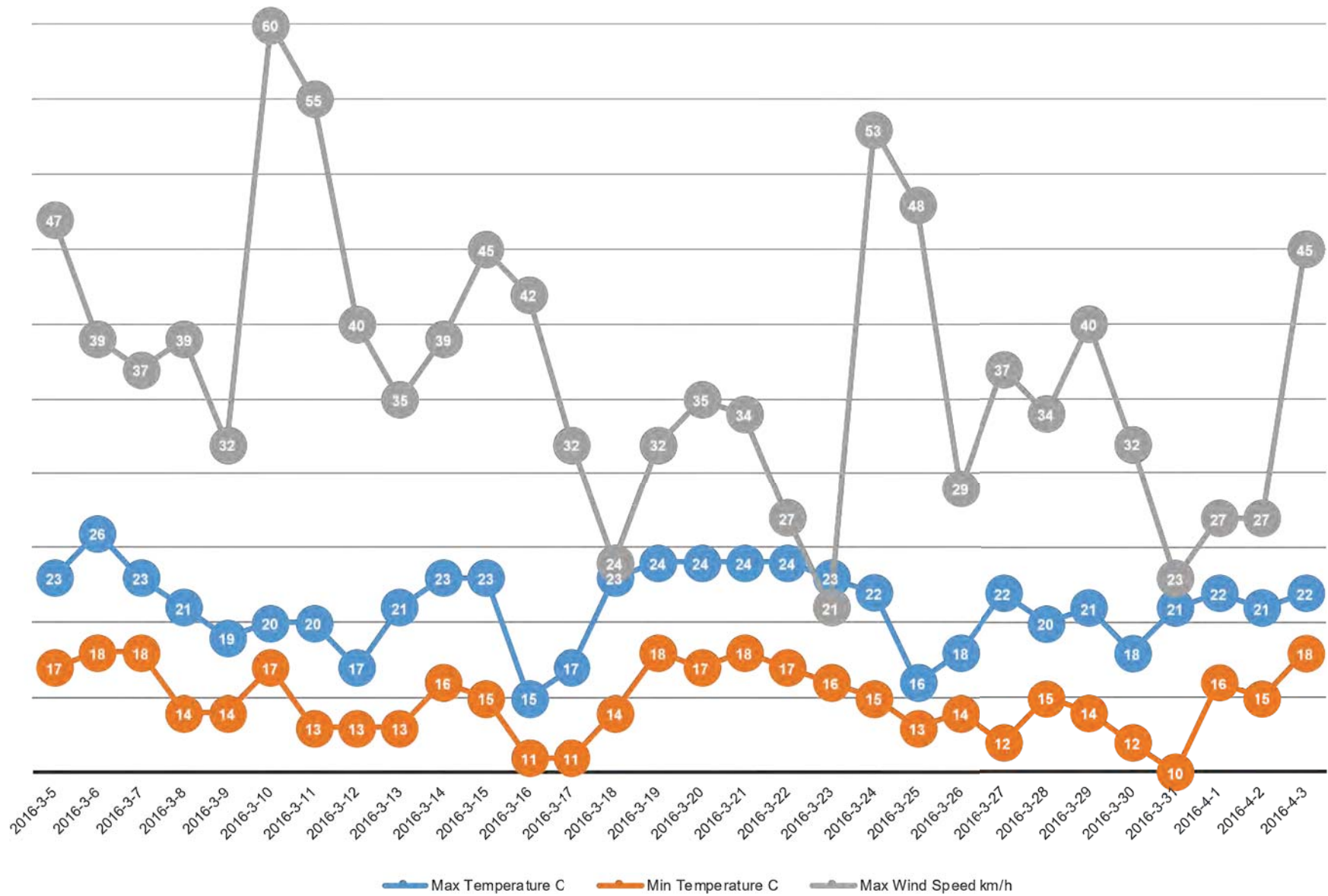


Figure 4: Hutt City River Corridor sections

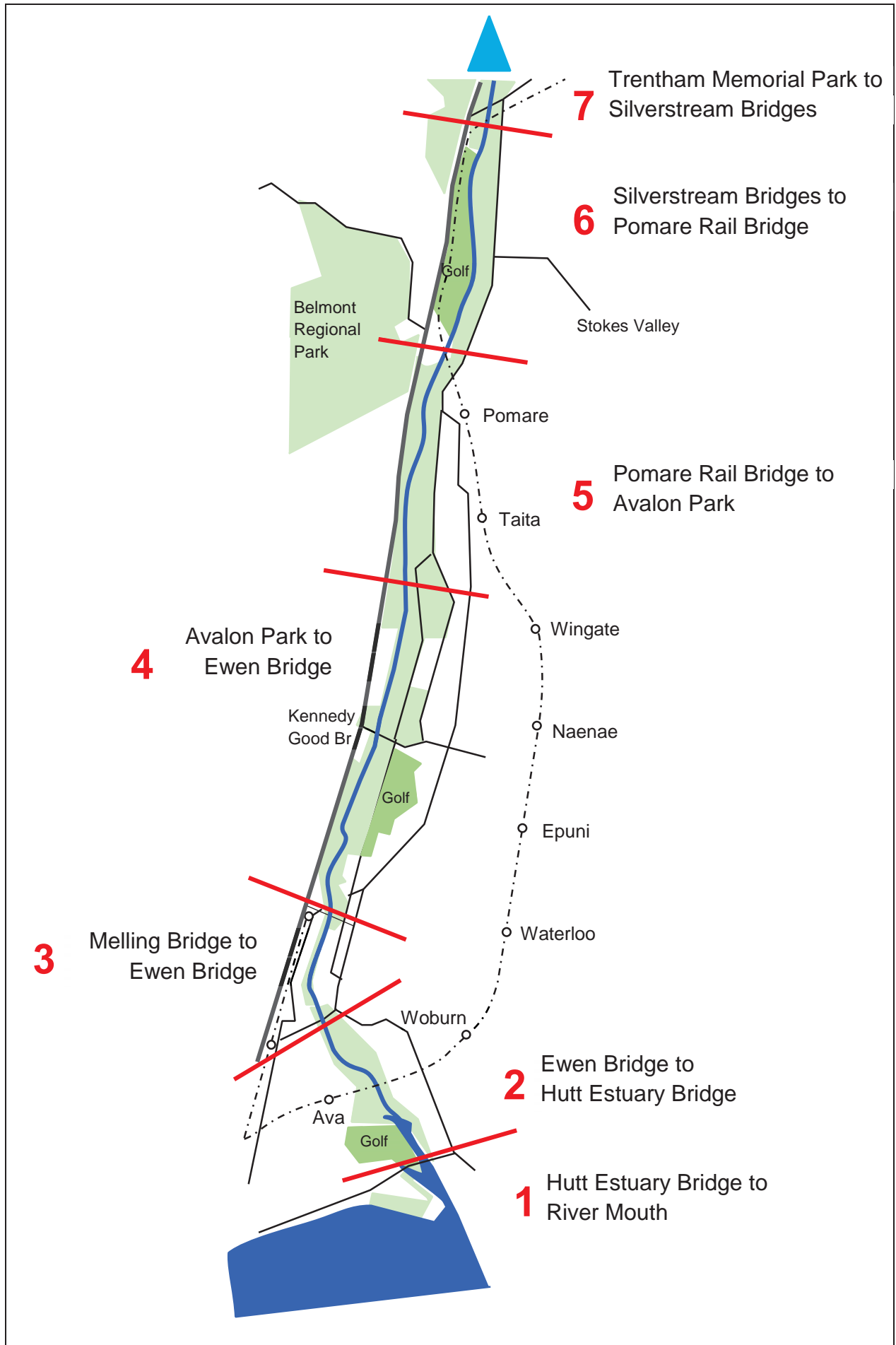
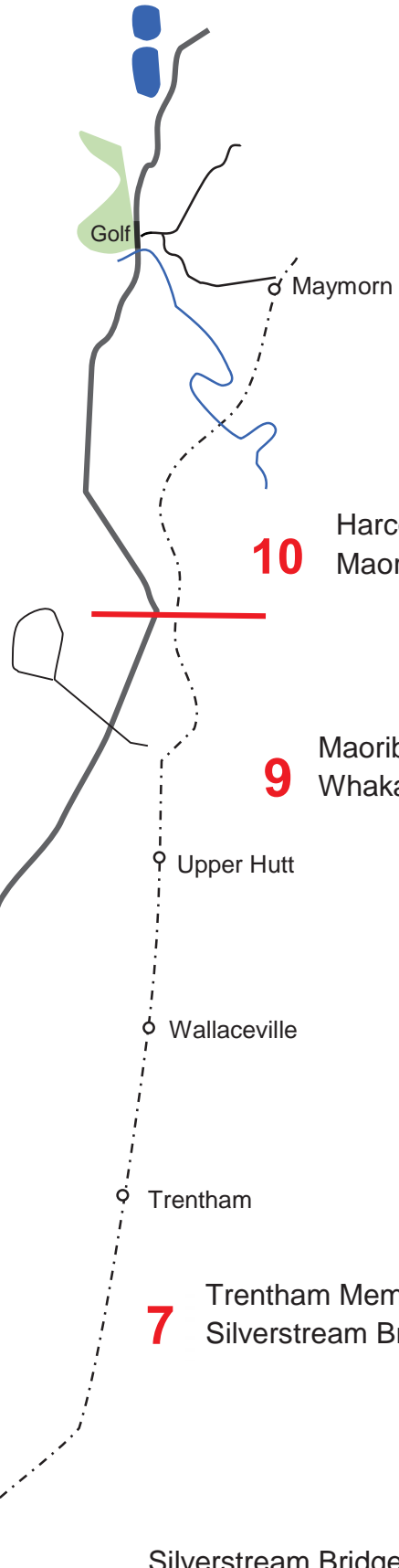
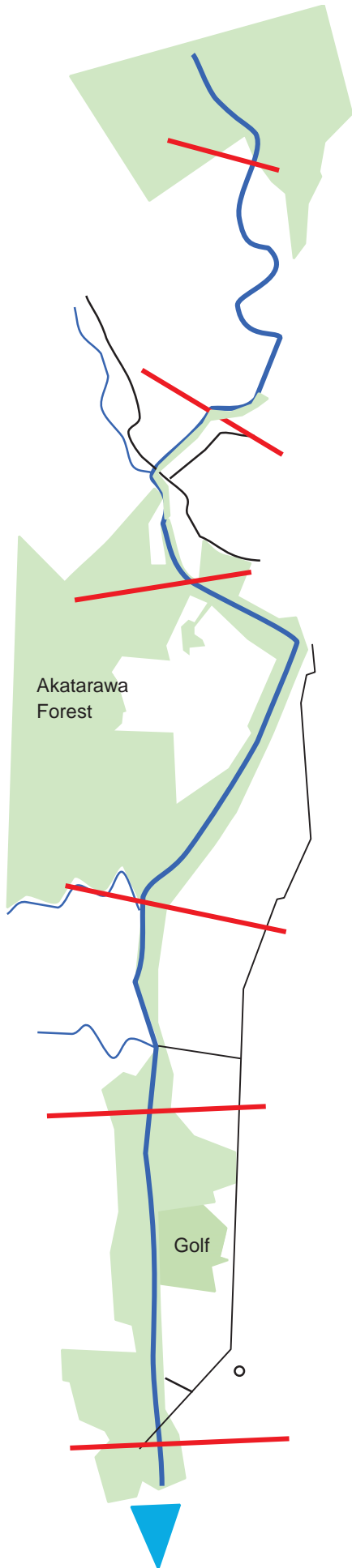


Figure 5: Upper Hutt River Corridor sections



13

Kaitoki Regional Park



6

Pomare Rail Bridge

7

Trentham Memorial Park to Silverstream Bridges

9

Maoribank to Whakatikei River

10

Harcourt Park to Maoribank

12 Kaitoki Regional Park to
Birchville

Birchville to
11 Harcourt Park

8 Whakatikei River to Trentham
Memorial Park

3 Results

3.1 Demographics

Figure 6 shows the age groups of respondents compared with 2013 Census data for the Wellington Region. Those aged under 15 were not interviewed and that age group has also been deleted from the Census data for this comparison. The 15-24 age group was under-represented in the survey results compared with the regional population, while the 50-64 age group was over-represented.⁶ Men made up 54% of respondents and 48% of the regional population. Older women were relatively unlikely to have been encountered in the River corridor compared with the regional population. This spread of data suggests that the survey results are reasonably representative.

Figure 6: Age group and sex compared with Wellington Region 2013 Census data

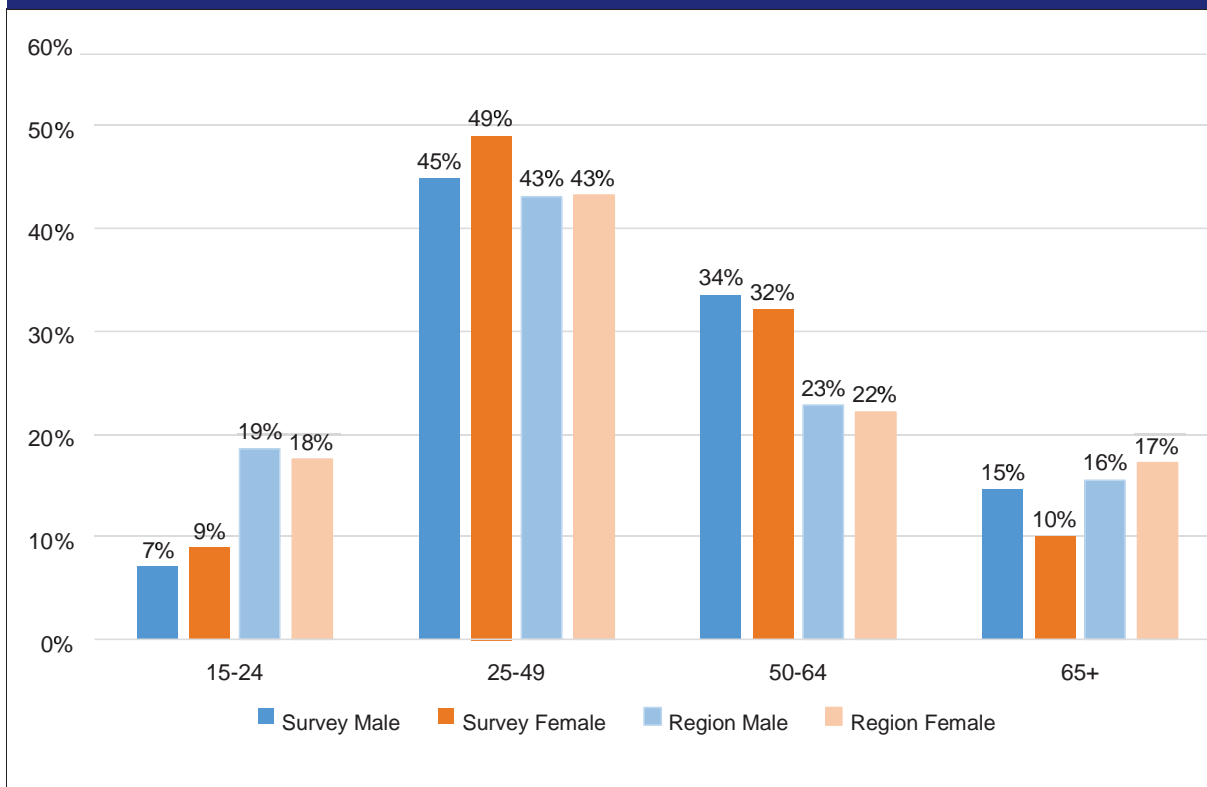


Table 2 shows the origin of respondents. The vast majority (94%) were from Hutt City, Upper Hutt and Wellington. Table 23 in Appendix 1 shows specific suburbs, cities and countries.

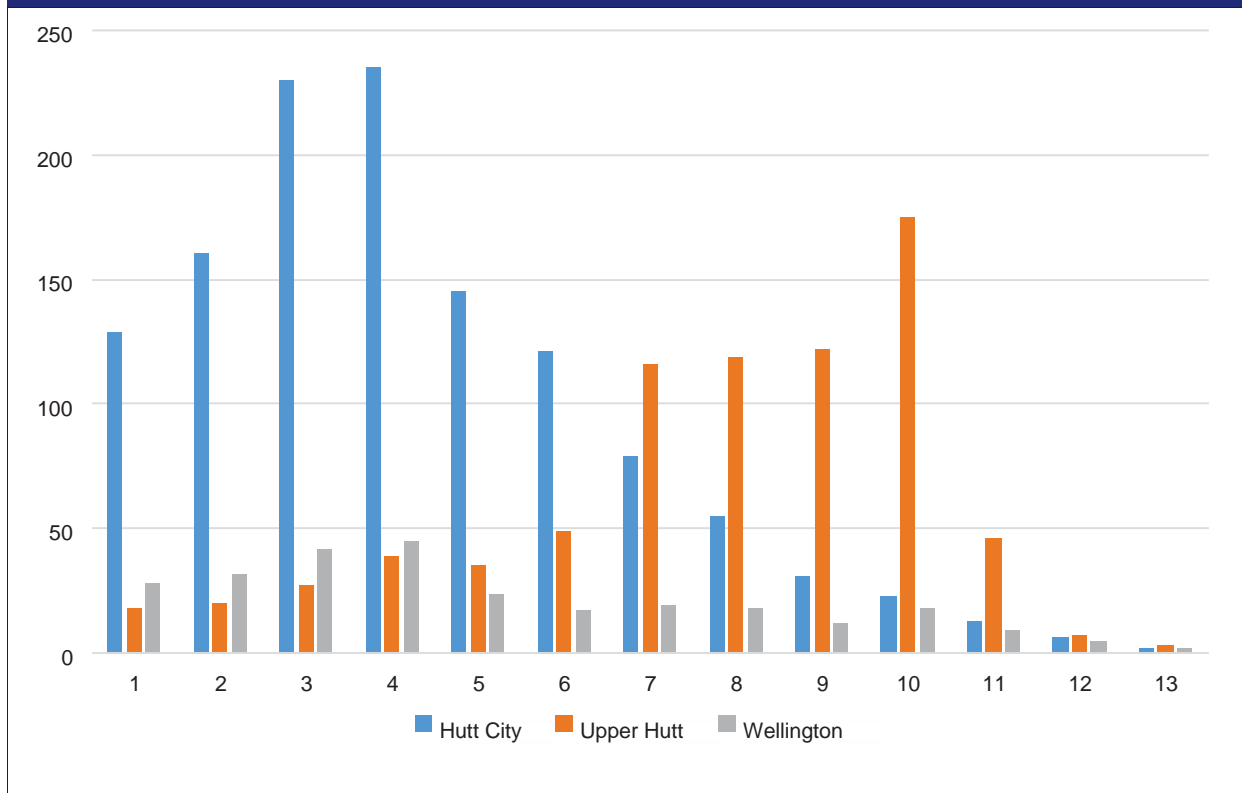
Figure 7 shows the sections of the River corridor used by respondents from Hutt City, Upper Hutt and Wellington (by count, with n=2276 – respondents named all the sections of the corridor they were visiting on the day they were questioned). Unsurprisingly, Upper Hutt residents were obvious in the corridor above the Silverstream Bridges, while Hutt City residents showed the reverse. Wellington City respondents had a relatively even distribution of use with peaks around the Hutt City CBD. River sections on the horizontal axis in Figure 7 are as shown in Figure 4 and Figure 5 on pages 12 and 13.

⁶ Over-representation does not mean that the results are biased and therefore skewed towards a group that is overrepresented. It just means that, in comparison with some benchmark (such as Census data) there are more of a sub-group in the data-set. This is a reality of the survey sample and not necessarily a sampling problem. Although it could be, for example, the survey sample was 80% male, and this was considered unlikely in reality.

The population ratio between Upper Hutt and Hutt City is 1:2.5 (102,900 Hutt City and 40,600 Upper Hutt residents at 2013). The ratio for respondents is 1:1.5, meaning Upper Hutt residents are over-represented in the results compared with their population.

Table 2: Origin		n=951
Hutt City		51%
Upper Hutt		34%
Wellington		10%
North Island - other		2%
International		1%
Porirua		1%
South Island		1%
Kapiti		0.4%
No fixed abode (NZ travellers)		0.2%
Wairarapa		0.2%
Totals		100%

Figure 7: Origin of respondent by section of River corridor used - count



3.2 Activities, location and frequency

Table 3 lists the main activity undertaken by respondents on the day they were interviewed, and all activities undertaken by respondents 'today and in the past'. Table 24 in Appendix 1 lists all activities.

The data for 'other' activities are shown in two ways. The first is the percent of respondents who named the other activity, and the second is the representation of that other activity as percent of all other activities named. So for walking: 31% of respondents were walking on the day they were interviewed (their main activity that day); 55% of respondents walked along the River corridor at some stage in the past; and 25% of 'other' activities named were walking.

The main activities are used in later cross-tabulations to identify preferences by activity. Swimming and running are under-represented in the 'main' activity category (1% as a 'main' activity compared with 19% for 'other' for swimming, and 4% and 20% for running), and so these activities will be relatively poorly accounted for in later analysis of these data (noting that almost all 'other' activities outweigh their role as a main activity – which stands to reason since 'other' activities may have only been undertaken once in the past). Kayaking also has low relative representation, but also a low absolute status as an 'other' activity. All other 'other' activities are reasonably equally-represented in the main activities.

Table 3: Main and other activities	Main (n=960)	Other as % of respondents (n=960)	Other in total (n=2097)
Walking	31%	55%	25%
Dog related	29%	37%	17%
Cycling	25%	51%	23%
Running	4%	20%	9%
Fishing	2%	6%	3%
Relaxing / socialising	2%	3%	1%
Swimming	1%	19%	9%
Picnicking	1%	5%	2%
Parks / playground	1%	1%	<1%
Blackberries	<1%	2%	1%
Boating /sailing /waka /rafting /tubing /rowing	<1%	2%	1%
Car related	<1%	1%	<1%
Exercise	<1%	1%	<1%
Kayaking	<1%	3%	2%
School / scout trip	<1%	0%	<1%
Commuting	<1%	1%	<1%
Geocaching	<1%	0%	<1%
Golf / disc golf	<1%	1%	<1%
Photography	<1%	1%	<1%

Stone / sand gathering / throwing	<1%	1%	1%
Croquet	<1%	0%	0%
Market	<1%	1%	<1%
Meditation / prayer / yoga	<1%	0%	<1%
Picking grass for rabbit	<1%	0%	<1%
Playing	<1%	2%	1%
Other	0%	4%	2%
Totals	100%		100%

The response rates for all activities beyond the top four are too low for use in any averages or cross-tabulations, and so they only appear in Table 3 in this report. For example, 13 swimmers were interviewed, one of whom swam every day of the year and another swam 200 days per year. Using these data to describe the average number of days per year of activity for a swimmer would give a result of 63, compared with walkers with an average of 97 days per year (with n=296). The results for swimming are highly unreliable and easily skewed. Consequently, no such descriptive data are provided for any activities with fewer than 40 respondents, limiting further analysis to walking, cycling, dog-related activities and running.

Figure 8 shows the distribution of River corridor use for the top four main activities based on a cross-tabulation of main activity by sections of the corridor used 'today'. This makes it appear that cycling is the main use of the corridor; and if a count of use was completed for each individual section, cyclists would be shown to be the highest user group. However, this is because cyclists travel further and each individual would be counted many times.

Figure 8: Main activity by use of River corridor

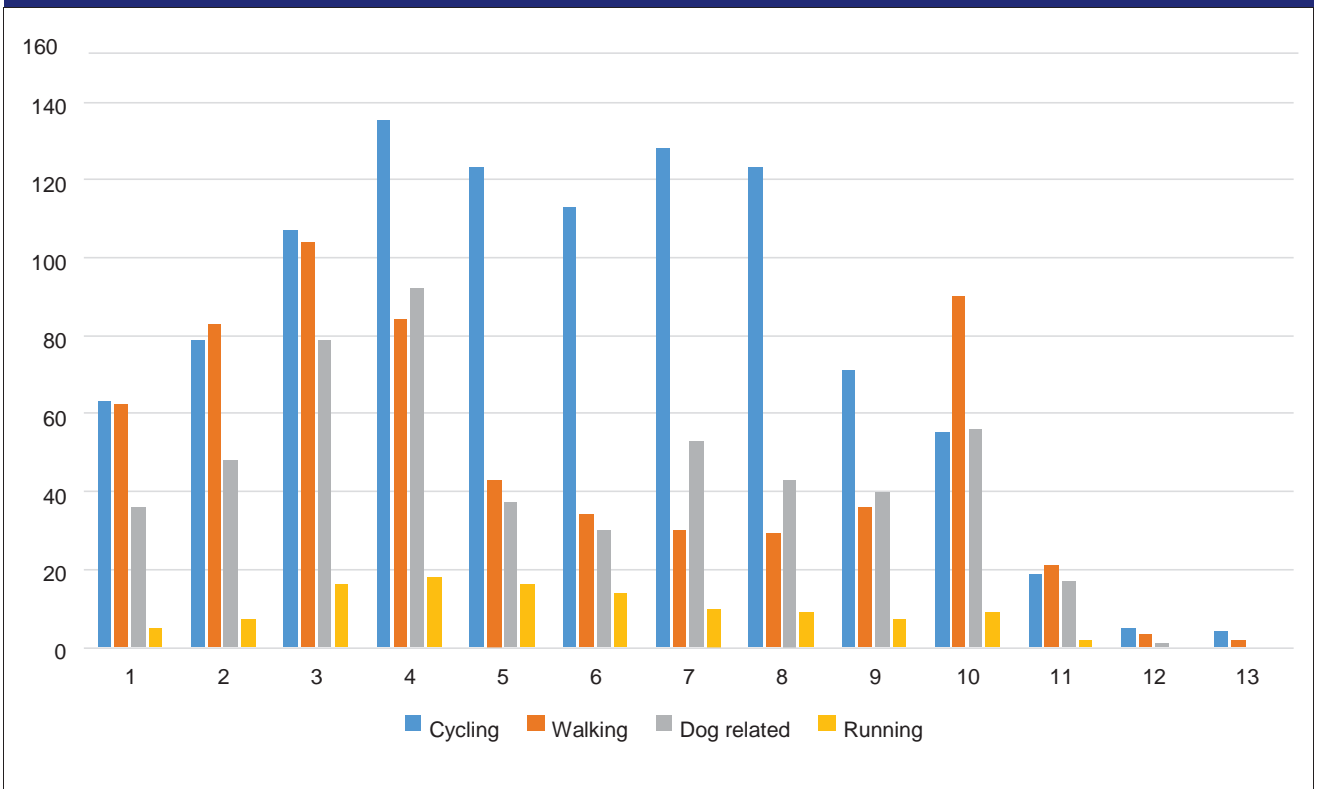


Table 4 shows the average number of days in ‘the past 12 months’ that respondents used the River corridor for their main activity, and the number of days they carried out their activity in any location.⁷ This results in a figure for ‘loyalty’ – the percent of activity time spent within the River corridor – and ‘total loyalty’ – the percent of respondents who do their main activity **only** within the River corridor.⁸ For example, walkers on average visited the corridor on 96 days over the 12 months prior to being questioned, and walked on average 190 days in any location (including the River corridor). An average walker therefore spent 50% of their walking activity time in the corridor; and 22% of respondents walked only in the corridor. The results were quite consistent for all activities.

Table 4: Days of use and loyalty by main and all activities	Mean days using corridor	Mean days at any location	Loyalty	Total loyalty
Walking	96	190	50%	22%
Dog related	188	284	66%	29%
Cycling	72	131	55%	27%
Running	109	181	60%	26%
All activities	114	185	61%	27%

These figures can be compared with other settings where these questions have been asked (all and additional references are available from the author of this report):

Table 5: Loyalty and total loyalty data from other surveys	Loyalty	Total loyalty
Walking, Sumner Beach (Christchurch)	70%	34%
Dog walking, Sumner Beach	64%	29%
All, Sumner Beach	65%	35%
Walking, Port Hills (Christchurch)	55%	20%
Dog walking, Port Hills	53%	24%
All, Port Hills	56%	17%
All, Waitaki River	68%	43%
All, Hurunui River	32%	20%
All, Rakaia River	90%	65%
All, Rangitaiki River	50%	30%

The River corridor compares as an accessible urban natural resource, akin to Sumner Beach, although corridor users are slightly more likely to seek alternative settings for their recreation. The other river settings have far higher levels of in-river activity – such as fishing, jet boating and kayaking – and data for those reflect more skilled and specialised uses, and in the case of the Hurunui River, no local population of users.

Table 6 shows how respondents moved along the River corridor, indicating, for example that respondents interviewed in survey section 1 (top row) had the least mobility with only 28% moving

⁷ For dog walkers and walkers, several respondents visited the corridor twice a day or more often. This use has been coded as 365 visits per year.

⁸ For a review of this approach see Greenaway, R. 2002. Measuring Significance of Outdoor Recreation Areas, in *Annals of Leisure Research* Vol. 5, 2002, 65 – 79.

into site 2 and 20% into site 3; while those interviewed in site 3 had relatively high mobility with 58% also using site 2 and 67% also using site 4. Those interviewed at site 5 were often encountered right on the border of site 6, and so there is quite a high level of movement between these two sites. The results indicate that while most respondents used two or three sections of the corridor during their visit, a substantial number used quite a length of the corridor. For example, 12% of those interviewed in section 5 also visited section 10 during their trip, 8% went as far as section 11, and 16% went all the way to the river mouth (section 1).

Table 6: Corridor sections used by site intercepted

Survey site	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	n
Sections used											
1	100%	54%	28%	12%	16%	6%	9%	3%		2%	197
2	28%	100%	58%	17%	19%	6%	11%	3%		2%	233
3	20%	11%	100%	38%	29%	12%	16%	3%		2%	324
4	12%	6%	67%	100%	45%	24%	18%	3%		4%	346
5	7%		27%	30%	100%	44%	21%	3%		4%	226
6	5%		9%	13%	92%	100%	34%	9%		6%	204
7	5%		2%	10%	38%	29%	100%	40%		12%	233
8	1%		2%	7%	32%	15%	66%	100%	20%	22%	212
9	1%		2%	3%	23%	9%	26%	49%	100%	49%	184
10	1%		1%	2%	12%	6%	15%	23%	70%	100%	238
11			1%	1%	8%	3%	9%	9%	20%	28%	80
12					4%		6%	3%		5%	22
13							2%			2%	7
n	74	35	206	120	77	34	137	35	10	187	

3.3 Change over time, best and worst aspects

Respondents were asked if, in their opinion, the river was better, worse or the same as the first time they had visited it. They were also asked how many years they had been visiting the river. Those who were on their first visit to the River corridor (n=62) were not included in this response set.

Table 7 shows the responses for the top four main activities and for all activities. The vast majority of respondents – 92.3% – considered the setting to be the same or better as when they first visited, while 7.7% considered it to be worse (rounding affects the totals in Table 7). Visitors with dogs were the most likely to consider that the corridor had changed for the worse (12%).

Table 7: Change over time by activity	Better	Same	Worse	n
Walking	59%	36%	4%	278
Dog related	55%	33%	12%	278
Cycling	72%	25%	3%	212
Running	64%	33%	2%	42
All activities	60%	33%	8%	898

Figure 9 shows the opinions about change compared with the respondents' length of experience with their main activity in the River corridor. The longer the experience, the more respondents felt that the corridor has changed for the better. The proportion who thought that the corridor had changed for the worse was consistent across the periods, with a small increase for those who had been visiting for more than 40 years – although the sample size for this group is small (n=23) and is more subject to error.

Figure 9: Change over time (better, same, worse) by experience (years)

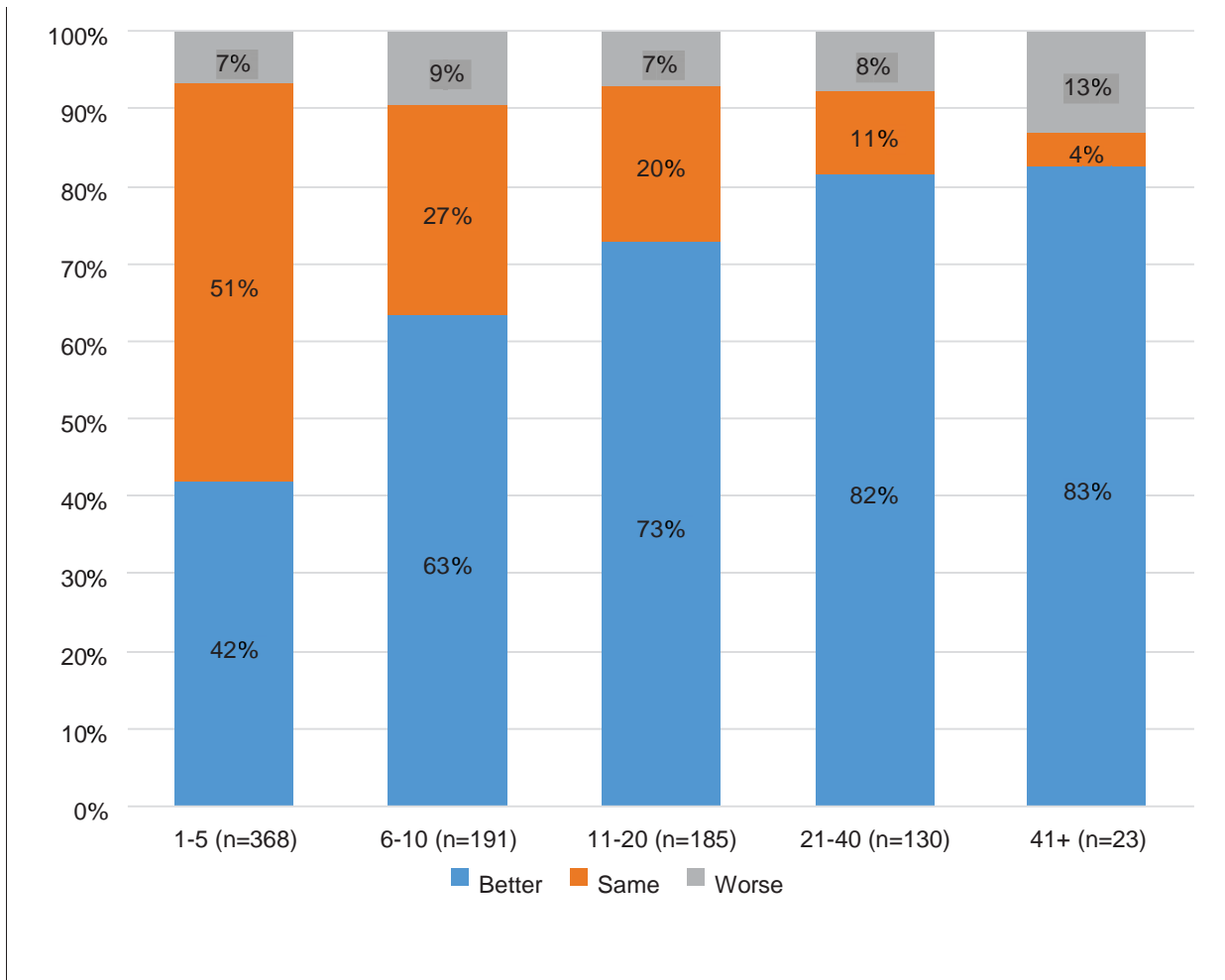


Table 8 shows the main reasons the River was considered better than in the past. Improved tracks and paths and other access, and trees and planting, were frequently cited.

Table 8: Reasons better	Count
Better track / pathway / trail	312
Tar seal / asphalt surface and sections	78
Access easier	60
Trees / planting	60
Lower half improved	54
Cleaner / tidier	44
Safer	37
Signage better	28
River cleaner / wider / shallower / straighter	28
Higher use	28
Developed more / generally better	25
Facilities	21
Cycle friendly	20
Family friendly / community feel	19
Dog facilities / designated places for / access / bags	16

Stop bank work	13
Bridge / underpass / foot / rail	12
Parks / landscaping / open space	12
Nicer / more pleasant	11
Flood protection	10
Continuous / connected	10
Other	93

Table 9 shows the main reasons the rivers were considered worse than in the past. Issues with algae, low flows and rubbish were frequently cited. Algae was a key concern for dog owners.

Table 9: Reasons worse	Count
Algae	19
River shallower	12
Rubbish - more / bins removed	10
Water quality	7
Dog poo / number of dogs	6
Can't swim	4
Over-developed / manicured	4
Fish / wildlife scarce	4
Clearing of trees / scrub	4
Congested / too many people	4
Other	29

Full results for both Table 8 and Table 9 are given in Table 25 in Appendix 1.

Table 10 lists the 'best aspects' of the corridor. Respondents were able to name more than one 'aspect'. Scenery, tracks and access were the top features.

Table 10: Best aspects	Count
Scenery / beauty / view	248
Cycle / walking track	236
Easily accessible	193
Away from cars / off road	162
River itself	146
Peaceful / uncrowded / quiet	135
Dogs off-lead allowed / dog friendly	129
Open space	102
Safe	91

Trees / planting	77
Flat	71
Close to home / city / work	63
People / friendly	46
Natural / nature	42
Clean and tidy	40
Wildlife	37
Maintained well	32
Multi-purpose / shared use	31
Family friendly	28
Variety	25
Swimming	19
Facilities	16
Pleasant / relaxing	14
Fishing	12
Shelter / shade	12
Other	73
Total	2080

Table 11 list the 'worst aspects' of each river. Rubbish, dog issues, algae and safety were the top four issues.

Table 11: Worst aspects	Count
Rubbish and litter – dumping, more bins required	160
Dog poo / dogs off lead	111
Algae – health hazard, bad for dogs	111
Personal safety – at night especially, poor lighting	91
Cycle / walking track quality, lack of connections	87
Anti-social behaviour – cars, crime, loitering youth	66
Traffic – noise from roads (greatest issue), speed, dust	57
Cyclists – quiet, no warning, too fast	40
Motorbikes / quadbikes – loud, illegal, dangerous	38
Gates / barriers – narrow, tricky, restrict access	30
Facilities – need more water, toilets, seats, shade	28
Weather / wind	28
Table 11: Worst aspects	Count
Graffiti	24

River – low flow, not deep enough for recreation	23
Water quality – pollution, bacteria	23
Gravel / corrugations	19
Access	17
Toilets	17
Signage	17
Flooding	13
Maintenance	11
Pollution	11
Other	142
Total	1164

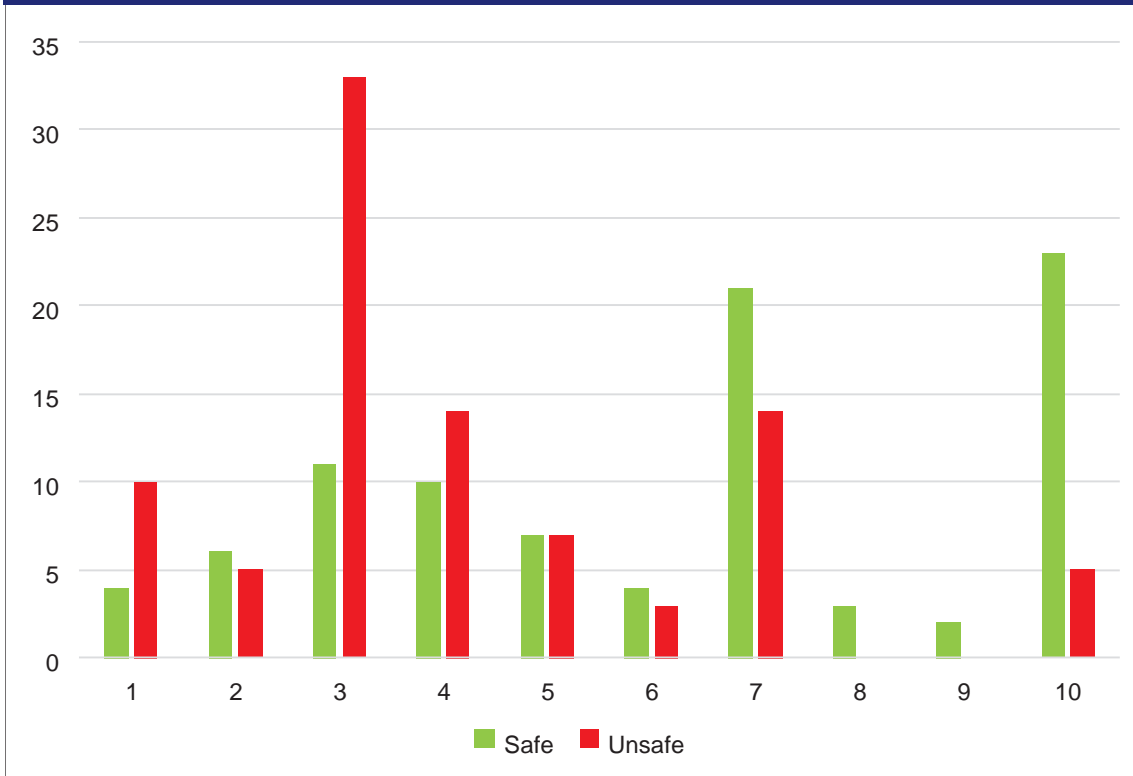
Almost 1.8 times as many 'best aspects' were named for the corridor in comparison with 'worst aspects' (2080 best compared with 1164 worst). By comparison, for the same question, the Maitai River in Nelson gained 2.5 times as many 'best aspects' compared with 'worst', and the Roding River 2.1.

The survey question for best and worst aspects asked respondents to name their 'aspects' and to give a reason why they thought of that aspect. The 'reasons' were less frequently given than the aspects and were only used to ease grouping of this response set.

Full responses for worst and best aspects are in Table 26 and Table 27 in Appendix 1.

Interestingly, exactly the same number of respondents thought that safety was both a best and a worst aspect. Personal safety was a concern during the survey process in the lower two survey beats, and it is interesting to see if one end of the River corridor had more respondents concerned about safety. Figure 10 suggest that respondents using the lower River corridor were more likely to consider the area unsafe, and section 3 – Melling Bridge to Ewen Bridge – was considered the

Figure 10: Safety perceptions by survey site (count)



least safe.

3.4 Conflicts

Respondents were asked whether they saw or interacted with other visitors to the River corridor on 'this or other visits'. Sixteen percent of respondents said they had no interactions. In previous applications of this question in other settings, it appears that the busier a setting is the more likely respondents are to ignore other site users and, therefore incongruously, report fewer interactions. Dog-related visitors were the most likely to interact (7% no interactions) and cyclists the least (22% no interactions). Walkers reported 18% no interactions and runners 17%.

Table 12 show the main activity being undertaken by those who noted an interaction and how they felt about other visitors (multiple responses were possible). Runners and dog-related respondents had the highest levels of negative interactions at 8% and 5% respectively. The total level of negative interactions was low at 4%, compared with other settings where this question has been applied, with a range of 1% (Rakaia River, Canterbury, and others) to 14% (Spencer Park, Christchurch). Other settings had: 8% negative interactions (Avon Heathcote Estuary, Christchurch); 5% (Port Hills, Christchurch); 3% (Sumner Beach, Christchurch); 2% (Waiau River, North Canterbury); 2% (Waitaki River); 1% (New Brighton Beach, Christchurch); 1% (Rangitaiki River).

Remember that these results do not mean that 4% of interactions within the corridor were negative, but that 4% of respondents who reported interactions had a negative one.

Table 12: Comparison of interactions

Main activity	Negative	Neutral	Positive	Total	n
Walking	3%	9%	88%	100%	697
Dog related	5%	10%	85%	100%	668
Cycling	3%	10%	87%	100%	496

Running	8%	8%	84%	100%	106
Other	2%	7%	91%	100%	171
All	4%	9%	87%	100%	2173

Table 13 shows who had negative interactions with whom. The 'complainant' (the person making a 'complaint') is described here by their 'main activity'; and the activity that caused a perceived negative interaction is described as the 'defendant'. Remember, when reviewing the tables that comments were made only by the complainant. The number of complainants are shown in Table 13 within brackets to show, for example, that the 33 negative interactions identified by those visiting the corridor with a dog were made by 32 respondents.

Those visiting the corridor with a dog had the most negative interactions by count (but not by percent – runners had the highest), and cyclists were described as the main cause (15 of 33 negative interactions). Cyclists were also the main cause of negative interactions with walkers (9 of 20 negative interactions).

Table 13: Negative interactions by complainant		
Complainant (n)	Defendant	Count
Dog related (32)	Cycling	15
	Motor biking / quad	9
	Dogs / owners	5
	Anti-social	3
	Horse riding	1
Walking (19)	Cycling	9
	Motor biking / quad	7
	Dogs / owners	4
Cycling (12)	Dogs / owners	4
	Motor biking / quad	3
	Walking	2
	Anti-social	2
	Car related	1
	Cycling	1
Running (8)	Motor biking / quad	3
	Dogs / owners	2
	Anti-social	1
	Cycling	1
	Fishing (used motor bike)	1
Fishing (3)	Swimming	1
	Dogs / owners	1
	Anti-social	1
	Car related	1

Relaxing / socialising (1)	Car related	1
Swimming (1)	Anti-social	1
Boating / sailing / waka / rafting / tubing / rowing (1)	Cycling	1
Geocaching (1)	Cycling	1
Total (78)		82

It is important to note that the majority of interactions between these and other parties were positive. These are shown in Table 14. This indicates, for example, that for every 9 negative interactions between walkers and cyclists (with walkers as the complainant) there were 155 positive interactions. Neutral interactions made up another 16 interactions between walkers and cyclists.

Anti-social behaviour, car-related activities and motorbiking / quad gained no positive or neutral interaction records.

Table 14: Positive and neutral interactions (main activities only) – t			
A bouquet from	To	Positive	Neutral
Walking	Walking	163	15
	Cycling	155	16
	Dogs / owners	129	14
	Running	78	8
Dog related	Dogs / owners	205	22
	Walking	115	9
	Cycling	112	22
	Running	59	3
Cycling	Cycling	141	11
	Walking	97	12
	Dogs / owners	94	15
	Running	47	6
Running	Running	26	3
	Cycling	23	3
	Walking	21	2
	Dogs / owners	12	1
All (including other)	All	1887	204

The reasons for positive interactions were broad and uplifting, relating to general friendliness, consideration and mutual interests. These data have not been grouped from their raw state in the questionnaires as they are just a long list (1890 responses) of happy statements about people saying hi, hello, being friendly, waving and sharing a positive experience.

Reasons for negative interactions were quite thematic. All responses are listed in Table 28 in Appendix 1, but in summary, for each defendant, were:

- Cyclists (27 comments): Too fast, dominate path, no warning of approach
- Motor biking / quad (20 comments): Noisy, fast, intimidating, dangerous
- Dogs / owners (16 comments): Intimidating / dangerous when off-lead, not safe
- Anti-social (8 comments): Scary, loitering, drinking, vandals
- Car-related (3 comments): 4WD in river, uncontrolled, need separate path
- Walking (2 comments): Occupy path and can't bike, disgruntled about cyclists
- Swimming (1 comment): Pollute river
- Horse riding (1 comment): Leave horse poo
- Fishing (1 comment): Used motor bike

3.5 Improvements

Figure 11 shows respondents' preferences for improvements to the River corridor. These data are based on a closed question with the options of ordering three top priorities from the following list (based on priorities identified in the Hutt River Environmental Strategy):

- Reducing the risk of **flooding** houses and businesses ▪ Making the river a more **fish-friendly** environment
- Protecting and enhancing **cultural** and historic values
- Making the river **margins** better for native birds, insects and lizards
- Improving **water** quality by better controlling algae, and bacteria and other pollution
- Improving the river corridor for **recreation** activities
- Improving the landscape and **visual** quality of the river corridor

Respondents were also able to name an 'other' option, and 21 did (see Table 22 on page 32).

Figure 11 shows the results; and is ordered by the counts for priority 1 and 2 options, using the words in bold above on the horizontal axis to indicate the options preferred. Improving water quality was the top issue by a wide margin, with 674 (70%) of all respondents deciding this was the first or second priority; and with it being identified as a priority (1, 2 or 3) by over 80% of all respondents. Compared with reducing the risk of flooding, which was the second-rated activity, more than double the number of respondents considered water quality to be a priority 1 issue.

Priorities were mostly consistent regardless of respondents' origin, although Upper Hutt respondents were slightly more interested in water quality issues compared with Hutt City respondents, and Wellington respondents were more interested in recreation facilities (Figure 12, Figure 13 and Figure 14). Second and third priorities were very similar across all respondent groups.

Figure 11: Priorities for improvement (count)

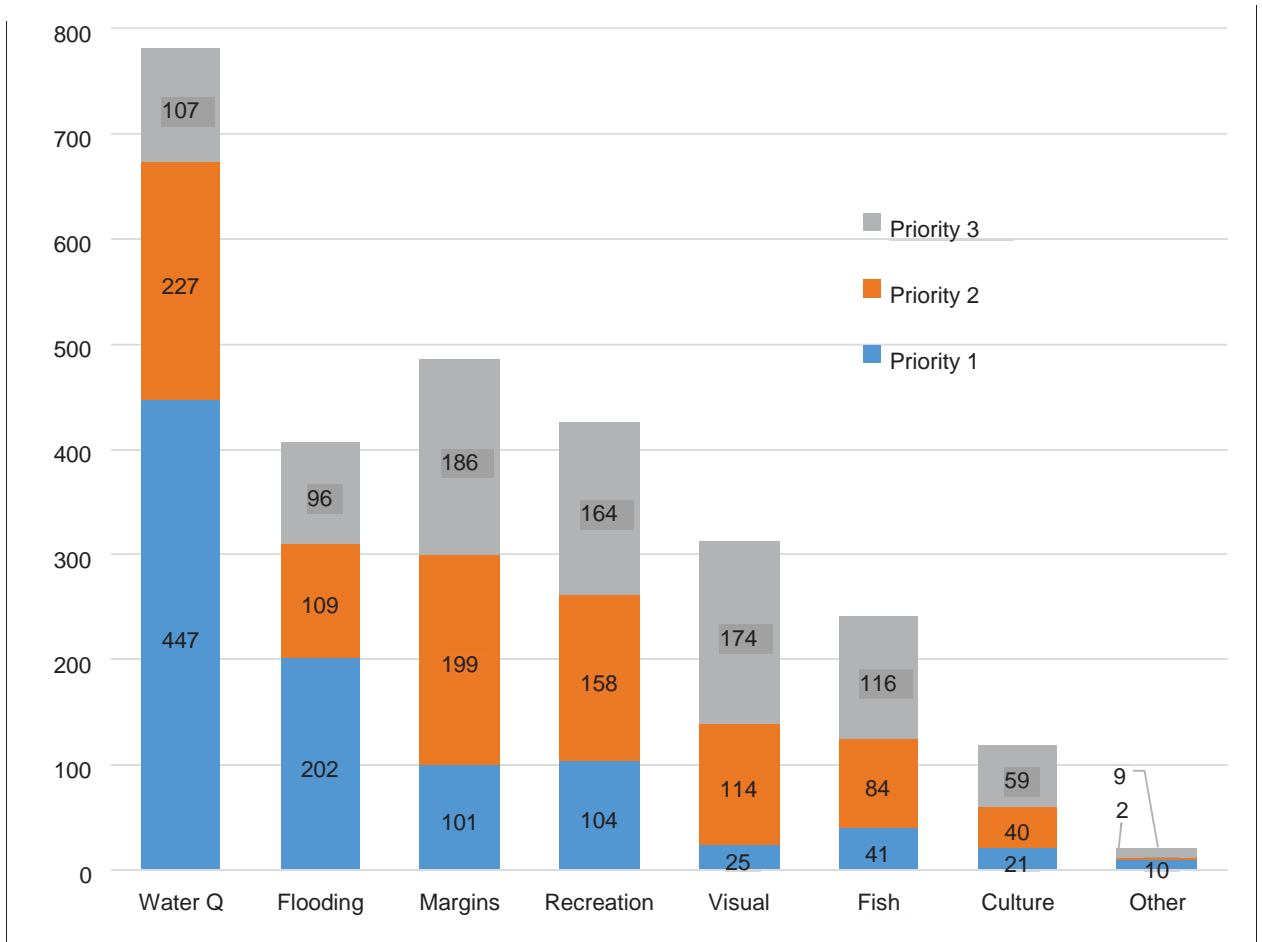


Figure 12: Top Priorities for improvements by origin

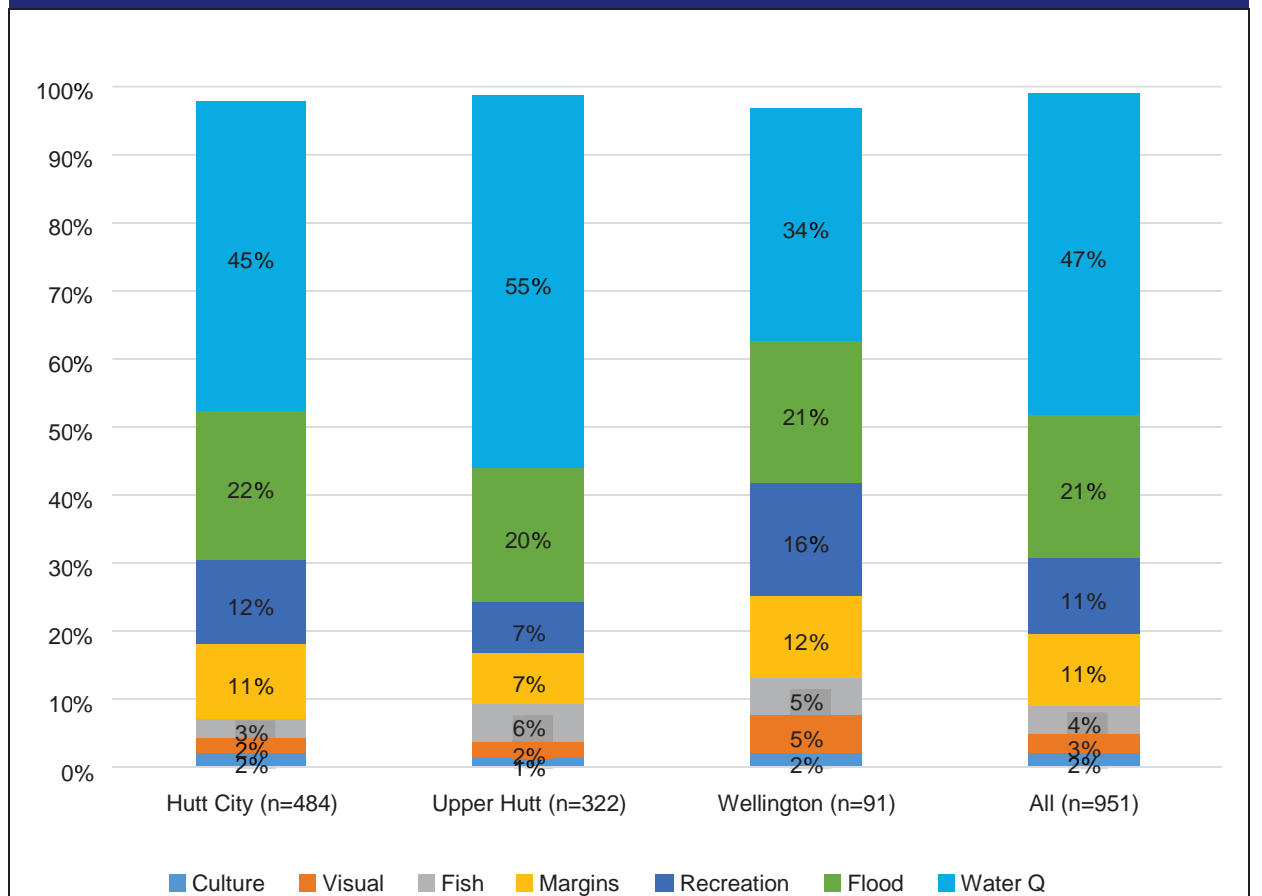


Figure 13: Second priorities for improvements by origin

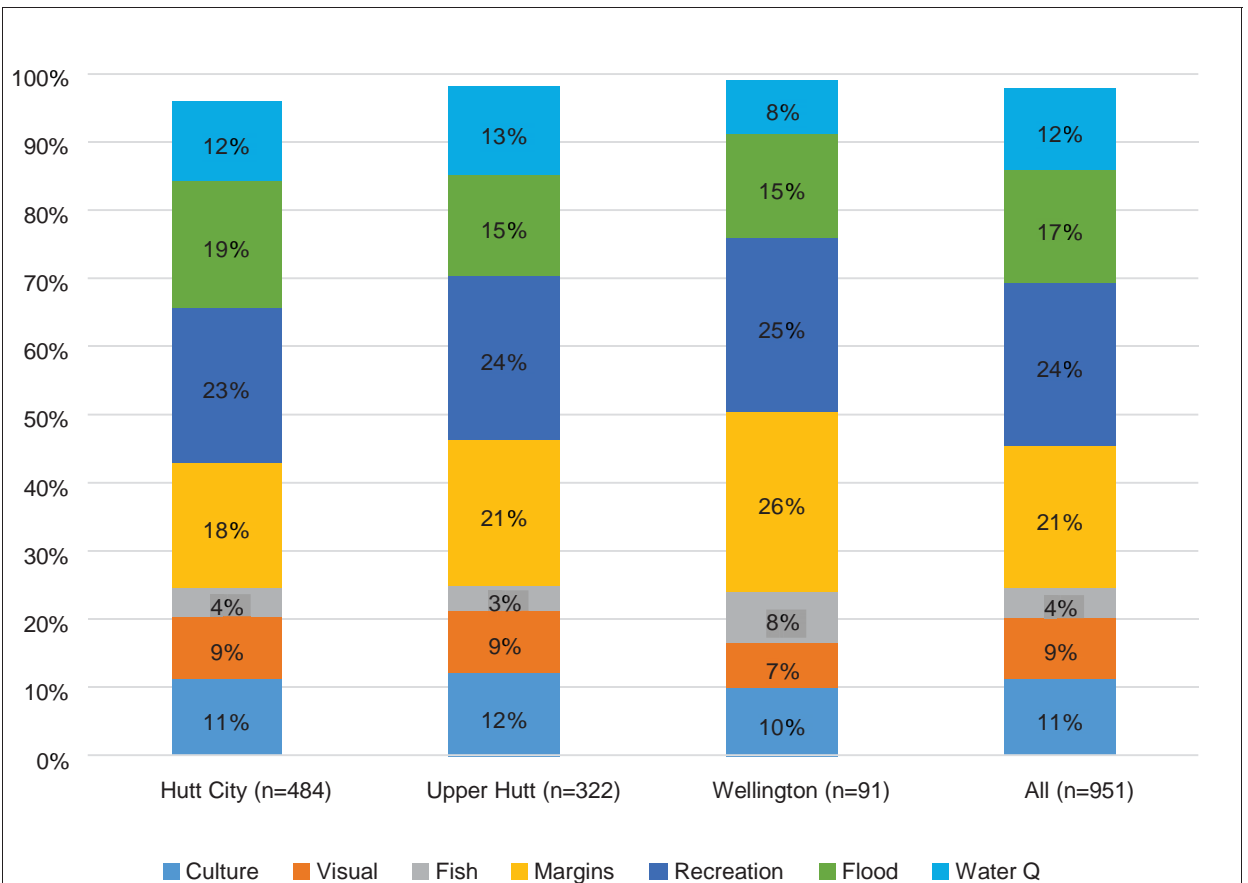
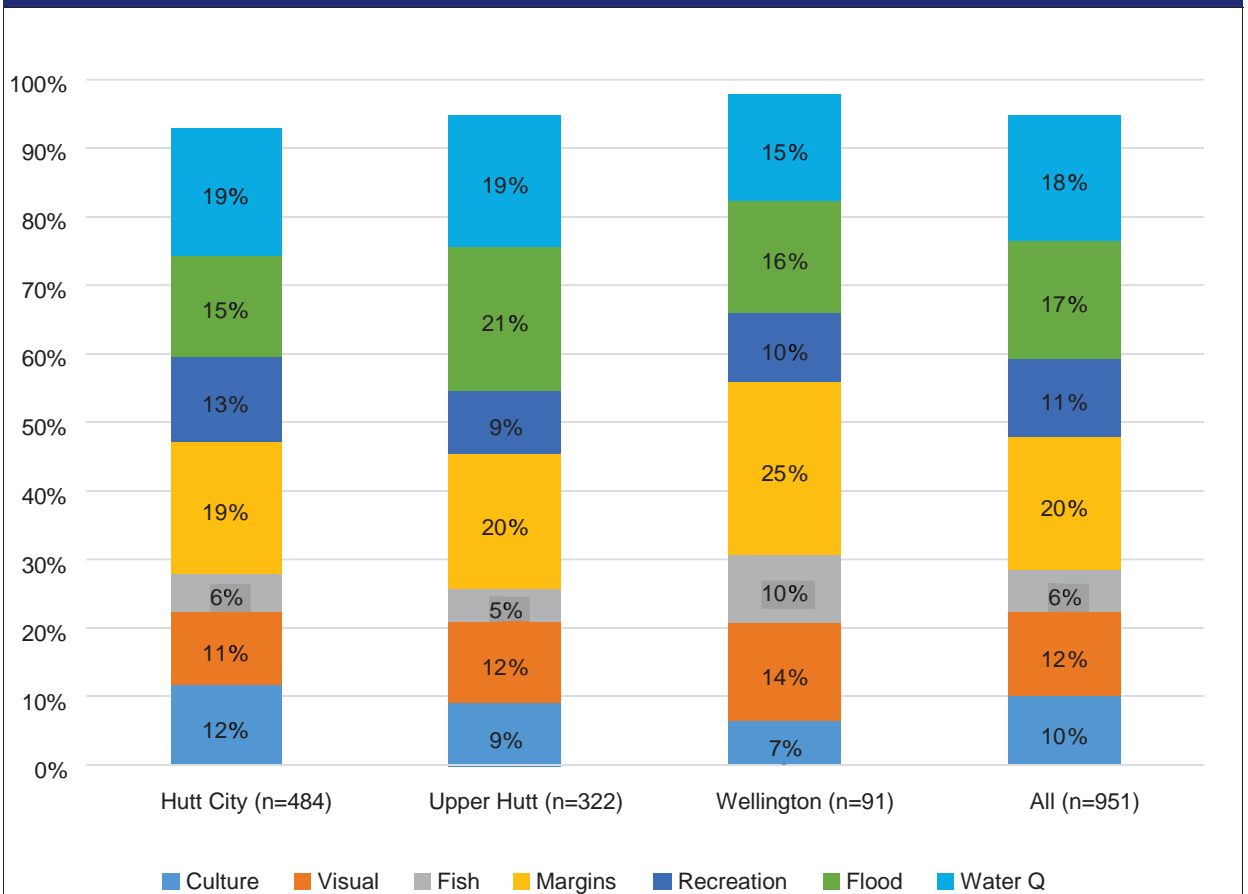


Figure 14: Third priorities for improvements by origin



Respondents were asked what specific activities could be carried out for their top priority activity. The main responses for each are listed below. Where 'other' is shown in a table, the full data set is provided in Appendix 1 in Table 29 to Table 32.

Activities for 'Other' priorities are shown in Table 33 in Appendix 1.

Table 15: Activities to reduce the risk of flooding	Count
Stop-bank – maintain / enhance	36
Already being done / trying / doing a lot	27
Dredge / lower river bed / clear shingle	12
Maintaining existing infrastructure	6
Employ engineers / competent people	6
Widen river bed	3
Signage - Warnings in time	3
Climate change effects research	3
Planting	3
River flow rate needs to be controlled	2
Rubbish - reduce littering around drain pipes	2
Other	56

Table 16: Activities to make the River more fish friendly	Count
Leaving pools ungraded, don't disturb bed	5
Clean the river	4
Water quality needs improving	3
Trout – more, farm	3
Run-off – reduce	3
Algae – get rid of	3
Increase flow / water level	2
Dredging seems to be good	1
Rubbish - reduce litter	1
Exposed gas line at Taita Rock	1
Leave the flow natural - don't level it out	1
Controlling water levels	1
Weed control for habitat	1
Water flow - increase - difficult without rain	1
Pipe at Stokes Valley pumping station is a potential hazard	1
Leave kelp	1

Water sampling	1
River quality with fish habitat in mind	1
Access to river itself - improve	1

Table 17: Activities to protect and enhance cultural and historic values	Count
Sign and information about history of area	8
More natural vegetation, wildlife	4
Rubbish – keep it tidy	2
Minimise disturbance to historical features – protect and preserve	2
Better communication with iwi - Was Maori land in past	1
Bridge for walking	1

Table 18: Activities to make the River margins better for natives birds, insects and lizards	Count
Planting - more natives	36
Pest control	8
Wildlife - more / look after	7
Rubbish - clean up	4
Leave river as is	2
Weed control	2
Ask a scientist / expert / professional	2
Maintain wilderness along river banks - great for wildlife	2
Notify what is in area - keep people away	2
Other	25

Table 19: Activities to improve water quality	Count
Algae - research / control	87
Run-off, stormwater, farm inputs, pollution – treat, control	49
Increase flow / water level	48
Monitor and identify cause of degradation	32
Swimming - make safe for	20
Rubbish and dumping - control	18
Council should know / sort / are working on this	5
Planting	5
Is too much water being taken out?	3
Signage - Public awareness	2
Dam - feed rivers to make container ponds. Keep higher level in summer	2

Other	87
--------------	-----------

Table 20: Activities to improve recreation activities	Count
Trails - wider, maintain, seal	21
Playgrounds	8
Connections - complete trail links	8
Picnic areas	7
Fitness equipment	7
Gates - change / remove	4
Drinking fountains	4
BBQ areas	4
Sun shelter	3
Encourage kayaking	3
Rubbish bins - more	3
Courts	3
Planting - continue	3
Improve community engagement - more activities	3
Signage - more	2
Toilets	2
Maintained well	2
Access - better river access	2
Other	20

Table 21: Activities to improve landscape and visual qualities	Count
Planting - trees	2
Rubbish - stop people dumping	2
Facilities - regular seating	2
Beyond Melling Bridge to sub-station is favourite area - use that as standard	1
Signage - for cyclists	1
Continue clearing river bank - blocked view from stop bank	1
Dredge / not stop bank	1
Stock piles of rock destroys the landscape	1
Planting - native	1
Planting - keep going	1
Cars out / specific separate areas for cars	1
Clean up graffiti	1

Pomare rail needs more art painting	1
Hedges between cycle paths and roads	1
Separate path from the main road and house as much as possible	1
Improve look of industrialised areas	1
Some places could use beautifying	1
Less open	1
Trees decrease the highway presence	1
Maintenance	1
Mosaic - something artistic. Make boring things have life, colour, character	1

Table 22: Other activities	Priority
Continued promotion as an asset for region	1
Community engagement around river	1
Barrier along highway	1
Reducing pollution	1
Interested in Council spending to beautify city (complement river walkway)	1
Not removing trees from riparian areas	1
All part and parcel of same ecosystem	1
No strong opinion	1
Too hard to prioritise	1
Don't change it	1
Safety	2
Getting river to flow better - too low	2
Beautify river through Hutt - City has 'back' to river bed	3
Family friendly	3
Control pollution	3
More open river access	3
Enforcing dogs on lead	3
Riverside café	3
Between Melling and Ewan bridges needs improving	3
Rubbish - tidy around estuary	3
Environment in general	3

3.6 Final comments

Respondents were finally asked if they had 'any other comments to make about the Hutt River Corridor and its use or management, and the facilities provided'. Many additional comments were

for management purposes, general satisfaction questions are not often helpful unless there are other means of identifying why respondents might not be totally happy, or the reverse. Recent events – such as an assault, a graffiti epidemic or a pollution spill – also colour satisfaction responses and may result in odd trends depending on when the survey was carried out.

The questions used here were designed to provide relevant background qualitative data, with quantitative measures: conflicts, best and worst aspects, change over time (and why), and priority actions for improvement. For trend analysis to be valid, these questions cannot be fiddled with, but more questions could be added and some could be deleted. Perhaps a satisfaction question could be included, but not if the three page maximum is desired and no questions are removed.

Questions were designed to avoid leading any particular response. For example, 'algae' was used to cover all forms of periphyton and cyanobacteria, and the word 'toxic' was not used. This word would almost certainly increase pertinent responses, even though the issue might not be relevant to the respondent.

4.3 Intercept method

The intercept method appears to have worked well, but its success is entirely dependent on the quality of staff used, and their training. In this process, the first weekend's completed forms were coded and any errors by staff quickly addressed. For trend analysis to be valid, the intercept method is unavoidable. The definitions of corridor sections and target quota for survey beats will need to be retained.

4.4 Coding, grouping and analysis

Microsoft Excel is the preferred tool for coding and analysing the data. There are a few limitations with this software for surveys of this type, but by applying a few tricks it is quite achievable; and pivot tables are an excellent tool. The benefit of using Excel over more specialised software is that the Regional Council can play with the relevant spreadsheet at will, relying on software that is widely available, and which many staff know how to use. Understanding pivot tables – which is not hard – is a necessary skill, however.

Another benefit of Excel is that we are not tempted to over-analyse the data. As discussed in section 2.3 of this report, the sampling method does not readily permit significance tests, and, in the opinion of this report's author, much survey data of this ilk is treated as having a level of accuracy that does not exist; and unnecessary and misleading analyses of confidence and significance are often completed – because it is so easy many statistical analysis packages, and not because it is useful.

Grouping responses is always a challenge. Respondents give multiple responses to many questions, and there are often only shades of difference between similar concerns. Choices are made as to whether, for example, a respondent's response of 'pollution and algae' relate to just algae, or to 'runoff', 'stormwater', 'bacteria' or 'rubbish'. Grouping of responses is necessary, otherwise this report would be three times as long and just be a collection of the likes of Table 34 in Appendix 1 (the full list of final comments). Grouping choices are never perfect, and some errors will have been made (a few responses relating to 'algae' might be grouped as 'water quality', for example). However, the effects of these errors are very slight and do not affect the ordering of main issues.

In future surveys, an attempt should be made to group responses using the same or similar terms applied in this report. If two groups of data are joined in a future study – such as 'Cycle / walking track' and 'Easily accessible' in Table 10 – then any trend reporting needs to rely on the future report author regrouping the relevant responses in this report.

Appendix 1: Full data tables

Table 23: Origin by suburb / city	Count
Akatawara	7
Alicetown	22
Amsterdam	1
Auckland	4
Australia	3
Avalon	16
Bay of Plenty	1
Belmont	22
Birchville	7
Boulcott	13
Brown Owl	21
Campervan	1
Canada	1
Christchurch	2
Churton Park	2
Clearwater	3
Clouston Park	6
Dunedin	1
Eastbourne	6
Ebdentown	1
Elderslea	2
Emerald Hill	1
Eponi	12
Fairfield	2
France	1
Gemstone	2
Germany	2
Gracefield	2
Grenada Village	1
Greytown	1

Hamilton	1
Harbourview	9
Hawkes Bay	1
Hellensville	1
Heretaunga	8
Hikurangi	1
Hutt Valley	6
Johnsonville	4
Kaitaia	1
Kaiwherawhare	1
Kapiti	2

Table 23: Origin by suburb / city	Count
Kelson	17
Khandallah	1
Kingsly Heights	1
Korokoro	3
Levin	1
Lower Hutt	46
Mangaroa	2
Manor Park	4
Maoribank	12
Masterton	2
Maungaraki	14
Melling	2
Milford Sound	1
Moera	22
Mt Marua	1
Naenae	28
New Plymouth	1
Newlands	2
Ngaio	3
None	1
Normandale	11

Oamaru	1
Ohakea	2
Palmerston North	2
Paraparaumu	1
Patanui	1
Petone	38
Pinehaven	17
Poets Block	1
Pomare	2
Porirua	2
Pukerua Bay	1
Riverglade	2
Riverside	2
Riverstone	10
Seaview	1
Silverstream	38
South Island	1
Stokes Valley	81
Taita	23
Tauranga	3
Tawa	5
Timberlea	10
Tirohanga	15
Table 23: Origin by suburb / city	Count
Totara Park	68
Trentham	26
Turangi	1
UK	2
Upper Hutt	55
USA	2
Waikato	1
Wainuiomata	19
Wairarapa	1
Waiwhetu	13

Waiwhitau	1
Wallaceville	5
Wanganui	1
Waterloo	13
Wellington	71
Western Hills	2
Whitby	4
Whitemans Valley	2
Whitesline	1
Woburn	27
Woodridge	1
Totals	951

Table 24: All activities (count)	Main	Other
Walking	302	528
Dog related	281	357
Cycling	237	491
Running	42	188
Fishing	15	55
Relaxing/socialising	15	29
Swimming	13	185
Picnicking	10	45
Parks/playground	9	9
Blackberries	4	19
Boating/sailing/waka/rafting/tubing/rowing	4	23
Car related	3	7
Exercise	3	9
Kayaking	3	33
School/scout trip	3	4
Commuting	2	10
Geocaching	2	4
Golf/disc golf	2	10
Photography	2	6
Stone/sand gathering/throwing	2	11
Table 24: All activities (count)	Main	Other
Croquet	1	
Market	1	7

Meditation/prayer/yoga	1	4
Picking grass for rabbit	1	1
Playing	1	21
Scoot/skate board/roller blade		9
Sport		8
Bird feeding/watching		6
Access river/beach		3
Campfire/camping		3
Cleaning river/picking up rubbish		2
Firewood		2
Motor biking		2
Other river bank activity		2
Kite flying		1
River		1
Shooting		1
Train spotting		1
Totals	959	2097

Table 25: Reasons changed (count)	Better	Worse
Better track / pathway / trail	312	
Tar seal / asphalt surface and sections	78	
Access easier	60	
Trees / planting	60	
Lower half improved	54	
Cleaner / tidier	44	
Safer	37	
Signage better	28	
River cleaner / wider / shallower / straighter	28	
Higher use	28	
Developed more / generally better	25	
Facilities	21	
Cycle friendly	20	
Algae		19
Family friendly / community feel	19	
Dog facilities / designated places for / access / bags	16	

Stop bank work	13
Bridge / underpass / foot / rail	12
Parks / landscaping / open space	12
River shallower	12
Nicer / more pleasant	11
Flood protection	10
Continuous / connected	10

Table 25: Reasons changed (count)	Better	Worse
Rubbish - more / bins removed		10
Rubbish - less	9	
Gates / barriers / bollards	9	
Multi use / recreational activities	8	
Lighting	7	
Water quality		7
Gravel sections	7	
Dog poo / number dogs		6
Car parking improved	5	
Controls with vehicles	5	
Swimming - Can't		4
Over-developed / manicured		4
Fish / Wildlife scarce		4
Birdlife / Wildlife	4	
Clearing of trees / scrub		4
Congested / too many people		4
Natural / wild feel	4	
Smoother / flat	3	
Vehicles can access / too close		3
Erosion work	3	
Bridge		3
Maintenance deteriorated		3
Bulldozing	1	1
Sports fields gone	2	
Upper half improved	2	
Weeds	2	

Stones removed	2	
Parking worse		2
River access		2
Golf / disc golf course	2	
Cyclists		2
Quarry	2	
Seasonal variation	2	
Flooding issues		2
Taita gorge improved	1	
Not as exciting since the golf course because of trees removed	1	
Unsafe feeling on True left		1
Not enough restoration of habitat		1
Corrugations of gravel on back of river		1
Rocks more shiny		1
Railway line shrunk	1	
Not much has changed		1
Used to be wind-y	1	
Events	1	
Stones along river reduced erosion	1	
Table 25: Reasons changed (count)	Better	Worse
Closed part because of new track		1
Blackberries - more	1	
Fencing Improved	1	
Duck pond destroyed		1
Sheds are leased	1	
Unnecessary expenditure		1
New road obstructs old walkway		1
Ranger presence improved	1	
Fewer blackberries	1	
reduced swamp	1	
Plans sufficient - no more money spent please	1	

Avalon - preparation for new park	1	
Private road and loss of tracks		1
Gates - around tower that used to jump off		1
Totals	991	103

Table 26: Best aspects	Count
Scenery / beauty / view	248
Cycle / walking track	236
Easily accessible	193
Away from cars / off road	162
River itself	146
Peaceful / uncrowded / quiet	135
Dogs off-lead allowed / dog friendly	129
Open space	102
Safe	91
Trees / planting	77
Flat	71
Close to home / city / work	63
People / friendly	46
Natural / nature	42
Clean and tidy	40
Wildlife	37
Maintained well	32
Multi-purpose / shared use	31
Family friendly	28
Variety	25
Swimming	19
Facilities	16
Pleasant / relaxing	14
Fishing	12
Shelter / shade	12
Signage	8
Car parking	8
Table 26: Best aspects	Count

Blackberries	7
Exercise / fitness	7
Connections	6
Water sports	5
Wind / weather	5
Playground / sports fields	4
Free	4
Golf course / disc golf	3
Community resource / great amenity / recreation facility	3
Bridge access	2
Carnivals / events	2
Flood protection / stop banks	2
Unique	1
Dogs unwelcome off-lead	1
Wide flood plain	1
Feels like Taupo	1
The dam	1
No dogs when it is raining	1
North of Silverstream Bridge	1
Total	2080

Table 27: Worst aspects	Count
Rubbish	160
Dog poo / dogs off lead	111
Algae	111
Safety	91
Cycle / walking track	87
Anti-social behaviour	66
Traffic	57
Cyclists	40
Motorbikes / quadbikes	38
Gates / barriers	30
Facilities	28
Weather / wind	28
Graffiti	24

River	23
Water quality	23
Gravel / corrugations	19
Access	17
Toilets	17
Signage	17
Flooding	13
Maintenance	11
Pollution	11
Table 27: Worst aspects	Count
Muddy / wet	9
Shared path	9
Swimming	8
Bridge	8
Trees / planting	8
Unattractive / neglected / lack ambience	8
Wildlife	8
Crowded	7
Lighting	7
Parking	7
Weeds / gorse	7
Fishing	6
Shelter / shade	5
Bulldozing	5
Could be more dog friendly	5
Walkers	5
Non-continuous	5
Spraying	3
Manor Park golf course / station	3
Under-used	2
Rocks	2
Playgrounds	2
Trains	2
Sandflies	1
Erosion	1

Kaitoke	1
Cricket grounds	1
GWRC sometimes	1
Subway on Western side	1
Jet boats	1
Taita Gorge	1
Too much drainage	1
Exposure from Silverstream bridges - Totara Park	1
Over-development	1
Total	1164

Table 28: Reasons for negative interaction		Count
Cycling		27
Nuisance - Ava bridge too narrow to accommodate walkers and cyclists		1
Suddenly appear and some are rude		1
Some don't understand it is shared track		1
Approach fast and silently. Can't always get out of way		1
Arrogant and too fast and too close		1
Occasionally had altercation		1
Biker harassed walker and dogs		1
Some go very fast and little consideration		1
Can approach quietly and quickly - dangerous		1
Think they own walkway - too fast and no warning of approach		1
Dangerous		1
No bells, too fast and suddenly there		1
Dominant and dangerous for walker and dogs - some not all		1
Occasionally arrogant (middle aged male)		1
Don't alert you - especially by Strand Park; not respecting multi-use path		1
Occasionally kick out at dog		1
Expect walkers to move		1
Some go too fast and overtake on left and right		1
Expect youth to move off path and some of them take over path		1
Speed and silent approach - concern for self and dog		1
Go too fast, disregard walkers		1

Think they have priority	1
Go very fast and often come up unaware	1
Too dominant - think they own walkway	1
Need a code to better co-exist. Cyclists seem to think they 'own' the track	1
Aggressive	1
No bells	1
Motor biking / quad	20
Noisy, loud	6
Noisy and fast	2
Nuisance	1
Too close, loud	1
Some go too fast	1
Noise, speed, destroy grass	1
Intimidating	1
Disliked by dog	1
Pull finger when told to slow down	1
Some good and some bad	1
Annoying	1
Not permitted	1
Dangerous	1
Not supposed to be there	1

Table 28: Reasons for negative interaction	Count
Dogs / owners	16
Sometimes bad experiences	1
Some dogs off lead are intimidating	1
Dogs off-lead can be intimidating	1
Take up path and can't bike freely	1
Not sure if it is safe	1
Scared of large dogs off-lead	1
Not very courteous	1
some people get defensive	1
Occasional bad dog owner - off-lead, poo left	1
Sometimes big dogs a concern	1
Occasionally had altercation	1

Terrified of dogs and they are often off-leash	1
Off-leash dogs	1
Dogs off lead	1
Off-leash, unsafe for kids, bothered picnickers	1
Anti-social	8
Youths near high school - smoking, intimidating, loitering	1
Scary	1
Loitering	1
Dodgy interaction - boy racer, older	1
Youths - Vandals / Dumping rubbish	1
Drinking	1
Caught people - Vandals / Dumping rubbish	1
Hang around bridges drinking and up to no good	1
Car related	3
Melling to Kennedy uncontrolled cars	1
Separate pathway please	1
More people with 4WD on river - entering river near Melling doing 60kmph.	1
Walking	2
Take up path and can't bike freely	1
Disgruntled over cyclists using track	1
Swimming	1
Pollute river	1
Horse riding	1
Leave horse poo	1
Fishing	1
Used motor bike	1
Total	78

Table 29: All activities to reduce the risk of flooding	Count
Stop bank maintain/ enhance	36
Already being done/trying/doing a lot	27
Dredge	12
Maintaining existing infrastructure	6
Employ engineers / competent people	6
Widen river bed	3
Signage - Warnings in time	3

Climate change effects research	3
Planting	3
River flow rate needs to be controlled	2
Important	2
Rubbish - reduce littering around drain pipes	2
Want to protect environment	1
Keep doing mitigation work	1
Historical precedents	1
Contingency plan	1
Make the river bed wider	1
Continue with plan to remove housing near river to make recreation areas	1
Buy vulnerable houses	1
Council communicate about flooding risks and management - notify public	1
Concern about river delta	1
Damming	1
Looking to buy house and worried about flooding - especially in lower socio-economic areas and river mouth	1
Community needs to decide	1
Concerned about Melling Bridge - river overflows and blocks road	1
Channels	1
Deal with problem	1
Stream in front of house used to flood pump station at Woburn station really helped	1
Development plan - preferred option and high priority	1
Whatever needs to be done	1
Digging and trenching	1
Block Road is an issue	1
Awareness and mitigation	1
Hutt CBD is priority	1
Melling needs more stock banks because the Council sold a lot of land without protecting it	1
Increasing river capacity	1
Particularly good around Birchville	1
Limit risk to residents	1
Breakwaters	1
Block Road up along park in section 4 can only use sealed path	1
Remove houses in prone areas	1
Closer to Petone/river delta primary area affected	1
Right side river needs to be graded	1
Table 29: All activities to reduce the risk of flooding	Count

Personal connection to flood area	1
Enough stop banks already	1
Proactive rather than reactive	1
Ensure capacity to handle large deluge of water	1
Restrict building in flood zone	1
Environmental regulations	1
Risk assessment	1
Erosion near Kennedy Good bridge - more gravel work?	1
Riverbanks already quite high	1
Existing infrastructure to prevent under-cutting banks	1
Sculpting the river	1
Flood a few years ago quite frightening	1
Aware of Melling plan	1
Some things already underway	1
Flood protection work	1
Stuck in Hutt last time it flooded	1
Flood risk - notify residents	1
Water flow - continue to improve river flow	1
Flooding - An issue to stay on top of/continue improving risk areas	1
Whatever possible	1
Focus on problem areas	1
Worried about valley and low-lying areas	1
Generally a high priority preparing for future 1 in 50 year event	1
Greater public awareness	1

Table 30: All activities to make the River margins better for natives birds, insects and lizards	Count
Planting - more natives	36
Pest control	8
Wildlife - more / look after	7
Rubbish - clean up	4
Leave river as is	2
Weed control	2

Ask a scientist / expert / professional	2
Maintain wilderness along river banks - great for wildlife	2
Notify what is in area - keep people away	2
Providing access that benefits one controlled access point	1
Don't eliminate grass and replace with gravel	1
Safe for dogs	1
Keep it going	1
Protected habitats	1
Keep motorised vehicles away	1
Research - improving habitat	1
Bird feeders	1
Traffic congestion - reduce	1
Carparks less	1
Table 30: All activities to make the River margins better for natives birds, insects and lizards	Count
Get DOC involved	1
Measureable outcomes	1
Protecting/improving/fencing off any wetland areas	1
Not mowing grass so often	1
Reduce/remove exotics	1
Algae - find out cause	1
Doing a good job	1
Clean the river	1
Sectioning the margins area so people can't wander through	1
Dogs on leads	1
Water activities - kayaking, canoeing	1
Planting natives rather than willows	1
Don't trust Council to do this - watched them do silly things too often	1
Planting trees - can be exotic	1
Promote green and wet areas	1

Table 31: All activities to improve water quality	Count
Algae - research / control	87
Run-off - control	49
Increase flow/water level	48
Monitor and identify cause of degradation	32

Swimming - make safe for	20
Rubbish and dumping - control	18
Council should know/sort/are working on this	5
Planting	5
Is too much water being taken out?	3
Signage - Public awareness	2
Dam - feed rivers to make container ponds. Keep higher level in summer	2
Clean enough so kids can swim	1
More thought into gravel activities	1
Clean and tidy; stop pollution	1
Clean up	1
Pier in front of Scout Club	1
Cleaning banks	1
Useable for dogs	1
Climate change effects research	1
Make it a nation-wide issue	1
Combination of effects	1
Need to drain on Eastern side - polluted stream - can get very smelly	1
Community activities	1
Riverstones - flush	1
Concern	1
Tie issues together	1
Consult expert in public health engineer e.g. NZET	1
Water quality - already doing - expensive though	1

Table 31: All activities to improve water quality	Count
Continuous grading to make it a wide shallow river has caused algae - e.g.. Warm, slow water no swimming depth	1
Maintaining a free-flowing river	1
Continuously monitored and if there is an issue it should be proactively dealt with	1
Mangaroa River - lots of small holding farms cause issues - farmers use a lot of fertiliser	1
Controls	1
Nation-wide issue worth a better look	1
Balance between use and flow - river is #1 asset	1
Not worried about drinking water	1
Cows out of waterway upstream	1
Re-do walkways	1
Clean - concerning that isn't	1

Clean rivers for NZ	1
Safe - for animals and children	1
Section 4 to school - make it safe (dogs)	1
Difficult in dry summer	1
Clean - then the people come in	1
Doesn't seem to be any proactive steps that 'Joe Blow' can take apart from accept that it is there	1
Unsafe for dogs in particular - can't go near river in summer	1
Doing a good job	1
Walking - greater combination of walks to do/make more attractive for pedestrians	1
Don't deteriorate to the point of not being able to swim	1
What exists in the river - old dumping site	1
Education	1
Lower part of section 4 - near Melling Bridge - can flood badly and block road	1
Enforce industry roles upriver	1
Maintenance - Pre-summer work	1
Experts employed	1
Make sure to address algae issues along river (recreation etc)	1
Facilities - Drinking water for dogs and people	1
Beyond control	1
Facilities - picnic tables in shade	1
National problem of rivers dying - probably chemicals	1
Fill river with straw like at Matata estuary - where a lot of run-off ran into the water. Also acts as a perimeter	1
Natural phenomenon	1
Filtration in side streams - natural or technical	1
Not nice for dogs	1
Fishing - enhance if improved	1
Open up river and keep it clean	1
Fishing - Restrictions on anglers	1
Caused by summer	1
Focus on the issue and fix the basics - clean and green - be true to this	1
River narrower and shallower than used to be	1
Geological scientists need to do research	1
Check run-off from residential (lots of rubbish near Kennedy Bridge)	1
Table 31: All activities to improve water quality	Count

Get rid of round-up - pump it out- high priority	1
Rusted metal leaching into water 100m north of Stokes Valley	1
Good to be aware when problem exists	1
Science	1
GWRC have comprehensive plan	1
Shift stones	1
Haven't had issues in sites 3 and 4	1
Something needs to be done	1
Helps keep harbour clean and river clean	1
Texts are good	1
If river can't be entirely algae free perhaps there could be places designated safe for swimming	1
Toilets - more in Lower Hutt section and especially Melling dog park	1
Better public information about where it is safe to swim	1
Unsure - Council do best	1
Whatever can be done	1
Waiwetū Stream has a lot of \$ spent	1
Wildlife - places for	1
Water experts with green degrees	1
Keep plants cleared from river - cause algae?	1
Water quality - Keep vehicles out of river - not good for	1
Like to be able to swim again	1
What is different between now and 10 years ago	1
Link to 1080 poison - things falling into river	1
Look at other places where improvements made - Lake Geneva and mounted police	1
Alert public when bad	1
Just concerned	1

Table 32: All activities to improve recreation activities	Count
Trails - wider, maintain, seal	21
Playgrounds	8
Connections - complete trail links	8
Picnic areas	7
Fitness equipment	7
Gates - change / remove	4
Drinking fountains	4

BBQ areas	4
Sun shelter	3
Encourage kayaking	3
Rubbish bins - more	3
Courts	3
Planting - continue	3
Improve community engagement - more activities	3
Signage - more	2
Toilets	2
Maintained well	2
Table 32: All activities to improve recreation activities	Count
Access - better river access	2
Tough to cross roads - maybe an underpass	1
Improving safety	1
Want to make sure recreation is balanced by flood risk	1
Mountain bikes - make it more interesting for	1
Swing bridge for walkers	1
Build on improvements	1
Unsealed path on true right	1
Anything that doesn't detract from the current access	1
Stricter rules for dog walkers regarding leads	1
Football grounds lost	1
Swimming - people and dogs	1
Recreation - area for kites, frisbee, swing sets - see section 4	1
Lighting - night walking	1
Art installations	1
Access - for elderly	1
Safe - increase safety for cyclists near river banks	1
Very on top of things	1
Separate cycle way	1
Cyclists/pedestrians should have right of way over cars in car parks	1
More people friendly	1

Table 33: Reasons for 'Other' priorities	Priority
All part and parcel of same ecosystem	1

Barrier along highway	1
Beautify river through Hutt - City has 'back' to river bed	3
Between Melling and Ewan bridges needs improving	3
Community engagement around river	1
Continued promotion as an asset for region	1
Control pollution	3
Don't change it	1
Enforcing dogs on lead	3
Environment in general	3
Family friendly	3
Getting river to flow better - too low	2
Interested in Council spending to beautify city (complement river walkway)	1
More open river access	3
No strong opinion	1
Not removing trees from riparian areas	1
Reducing pollution	1
Riverside café	3
Safety	2
Too hard to prioritise	1

Table 34: Final comments

A lot of people use the area
Access - Make it easy to access from Stokes Valley
Access to river for swimming a great attraction - no good if algae prevents
Activities for children - more
Add some more exiting off-road trails for cyclists
Advertise more
Algae - Fish that eat algae
Algae - Hutt City Council issued warning whereas Upper Hutt Council did not. Told people about Silverstream
Algae - remove for swimming
Algae - up-to-date information
Algae bloom - more done
Algae if main concern
Algae terrible a few months ago - Sladden Park
All enhancements positive

All good
Allow adverts for café proximity to trail
Allow more bicycles on the train (or book in advance); work on line disrupts schedule
Always see something different
Anglers off bridge aren't checked - taking small fish
Another frisbee golf park
Appreciated
Approach people about dogs and don't do anything
Archery club would be cool
Area has improved
Area improving - good
Area near bridge is run-down. Needs improving
Areas where there is bulldozing of gravel and boulders - pointless. Should remove material to create aggregate - greater benefit and equal 'harm' to environment
Art - Artist - Chimp - lives in Eastbourne - could help to beautify area
Art - Beautiful art-piece at children's playground
Avalon to South is great
Avoid filtration to avoid algal bloom
Awareness of cyclists
Awareness over off-lead use - promote this
Awesome facility
Balance cost to rate payer of benefits they get from river. Proportionate changes to what people want
Balance development and natural aspects - healthy river with good facilities
Ban dogs running behind cars - control with a ranger
Barriers aren't allowing use of bike trailers
BBQ
Be friendly and helpful to freedom campers
Beautification
Beautiful
Beautiful - good asset

Table 34: Final comments

Beautiful hills
Beautiful park - best in NZ
Best asset in the area - need to use it

Best 'main road' have ever seen
Better access for swimming
Better communication
Better river access
Better signage
Better signage/warnings
Big drawcard for real estate
Bike path to Wellington
Bike users should be encouraged to use bells - and walkers need to understand what bells mean
Bins around Stokes Valley
Birchville walkways are much nicer now
Birdlife - not many
Blind crest at Taita rock top entrance off Taita Drive
Boardwalk is too narrow - not cycle-friendly
Bridge is a bit dangerous
Bridge required from Stokes Valley to Haywards Melling Bridge should be doubled-up - intersection problematic
Bridge widen Ara rail
Bridges widened to accommodate all recreational users
Bush areas tidy so you feel safer - greater visibility
Busy road between city and river
Cafes, restaurants on river and major walkways
Car park extended
Cars shouldn't be allowed on river bed
Carving - call Raniera Pukitapu
Cater for many people
Change the wind
Cleaner river
Cleaning contracts - greater supervision as messy
Closer to Central Hutt make the River more of a feature
Commercial activities - tea room
Communications plan for different parts of river
Community activity to have designated clean up rubbish day
Community annual clean-up - stack firewood, logs - festival atmosphere
Community projects - clean-up

Concern about flood mitigation work reducing access to park in section 4 on true right - huge use by dog owners
Concerns about accessibility
Concerns about market rubbish
Confine Lower Hutt developments further up river
Congratulate managers and rangers
Connecting routes e.g. Wellington to Featherston
Connection - Wellington

Table 34: Final comments

Connections Manor Park not well connected apart from through golf course
Constant upgrade
Consult more people with erosion knowledge
Continue good work
Continue improvements over time
Continue length of trail
Continue to improve everything - access, layout, secluded zones
Continue to promote river usage
Continue track both sides
Continue track Manor Park to Silverstream
Continuous track at Haywoods would be great
Corridor is great as it is
Could be under-used
Council do a lovely job with upkeep of corridor
Council does a good job in general
Council does a good job, but could do more
Council does quite a good job
Council doing a great job
Council, is doing positive activity - especially continual upgrades and initiative to do a survey
Courtesy shown on public event days with dogs
Cultural and heritage at Pa, Stokes Valley, Rimutaka Incline
Cultural past needs to be better communicated
Cultural values
Cyclacross - lack of continuity of support between Upper and Lower Hutt (Upper Hutt is only supporter)
Cycle crossing at Avalon

Cycle trail ends at Pomare - section 6 - would be good if continuous
Cyclists and walkers aren't always a good mix - perhaps a dividing line down middle
Cyclists sometimes a bit fast for dog areas
Dangerous at night
Dangerous steps around Petone Sea Scout building - nearly ad accident on bike - need to be removed from path
Debri in river - could be cleared
Deer carcasses (hooves, torso) Moonshine Bridge - Totara Park
Development around Ava bridge
Distance markers
Doesn't like Queensgate
Dog bags - more people should use
Dog drinking taps
Dog is allergic to wandering dew so preference is to drive further to walk dog away from this plant
Dog poo bins - too far to walk with full bags
Dog poo on tracks
Dog rubbish bins
Dog runaround play area with fences (dog park)
Dogs - sometimes dogs and their bags are an issue
Dogs bags

Table 34: Final comments

Doing a good job/run well/well as it is maintained
Doing a great job
Doing quite well now
Don't be afraid to upset some people some of the time
Don't allow it to be lost
Don't build it up too much
Don't make river 'sterile'
Don't open to freedom camping
Don't over-regulate
Don't seal the track
Don't see why levis have increase around some areas and not others
Don't spray the blackberries
Don't think it a good idea to knock house down

Don't want too many people using it
Dredge River for flood protection and kayaking
Drinking fountains
Drinking water
Easy to walk to teach music at Hutt High School
Ebb and flow ecologically
Educate in schools
Education
Education to raise awareness - engage schools, community to understand river
Eliminate the gorse
Eliminating natural pools might not be good for the nation.
Email Hutt Council about water congregating and told to contact GWRC
Emphasis on safety and water quality
Encourage cyclists to use bells
Encourage family groups
Engage school kids
Enjoy having dogs off-lead
Enjoy it
Enjoy letting dog off lead
Enjoy the set-up
Enjoy walking here
Enjoying it
Enliven access points
Events - Bike the Trail
Events - for dog walkers, cyclists and runners
Events - fun and activities
Ewan Bridge - link to Civic Centre and River
Excellent corridor -really enjoying it
Excellent facility - keep up good work
Exercise circuits - outside
Exercise stations for simple stretching

Table 34: Final comments

Expand opportunities for motorised recreation - engage community

Extend bike path past Silverstream
Extend path on true right to Upper Hutt
Extend trial to Eastbourne
Fabulous place
Facilities - BBQ
Facilities - BBQs free to use - at places like Kaitoki
Facilities - bench seats
Facilities - benches - solid plain and robust in view of houses and people
Facilities - benches, tables, BBQ
Facilities - bike tourism
Facilities - Bins for dog poo
Facilities - chairs
Facilities - changing rooms
Facilities - changing/toilets
Facilities - drinking - for people and dogs
Facilities - drinking fountains
Facilities - drinking fountains for people and dogs
Facilities - drinking water along walkways
Facilities - Exercise equipment
Facilities - few toilets from Stokes Valley to Petone
Facilities - fitness stop and gym equipment
Facilities - for families - BBQs
Facilities - gym and exercise stations
Facilities - gym equipment on walkways, drinking fountains
Facilities - gym park
Facilities - more bench seats
Facilities - more benches and picnic tables
Facilities - More drinking water fountains
Facilities - more seating around grass area
Facilities - more seating to look at lovely vista
Facilities - permanent seating should have shade
Facilities - picnic areas, exercise stations
Facilities - picnic benches beyond Silverstream
Facilities - picnic tables

Facilities - picnic tables in true right section 4
Facilities - playground
Facilities - provide at every bridge
Facilities - recreational e.g. BBQ
Facilities - Robust seating in right places
Facilities - seating
Facilities - seating - especially where nice view
Facilities - seating and picnic tables
Facilities - seating to enjoy views

Table 34: Final comments

Facilities - seating, picnic tables, shelter from sun
Facilities - seats
Facilities - seats as many elderly residents nearby
Facilities - seats on true left bank - especially for elderly
Facilities - seats, rubbish bins
Facilities - seats, tables, coffee cart, water fountain
Facilities - shade to shelter from sun and rain
Facilities - shelters
Facilities - table near Scout Hall
Facilities - toilets would be good
Facilities - water for dogs and people
Facilities - water fountain
Facilities - water taps for dogs and people
Family space
Fantastic
Fantastic - valuable asset
Farm run-off needs to be controlled
Fast bridges across river - see Timber Trail
Feel pretty safe - but walk in a pair
Feels largely under-used
Feels safer
Finish off Manor Park to Silverstream part on true right
Finish track

Finish track on western side between Manor Park and Silverstream
First aid facility e.g. defib
Firth industries took rock from river - what will future river be like if shallower?
Fitness stations
Fix bridge
Flood mitigation will reduce recreation
Flood protection appreciated in last storm
Flooding seems more in control
Focus is good on walkers, cyclists, anglers
Foot bridge on the Pomare Rail bridge
Footpath along river - make sure stays intact - including during flooding mitigation work
Free to public
From Harcourt Park the river trail is too narrow for birds and steep - through to Tamarua
Gate - some are too narrow - better if can ride further without getting off
Gates - make cycle friendly
Gates - remove barriers for cyclists as doesn't stop motorcycles - very 2km have to get off and on
Gates - zig sag ones are difficult
Gates 0 to let bikes through
Gates a hassle
Gates need to checked to see that bikes can get through
Generally enjoyed

Table 34: Final comments

Generally happy
Geocaching - thanks for support - would be good to encourage with open days and publicity
Get rid of the bloom (for swimming)
Getting better all the time
Glad to see Council gathering information
Good
Good as it is
Good experience
Good for recreation/luckily
Good investment in local population
Good path upgrades

Good place for animals and kids
Good that text messages get through from registered dog part of Council
Good to get away
Good to see survey
Good to see surveyors
Good to see surveys and people taking notice
Graffiti Moera area
Grass could be greener in some places
Grateful for facility 0 keep it up GWRC
Gravel paths provide feedback/noise/texture
Gravel taken from river as is building up and no good for flooding risk
Great as is
Great asset
Great asset - make more of it
Great facility
Great how it is
Great job
Great resource
Great resource to have on door step/asset
Great spot for dogs
Great to have it
Great work on bike brochure
Greater ranger presence
Greatest asset of Hutt Valley
GWRC doing a good job with flood protection
GWRC doing good job considering budget
GWRC needs to raise standards
GWRC should be commended
Happy
Happy - nice and natural
Happy - think it is really good
Happy about ongoing paving work
Happy customer

Table 34: Final comments

Happy on whole
Hate to see corridor being used for quad bikes, motorised vehicles.
Heritage needs preserving
High standard ambience
Hikoikoi Reserve is a lovely area
Hope it doesn't deteriorate
Hope it remains
Hutt City carpark very polluted
Hutt Council could provide more visible activities
Hutt lucky to have this place
If Council 'crunches' in on corridor, they will ruin it
Illegal quadbike use along this section of river - 4
Important to have swimmable rivers
Impressed at how much used
Impressed by graffiti clean-up on bridge pillars
Impressed with what has been done
Improve isolated areas to make them safer
Improve pathways
Improve safety in evening
Improve weather
Improved for most part
Improvement
Improvement from rail bridge south
Improvements should take rate increases into account
Increase flora and fauna
Increase in rabbit population - should be culled
Increase motorbike signage as there isn't enough information telling people it isn't allowed
Increase police activity near youth hangouts
Incremental improvements
Intend to explore further up-river
Involved in Waiwhetu Stream clean-up experience worthwhile
Is safe for swimming
Is Chris Turver still at GWRC

It is good
Kayakers get stranded now - low water levels
Keep 4WD out
Keep and maintain the access points to the river
Keep blackberries - family appeal
Keep dog-friendly please
Keep good access
Keep improving it - larger and better
Keep improving things for cyclists
Keep it as it is
Keep it beautiful

Table 34: Final comments

Keep it clean
Keep it clean for future generations
Keep it maintained
Keep it natural
Keep it open
Keep it safe
Keep it the way it is
Keep it tranquil - improve corridor for quieter recreation
Keep maintenance up
Keep nice for people to enjoy
Keep on improving
Keep progressing
Keep river fishable and swimmable
Keep rubbish out as much as possible
Keep spending and developing
Keep up good work
Keep water clean for future generations
Kelp has been removed - sand hoppers breed there - food source for fish
Landscape architecture - points of interest
Large areas seem under-used - could be developed to encourage different activities
Large grass space for festivals etc

Leave nature alone
Leave one side gravel
Left could be more clear and open
Letting too much water out further north - not enough further south
Lighting
Lighting - at night
Lighting - Better light at night
Lighting - could be better all along
Lighting - very important
Lighting - walkways through trees below Melling Bridge
Lighting along Moera strip
Lighting for evening walkers
Lighting needed
Lighting on Western side would be good
Like how safe it is
Like name of reserve changed to a European name
Lived here all life - 100x better now
Loop to true right would be great
Love it - keep it natural
Love it and feel privileged
Love it that free and open
Love the place
Love the river

Table 34: Final comments

Lovely
Lovely - wouldn't like to see it too developed
Lovely resource
Lovely spot
Lovely, valuable asset
Loves corridor and doesn't want it changed
Low use of river upstream
Lower Hutt City doesn't related to river - need to encourage use of river and embrace river as asset
Lucky it is here

Lucky to have access to such a beautiful area
Lucky to have it
Maintain facilities
Maintained
Maintained well
Maintained well - only concern is algae
Make better use of money
Make continuous loop on both sides
Make cycle-way safer for first 500m between Petone and motorway. Shoulder very narrow
Make part of the corridor not accessible to people
Make river visible from the walkway more pleasant and safer
Make some actual swimming spots
Make visible to international tourists.
Managed invisibly which is good
Markets - enjoy - good sense of community
Melling bridge traffic flow is very bad
Melling train line - could it run weekend
Metal punctures in unsealed track
Mitigate use
Moera - true left of river is barren
Money to Masterton - not enough goes there
More access points
More chairs/tables
More fish friendly
More habitat is needed for native birds
More information about use of kayaks
More picnic areas - table, BBQ seats
More river access
More rubbish bins
More rubbish bins for general purpose
More shady spots, places to relax
More social events to engage with river
More tables at Taita Drive north gate
More toilets

More tree diversity and color

Table 34: Final comments

More trees

More work on 'old mens beard' and 'wandering willy'

Mostly very positive

Motorbike user comes to area

Motorbikes - have little regard and don't interact

Motorbikes riding by young kids - signage

Mountain bike tracks - more - would be good

Mountain bike trails needed - more

Mountain biking track on true right of river for kids. Better biking facilities overall

Mow more often

Much better than where form in the UK

Multi-use

Narrow between Stokes Valley and Silverstream

Narrow part just north of Stokes Valley has rubbish issues

Narrow path Taita gorge

Natural and peaceful

Natural flooding will occur

Need more toilets at ocean end

Need to police motorcyclists using the area

Never feel unsafe

Never gone home without fish

Never had a bad encounter in 22 years

Never seen anyone dodge

Nice as is

Nice job

Nice to see it improving

Nice/beautiful place

Night markets - more community involvement

No cars

No connection between Manor Park and Silverstream

No more pathways or parks

Not keen on further planting
Nothing can be done about algae because there is already little to no effluent run-off
Number of uncontrolled dogs
Objection to cultural and historic values
On the whole very good
Orange goo at Stokes Valley being pumped into river
Outdoor covered area
Parking - - taken over by commuters - regulate hours for change
Parking cars
Parks for good all the way along
Path less direct and more interesting
Paths through bush
Pathways - extend north

Table 34: Final comments

Pathways great - keep them maintained
Pathways have been improved but could continue to be
Pedestrian access over river
Penalties for dog litter
People talk about limiting uses of area
Picnic shelter and tables
Place to camp overnight - like Kaitoke
Plan act observe reflect
Plans for river-mouth - path widening/non-continuous?
Plant more trees to adapt landscape
Plant natives to attract birdlife
Planting - more natives
Planting - more riparian
Planting - some areas untidy
Planting and cutting down?
Plantings - continue
Plants to fix river banks
Playground
Playgrounds - more

Pleasant surprise to visit. Plan to come back and ride whole length
Please protect flowering/fruited trees along the river which the birds like. Don't spray - just trim
Pleased it is here
Pleased to see it used more
Plough bird numbers
Pohutukawa trees need protecting
Poisoning and spraying on river bank - should leave nature to do its thing
Police dog area and fine offenders
Pretty good
Pretty happy
Pretty happy with corridor
Pretty lucky to have it
Pretty satisfied
Priorities don't mix -extracting water for Wellington outweighs recreational users needs. Stupid local notice - 6 months of the year the sign for algae doesn't relate to the river condition
Promote shared pathways
Provide parking
Proximity good
Publicise penalties for dog litter
Quite happy
Really enjoyed
Really like the Corridor
Reduce hiding areas for dodgy people and criminals
Reduce tip fees to discourage illegal dumping
Regeneration
Regular pop-up market

Table 34: Final comments

Removal of barriers has not led to an increase in motorised vehicle use near Stokes Valley as feared
River in an urban environment is rare and should be valued
River is a lot less polluted
River mouth should be developed and beautified
River used to be 2-3 metres lower
River used to be dredged, which was good for kayaking. Now that has stopped, kayaking is not so great
River was once full of yellow-eyed mullet - gone now

Rock being placed places
Rubbish
Rubbish - more bins especially around Ewan Bridge
Rubbish - Better glass management
Rubbish - bins along trails
Rubbish - bins for dog poo
Rubbish - bins for dog walkers
Rubbish - dog bag stations
Rubbish - Dog poo a problem - more bins needed
Rubbish - dog poo bags and bins
Rubbish - dog poo bags and bins needed
Rubbish - Dog poo bags have to be carried too far
Rubbish - dog poo bags need a place to go - special bin
Rubbish - education around this
Rubbish - get PD workers to pick up
Rubbish - Litter occurs at night time
Rubbish - lots left on bridge form anglers - need bins
Rubbish - Make trash cans (for dogs)
Rubbish - more accessible bins - especially for dog poo
Rubbish - more bins
Rubbish - more bins needed
Rubbish - more dog bins
Rubbish - more dog poo bags and bins
Rubbish - more effort to pick up
Rubbish - more frequent places for dog bags, bins
Rubbish - Need more dog poo bags and bines for poo- especially down river
Rubbish - need more of a clean up effort
Rubbish - not enough bins for dog poo
Rubbish - people leave rubbish - more bins in section 4
Rubbish - plastic bags are left
Rubbish - receptacles
Rubbish - tidy up/more bins - especially for markets
Rubbish at true right Silverstream - target offenders
Rubbish bins

Rubbish bins - art on bins
Rubbish bins - between access points - i.e. not necessarily at car parks
Rubbish bins - especially for dog poo

Table 34: Final comments

Rubbish bins - for dog poo
Rubbish bins - for dog poo - have to carry a long way to dispose of
Rubbish bins - more
Rubbish bins - more - don't want to carry dog poo
Rubbish bins - more available for dog park in section 4 - dog bags left frequently
Rubbish bins - more for dog droppings
Rubbish bins - next to seats
Rubbish bins every km good
Rubbish bins for dog poo - especially between Stokes and Taita
Rubbish bins need to be emptied more frequently or add a few more
Rubbish chucked from cars
Rubbish/graffiti/glass
Safety - areas which are so open aren't safe
Safety - especially true left bank a huge issue for women and children
Safety - issues of personal safety along river on section 3 - reports of a lurker last winter
Safety - Need more security cameras around parking area
Safety and security concerns - more lighting (woman attacked recently)
Safety priority
Salt water is good for cleaning dog
Saturday markets create a lot of rubbish
Saw a seal in the river by Silverstream
Sculpture - add to landscape
Seal unsealed areas
Sealed on one side but not other
Sealed sections - more
Sealing around Silverstream roundabout
Seclusion of certain areas - safety
Section 4 my favourite place to go
Section 4 well cared for

Security
Security - improve
Security cameras
Security cameras to prevent theft, especially in parking areas
Security is a shame around cars
See people in wheelchairs use walkway
Segregated walking and cycle paths
Separate cycle lane
Separate cycle way and walkway
Separate trail for walkers and cyclists
Separation from road
Sewage overflow?
Shame to shut it down to vehicles - not very kiwi
Shared pathway doesn't work with cars
Shelters

Table 34: Final comments

Sign posting - especially for toilets
Signage - information panels that tell about areas
Signage - about cultural values and old residences
Signage - better
Signage - distance markers
Signage - guidance and awareness for cyclists to share pathway
Signage - increased and better
Signage - more needed e.g.. Electronic or up-to-date
Signage - nice to see more maps
Signage - on true right to say track stops
Signage - prevent car theft
Signage - Reference point in a safety context so know where are
Signage - reminding people to keep dogs on leads
Signage and bags provided
signage saying 'No motorised recreation' or 'no hooning'
Signage to get to trails
Signage with contact numbers for when a problem

Signs - better signage and maps. Got quite lost
Signs - better signs - the whole range
Signs - Km markers
Silverstream bridge - country lane heading north
Skate park at Stokes Valley
Sladden - toilets are dodgy and feel unsafe
Small coffee carts
So many people use it
Some areas feel isolated
Some areas in Lower Hutt feel a little isolated and less safe at night
Some areas that are dog-friendly are close to road
Some cyclists too fast and could use a bell
Some land should never be used for buildings
Some motorised users still slip through
Some places seem neglected compared with other sections
Sometimes motorbikes
Somewhere safe for kids to jump in river
Stay on top of mitigation work - issues after last flood
Steadily improving - keep doing this
Still some undesirable people at night time
Stoked with it - wished had used earlier
Stop bank changes
Stop bank maintenance
Stop bank paths narrow and bumpy
Stop discharge - clean it up
Straighten river to improve flow
Street lights at country lane carpark

Table 34: Final comments

Superb
Surcharge on glass bottle sales
Surprised more people don't use it - love it
Sweet if deeper more consistently for kayaking
Swimming holes - deep ones would be cool

Taita gorge area needs improving - especially for cycling and children
Taking down trees by river reduces shade on the water (warms the temperature and adds to algae). Trees also help native wildlife e.g.. Pukeko
Taps would be great
Tar seal - is it necessary
Tar seal east north of Silverstream bridge
Terrific recreational facility
Thank you for beautiful area
Thank you for work
Thanks foot friends of Hutt
The reason we live here
There is a feel-good aspect to visible conservation and beautification projects
Thick gravel on course during popular event
Thumbs up to GWRC
Tidy up around Melling Bridge
Toilet
Toilet - another one
Toilet - chemical
Toilet - north of Silverstream bridge
Toilet - upgrade Sladden/Memorial
Toilet for public
Toilet needed at Waterloo station
Toilets
Toilets - a bit sparse
Toilets - closer to walkway
Toilets - Eastern side
Toilets - for elderly
Toilets - lack of
Toilets - more
Toilets - more - especially Taita rock
Toilets - more as more people
Toilets - more at ocean end
Toilets - more in key areas
Toilets - need more
Toilets - none apart from Sladden Park (not very nice)

Toilets - not many
Toilets - Not many toilets where families go
Toilets - public
Toilets (nothing from Naenae to Petone)
Toilets at access points

Table 34: Final comments

Toilets needed
Toilets please at Hikoikoi Reserve
Toilets/shower
Too much money spend on some bench seats
Toxic algae dangerous for dogs
Track - dubious at Taita gorge
Track improvements
Tracks widened
Tracks wider
Traffic lights mean cyclists have to wait for cars to trigger them at Haywards
Trail - bumpy near Whakatikei that could be smoothed out
Trees - don't cut down
Try and get lights at Birchville
Under-used
Unhappy about future plans - concerned will be a wasteland
Unique resource
Upper Hutt Council is more dog friendly than Lower Hutt Council
Upset with number of motorbikes on trail. Has been surrounded and intimidated. Especially concerned for safety of 5 year-old daughter
Use it often
Used to enjoy blackberry picking - gone now
Usually very clean
Valuable to access trail by train - capacity could be extended
Value these areas
Valued asset
Vast improvement past 50 years
Vegetation islands along path
Vehicle access to river

Vehicle bridge at Stokes Valley
Very good job
Very impressed
Very positive
Waiwhetu Stream project is excellent
Walkways seem to stop further up. Gravel difficult for buggy
Wary of meeting horses and young kids in off-lead areas
Waste and sewage control
Water activities
Water low is important to decrease algae and debris
Water quality
Water quality - wonder about inlet opposite golf course
Water running very low
Weeds - old mans beard out of control
Well maintained generally
Well managed
Well used
Table 34: Final comments
Well-used
West side traffic noise is too much
Western side needs improvement
Whakatiki River toilet is disgusting
White baiters - wearing vinyl waders is unsafe - potential drowning
White baiting should be banned as numbers decimated. Whitebait is a food source for other creatures
Whitebait will be encouraged if trees planted on river edge
Whole concept is fantastic
Why isn't river mouth more used - nice place but no one here
Why not many birds
Wide path
Willow removed - stuff gets caught in willows - flax would be better
Willows screen too much of river - flax might be better
Wind belt
Wonder if plans to raise stop banks even higher are necessary
Wonderful

Wonderful asset
Wonderful facility
Wonderful public space
Work with natural features (e.g.. Rocks/boulders) to make playgrounds
Worth maintaining - valuable resource
Would be nice to see more people
You don't use the left where the youths hang out
Zone 7 is awesome

Forms

	Sat	Sun	M	T	W	T	F	Sat	Sun	M	T	W	T	F	Sat	Sun	M	T	W	T	F	Sat	Sun	M	T	T	Sat	Sun	Count	
	Mar	Mar	Mar	Mar	Mar	Mar	Mar	Mar	Mar	Mar	Mar	Mar	Mar	Mar	Mar	Mar	Mar	Mar	Mar	Mar	Mar	Mar	Mar	Mar	Mar	Mar	Mar	Mar	Mar	Mar
Beat																														
1 - lower	21				5				26	3	6		3		21	32	3	7	1		15	25	27	34	7				236	
2 - city	17	17					5	22			5		5	10	12		6	6				10		43	37	7	7	20	229	
3 - mid	24		8	6	7	7		24	29	9	8		7	7	30						28	28	28						250	
4 - upper	22	27		9		6					11		7	9	35	33		8				30	37		20				254	
																													969	

GWRC Hutt River Corridor User Survey 2016

RG&A

70

Appendix 3: Questionnaire

Appendix 3 Stakeholder and community consultation

Summary notes from Workshops

UHCC, HCC & GWRC staff	22 June 2016
Utilities (NZTA, Hutt Chamber of Commerce, Wellington Water, etc)	24 June 2016
Stakeholder groups, Upper Hutt	28 June 2016
Stakeholder Groups, Lower Hutt	29 June 2016

Full list of attendees in Appendix 4

Meeting at Lower Hutt on HRES Review

Purpose: Meeting held at the Dowse Lower Hutt, 29 June 2016 5pm to 6.30pm to inform and discuss opportunities for the Hutt River Environmental Strategy with stakeholders and the community.

Attendees: Refer Appendix 4

Interest areas in attendance: Environmental Reference Group, Friends of the Hutt River, Interested, Residents, Environmental Advisory Group, Town Planner, Tramping Club, Fish and Game.

COMMENTS DURING THE MEETING

- Perception that commuters are high speed – this is not always the case.
- How is climate change being factored in to flood protection.
- Tension between flood protection and environmental considerations. Pleased to see engineers are considering the environment in designs.
- Is there an assumption that flooding will increase from climate change. Yes.
- Flood protection is just one factor that community makes a value judgement on.
- How far does GWRC jurisdiction go?
- Integration of Councils – how is this working?
- What is Whaitua? Answer: Whaitua Committees will be formed to create a unique vision and to prioritise objectives for land and water management in the catchment area. Hutt Whaitua Committee is to be established in 2017.
- Hutt River Group – meeting next week. Formed 3 years ago in response to concern from Friends of the Hutt River over cyanobacteria. It includes officials from GWRC, HCC, UHCC but needs involvement from Wellington City.
- Why are flood protection taking grass/trees and path out between Kennedy Good and Melling Bridge? – Answer: We are working with the geomorphology of the river. This is in the City Centre Project Area.
- Are we retaining water in the land using ponds and swales to reduce flood flow in the Hutt. Answer: Exceedingly hard on a property by property basis. Agree if we can get that type of proposal into regulation it could have some benefit in smaller floods.
- Managing river morphology means less space on the berms for recreation. We need to think creatively about how we manage these areas creatively.
- Create a recreational lake between Ewan and Melling Bridge using inflatable weir. Needs consideration.

WRITTEN FEEDBACK ON THE MAP

Mouth to Ewan Bridge

-(Y) Boardwalk over the water at estuary is a great talking point for walkers viewing fish, birds etc.

-Is the Waione St Bridge a pinch point for floods?

-Recreation and ecological use needs to be given priority over water capacity maximization (generic).

-Line stopbanks with trees for shade, bird corridors, habitat (generic).

-Encourage golf courses and HCC to plant more trees to absorb water (generic).

-(Y) Great walking tracks both sealed and gravel between bridges Ava to Ewan, Ava to Waione. Well used by community walking groups.

-Ava railway bridge must be almost 100yrs old and likely to need replacing within next 20yrs. Will the review take this specifically into account now.

-(Y) Looking at the river from the train every day (generic).

-In floods do the stormwater drains get blocked causing flooding in the streets at Moera?

Ewan Bridge to Fraser Park

-Recreational lakes are possible (a visual example of inflatable weirs provided).

-Temporary weir to create lake.

-Sports cyclists are more of a problem than commuter cyclists (generic).

-Flood control gates at Andrews Ave allowing access into river berms from street level (diagram/picture provided).

-Hulls creek weir – create small lake for boating, swimming in CBD area.

-Toilets in CBD area.

-Need balance of recreational related commercial development (around city centre) and unspoiled tranquility further upstream.

-Better pedestrian and cycle access across river e.g. as proposed in stopbank plan for city centre.

-(Y) Cycle pedestrian bridge.

-Plant host plants to encourage butterflies – swan plant for Monarchs – stinging nettle for Red and Yellow Admirals.

-Melling bridge – because of likely NZTA obstinacy and silo vision about this.

-\$ Melling breakdown.

- Draw futuristic Melling stopbank.
- How about a welcome butterflies gala behind the croquet club and on the other side of the river. Hundreds of Monarchs come every year. Could incorporate a river trail treasure hunt for the kids. Have butterfly day event in the Hutt. Fun days at the river.
- Monarch butterflies croquet club, SH2 side opposite.
- Toilets would be fantastic.
- More tree varieties instead of Willows.
- Why are GWRC taking trees out here? (between Kennedy Good and Melling).
- A mix of sealed/partially sealed paths and rough paths would be good (generic).
- Please plant willows and keep beaches to allow access to the river (generic).
- Maintain a good mix of native/exotic vegetation (generic).
- Be aware of dense planting which could be hiding places for predators/offenders (generic).
- Near Belmont School sealed access – any chance of security cameras? I've had my car broken into twice.
- Again a toilet would be fantastic (Belmont School area).
- Above Kennedy Good Bridge – Improve visibility of cyclists and walker to see and hear each other.
- Remove blackberries (generic).
- (Y) Watching trout and other wildlife (generic).
- (Y) Love the changing vistas of the river (generic).
- Know the feeling of a swim in the river; the cool water on the skin; the power of the current; the stones underfoot (generic).
- Another River Ranger required (generic).
- Concern about cyclists speed where path narrows at bottom of Edwin St.
- Reduce the dumping of rubbish at the end of Owen St.
- Ensure native fish can breed and live (generic).
- Install security cameras (generic).
- Detect and prosecute damage and dumping (generic).

Fraser Park to Trentham Memorial Park

- Plant native trees for bird corridors across the valley on both sides of the river (generic).
- Provide drinking fountains along the trail (generic).
- More activity for children, seats and tables for picnics (etc).
- (Y) Belmont area – lovely walks, lovely children’s park, great biking track, calming and spiritual.
- (Y) Enjoy birdlife along the river trail (generic).
- Develop policies on the flood capability of the River and its tributaries (generic).
- Establish a river governance group to oversee river and corridor development (generic).
- Toilets at regular intervals along the river both sides (generic).
- Increase the number a variety of plantings the length of the river (generic).
- Plant more trees (generic).
- Better communication, education about walkways to the community. Still a lot of people do not know about the trails (generic).
- Future management of cyclist vs walkers as Rimataka Rail Trail becomes more popular i.e. Otago Rail Trail. Not sure if this is an issue, not really looking at separate routes, but in areas where it narrows may be some signage needed (generic).
- All residents should be encouraged to have rain water tanks. This would help in times of drought and water storage in our future of climate disruption (generic).
- Each of the two Hutt Valley Councils to include the Hutt River in their visual branding i.e. a stylized river in their logo (generic).
- (Y) Rimutaka Rail Trail is great promotion for the cities worldwide (eg Otago Rail Trail) (generic).

Trentham Memorial Park to Kaitoke

- Improve existing facilities.
- (Y) Love cycling on the trail from Petone to Upper Hutt and walking on 10k bridge to bridge walks.
- To reduce the huge demands on the river water, water tanks should be compulsory for all new buildings (generic).
- Conserve water in the land before it reaches the river. Helps with floods and drought. Use permaculture style methods (generic).
- Provide water playgrounds for young children (Totara Park)

- Planning rules require hydrological neutrality on hills and flats (generic).
- Existing river Environment Strategy shows lots of park-like forest areas – why didn't this happen? (generic).
- More low level vegetation on grass areas around paths. Won't impede flood flow much but will help moderate it (generic).
- Involve Tangata Whenua for ideas and decision making (generic).
- Total catchment management approach – including all Councils (generic).
- Control residents dumping rubbish into river (Birchville area).
- Stormwater management (generic).
- Water levels gradually dropping for two reasons. 1 - Climate Change. 2 - Too much water taken out. We need to address both. How is it going to be remedied? (generic).
- Educate public as to how to conserve water use so not so much water is taken out of river and aquifer (generic).
- More native vegetation planted on upper reaches to slow the water flow.

Meeting at Upper Hutt on HRES Review

Purpose: Meeting held at the Civil Defense Building Upper Hutt, 28 June 2016 5pm to 6.30pm to inform and discuss opportunities for the Hutt River Environmental Strategy.

Attendees: Refer Appendix 4

Attendees Interest Areas: Anglers; Water Quality; Swimming; Ecology; Skating; Water take; General Interest.

COMMENTS DURING THE MEETING

- Swimming may be underrepresented in the user survey.
- Flood can be influenced by the deforestation in the headwaters. Is this in the management regime?
- Concern with water levels in the river
- Concern that the user survey didn't capture everyone.
- Anglers want to be included in the user survey.

WRITTEN FEEDBACK ON THE MAP

Mouth to Ewan Bridge and Generic

No comments made specific to this area.

Ewan Bridge to Fraser Park and Generic

- More variety of trees and shrubs alongside river (generic)
- Keep cars out of river bed – just north of Kennedy Good bridge
- Old skating rink and hockey rink requires upgrading. GWRC don't have to spend money in order to achieve that. Use of grants etc. instead.

Fraser Park to Trentham Memorial Park and Generic

- Keep cars out of river bed and coordinate with Police – above Fraser Park adjacent to Taita Drive.
- More signage promoting the range of recreational activities (generic)
- Stop encroachment further into river space by Hutt City (generic)
- More secure certain summer flows through greater incentives for grey water use and rain water collection (generic).
- Manor Park – secure walkway extension.
- Connect the Manor Park stopbank walk to silverstream bridge walk.
- Stop pumping sewage to the river.
- Communicate operational work to the community (generic)
- Webcams or QR codes for information (generic)
- Stop bulldozing river banks especially during summer or dryer periods (generic)

- Prosecute and publicise persons undertaking prohibited activities (generic)
- Keep motorbikes out of river banks (generic)

Trentham memorial park to Kaitoke and Generic

- Keep cars out of the river bed (just north of Trentham memorial park).
- 4Wheel Drives and motorbikes damaging planting and banks at the Moehau Stream and Moonshine Park.
- Barriers along grass areas preventing four by fours driving on the grass (alongside Moonshine Park).
- Ensure increased swimming seasons (generic)
- Plant more native trees all along the river (generic).
- Provide safe walking access across River Rd to the river – bridge or underbridge
- More picnic seats and perhaps bbq's and children's playground (Poets Park area)
- Vehicles can get down to the river – keep cars out of the river (Poets Park)
- Increased deforested areas in Hutt River catchment.
- Require rainwater harvesting on all new builds from 1 January 2017 (generic)
- Keep rubbish dumpers out of the river - using camera monitoring (generic)
- Signs about no dumping of rubbish – fine them (generic)
- Education by science about the danger of plastics going into the river (generic)
- Control of pollution from SH2 (generic)
- What effect does the flood protection work have on the hypoheic zone? (generic)
- Most focus on human perspective - where is the balance for the intrinsic values of the river (generic)
- Disaster mitigation? i.e. major petrol leak from SH2 (generic)
- Strategy for whole river system - Hutt and tributaries (generic)
- (Y) I enjoy the remote lengths of the Hutt River Trail (generic)
- Put webcams on bridges where nice views of the river (Totara Park bridge area)
- (Y) I enjoy the Maoribank swimming hole and families, dogs, teenagers all swim here until algae surfaces.
- Maoribank swim hole no man made development required.
- Greater use of river by swimmers in the upper reaches of the river than downstream. This may distort user survey figures.
- More rubbish bins along the walkway, better access down to the river (Maoribank to Harcourt Park reach).
- Webcams on the bridges
- DoC nelson lakes wasp eradication using bait – see this as an example of what could be achieved on the Hutt (generic)
- Kill wasps along the river bank (around Harcourt Park).
- Control residents dumping rubbish into river (Birchville area).
- Management of tributaries - Akatarawa.
- Keep green spaces in area clear of stock (Birchville area).

- Clear water passages for fish on Akatarawa.
- Concrete blocks in water allowing farmer to cross river (Birchville)
- Control residents dumping rubbish over stopbank (around Gemstone Drive)
- Stormwater management (around Gemstone Drive)
- Need river management past Gemstone Drive.
- Need to extend river management past Gemstone Drive through to Kaitoke Regional Park.
- River management of tributaries – Mangaroa

Meeting with Council Officers on HRES Review

Purpose: Meeting held at the Dowse 22 June 2016 10am to 12pm to inform and discuss opportunities for the Hutt River Environmental Strategy with Council Officers from UHCC, HCC and GWRC.

Attendees: Refer Appendix 4

Interest of Attendees: Community, Ecological health, Flood Protection, Arts, Climate etc.

COMMENTS DURING THE MEETING

- Making places is creating a waterfront stretch
- History of the river is getting lost – need to reinvigorate that.
- UHCC recreational links are being considered through the Open Space Strategy
- Signage could enhance links to sides and lengths of the river
- Community arts can take a lead
- Need more volunteer groups – Whaitua opportunities?
- River mouth inaccessible and ugly.
- Constant requests for new activities – how do we deal with these?
- Facilities including toilets – encourage the community to be involved in their creation.
- Climate change considerations
- Litter along and within the water
- River is the heart of the valley – but being disrespected. Urban design turns its back on the river and this needs to change. Open and windy right now. Great range of uses.
- Where are the native areas? Where can we picnic?
- Rebrand the river.
- Get kids involved in the river.
- Swimability and reliability of that at all times of the year. Confusion about when/where is safe to swim.
- Flood protection manages the margins of rivers but don't consider the overall health as much as they could. This is because it is difficult. Fundamentally this comes through the Environmental Strategy and Flood Management Plans. There is a tension here.
- Consider where we can add naturalness.
- Education needed about water quality. How can we enhance this? Talk about the whole catchment.
- Connectivity is needed between the city and river. Information boards should be happening shortly.
- Stopbanks should connect and protect rather than be a barrier between the river and city.
- GWRC is under resourced. Enhance the River Ranger roles. UHCC/HCC needs to look at this too. Enhance our investment in targeted recreational activities.
- No one organisation owns the area. There is no clarity or roles, limited funds and high expectations.

- Environmental Strategy should be a change in the management and coordination of council resources.
- Some people want to walk along a river that provides space – do we want to encourage its use? How do you keep the solice and peace? Reduce the people and get back to nature and space.
- Ecology is left behind in the current strategy. The review would need to consider ecology, in particular:
 - Recreate habitat (eg wetlands)
 - Silverstream lacks fish passage
 - Lower reaches lack pools and riffles
 - Inganga spawning considerations
 - Not easy to solve ecological issues.
- Need to be upfront about the opportunities and challenges. Be more honest – what is the best we can realistically do in each reach?
- More issues could result from turning the city toward the river.
- Strategy should articulate at the start where/how it links to the Flood Management Plan. Tracy Berghan is doing management constraint work through the development of the Flood Protection Code of Practice (The CoP is linked to the global consents for continued flood protection operational work on the river).
- Strategy sets out what you could do but doesn't specify that it must be done. Plan of works and a commitment to the next steps is needed (FMP does this but HRES should move in this direction too). This would feed into the Long Term Plan. Needs allocation of roles and responsibilities.
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) – get people we want in the area to use the area. Do we need more monitoring? Do we need more River Rangers? We do have Safe City Ambassadors.
- Better management of the perceptions of safety.
- Vehicle access restrictions – keep undesirables out.
- Jimmy Ballantyne HCC is doing CPTED work.
- Consider the design of bridges for safety.
- Management isn't working for native fish – fish passage to tributaries. Small dollars for big gains. Good to get volunteer effort.
- Weeds – invading existing plantings. More maintenance resource needed.
- Barton's Bush is jewel in the crown – management hasn't encouraged recognition of this.
- Campaigns are needed to set expectations of considerate social behavior.
- Intimate groups on the river are needed. Need resources to coordinate them. Get corporates involved in volunteering.
- Signage – branding is uncoordinated/overlapping. NZTA is looking at region wide signage.
- Link reserves with the Hutt River.
- Fish passage is needed.
- Add bike hire places to encourage tourist use of the River corridor.
- Scope of this Strategy is so large – is it biting off more than it can chew?
- Community arts projects can raise awareness and change perceptions.
- How does the vision link to implementing agencies?
- How successful has the Strategy been at getting things done?

- Do we keep this Strategy as a vision or expand It to cover how we are going to get there? It can be visionary with solid/directive actions.
- EnviroSchools – consult younger generation.

Hutt River Environmental Strategy Review

Consultation Meeting Minutes – Utilities

Purpose: Meeting held at the Dowse, Lower Hutt from 10am to 12pm on the 24th of June 2016 to inform and discuss opportunities for the Hutt River Environmental Strategy with Utilities and stakeholders.

Attendees: Refer Appendix 4

COMMENTS DURING THE MEETING:

- Antisocial behavior often goes unreported. Councils are dealing with problems. Need more police presence. Contact Hutt City Council Safety Manager Jimmy Ballentyne.
- Concern from the Chamber of Commerce regarding flood risk. Concerned about Alicetown and Petone in particular. Businesses are lacking recovery plans. This needs to be socialized to avoid impact on the GDP of the Valley. Businesses are confused about which organization to deal with in regard to these risks.
- Make sure there are linkages provided through the valley.
- There has been a lack of collaboration on the City Centre Project. Working in silos.
- Involve Railways in the City Centre Project and HRES Review.
- Wellington Water is concerned with any impact that future developments could have on their assets within the corridor (i.e. pumpstations, stormwater outlets).
- Rural Fire raised no particular issues with the river as it is now. The matters which are of interest to them include maintaining easy access to the water, low flammable vegetation, fire breaks in vegetation, continued education for fire fighters in regards to impacts on ecology are all useful.
- Providing views to the river (i.e. as you are driving along the motorway) is great and provides light and safety.
- Keep enhancing the area.
- Access blocks for bikes are good.
- Giant aphids are a threat to willows.
- Environmental enhancement funding is lacking. Roles and responsibilities of all councils need clarification in this regard.
- Erosion at Manor Park – where does Te Marua Golf Club and council responsibilities lie. Golf course put a submission in to annual plan which got turned down. Six Totara trees are at risk of falling into the river and blocking water flow. Currently golf course falls outside of the GWRC scheme – need to be reconsidered.
- GWRC can make a contribution toward works outside schemes by application.
- Flood Management Plan for the Hutt River needs review. This is overdue.
- What happens when new developments are signed off in rural areas but aren't within schemes?
- Are there consents for the storage lakes? These are overflowing and running over Te Marua Golf Club land.
- Chamber of Commerce requests that the City Centre Project allow further urban design consideration. The Chamber of Commerce noted alternative design ideas including further

consideration of the gateway to the city, relocating houses to save cost, creating a flyover (similar to Dowse) and moving Melling Station.

Appendix 4 List of invitees to HRES review consultation

Hutt River Environment Strategy Contacts Database 26.08.16

Name

Name1

Organisation

Iwi

Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust ATT: Lee Ruahina-August	Lee	Natural Resource Advisor
Office Manager - Ngati Toa Rangatiro	Office Manager	Natural Resource Advisor

Service Clubs

The Secretary	The Secretary	Rotary Club of Hutt City
The Secretary	The Secretary	Rotary Club of Hutt River Valley
The Secretary	The Secretary	Rotary Club of Hutt Valley
The Secretary	The Secretary	Rotary Club of Pencarrow
The Secretary	The Secretary	Rotary Club of Petone
The Secretary	The Secretary	Rotary Club of Wainuiomata
The Secretary	The Secretary	Rotary club of Upper Hutt
The Secretary	The Secretary	Rotary Club of Eastern Hutt
Carol Maud	Carol	Waterloo Probus Club
Derek Neasmith	Derek	Probus Club of Lower Hutt
Francis Ryan	Francis	Wgn Region Disability Group -- GWRC

HCC & UHCC Officers

Andrew Cummings	Andrew	HCC Planning
Antonia Wallace	Antonia	HCC Comms
Brett Latimer	Brett	UHCC - Parks and Garden
Bruce Hodgins	Bruce	HCC Parks & Gardens
Carla Steed	Carla	HCC
Conrad King	Conrad	UHCC - Parks and Garden
Courtney Johnston	Courtney	HCC – Community Arts
Craig Cotrill	Craig	HCC - Parks and Gardens
James McKibbin	James	UHCC Planning Dept
Jan Simmons	Jan	HCC
John Pritchard	John	HCC Research/Policy
Kellie Benner	Kellie	HCC - Sustainability Consultant
Kelly Crandle	Kelly	HCC
Lillian Pak	Lillian	HCC Libraries
Linda Goss-Wallace	Linda	HCC
Natalie Hormann	Natalie	HCC - Sustainability Officer
Nathan Geard	Nathan	HCC
Nicola Etheridge	Nicola	UHCC Planning Dept
Paki Maaka	Paki	HCC Urban Design
Parvati Rotherham	Parvati	HCC City Development
Pippa Sanderson	Pippa	HCC Community Arts Advisor
Sandy Beath-Croft	Sandy	HCC
Wendy Moore	Wendy	HCC Strategy and Planning

HCC & UHCC Officers

Alistair Allan
 Amanda Cox
 Colin Munn
 Graeme Campbell
 James Flanagan
 Jeff Evans
 Mark Heath
 Melanie Thornton
 Mike Jensen
 Ross Jackson
 Stephen Heath
 Steve Kamo
 Sue Faulkner
 Susan Jones
 Tracy Berghan

Name**Name1****Organisation**

Travis Moody

Utilities

Administrator

Administrator

Royal Wellington Golf Club

Administrator

Administrator

Boulcott Farm Heritage Golf club

Administrator

Administrator

Manor Park Golf Sanctuary

Administrator

Administrator

Silverstream Golf Park

Administrator

Administrator

Shandon Golf Club

Andrew Keenan

Andrew

Wellington Free Ambulance

Barry Fryer

Barry

GWRC Rail Operations

Benhaven Rest Home

Bob Scott Retirement Village

Chris Brooks

Te Marua Golf Club

Danny Muthumala

Danny

Powerco Ltd

Gavin Dunphy

Gavin

NZ Fire

Jim Walsh

Te Marua Golf Club

Mark Futter

Mark

Chamber of Commerce

Michael McKeon

Michael

Kiwirail

Pat Scahill

Pat

Wellington Water

Peter Walker

Peter

Wellington Rural Fire District

Rachael Thorp

Rachael

Wellington Rural Fire District

Richard Steer

Richard

Wellington Electricity

Rob Stone

Rob

Department of Conservation

Sam McCluskey

Sam

Wellington Water

Sean Hansen

Sean

Hutt Valley Police

Shona McFarlane Retirement Village

St Joseph's Home of Compassion

Steve Williams

Steve

Transpower

Woburn Apartments

Woburn Home and Retirement Apartments

Woburn Masonic Care

Name**Name1****Organisation****Elected Reps**

Kate Glanville	Kate	HCC Personal assistant
Sue Lafrentz	Sue	HCC Central Committee
Cr David Bassett, JP	David	HCC Deputy Mayor
Ray Wallace	Ray	HCC Mayor
Cr Chris Milne	Chris	HCC Central Committee
Jill Berridge	Jill	HCC Western Committee
Cr Margaret Cousins, JP	Margaret	HCC Western Committee
Cr Max Shierlaw	Max	HCC Western Committee
Cr Tui Lewis	Tui	HCC
Cr Gwen McDonald	Gwen	HCC
Mayor Wayne Guppy	Wayne	Mayor, UHCC
Cr Steve Taylor	Steve	UHCC
Cr Sandra Greig	Sandra	GWRC
Cr Ken Laban	Ken	GWRC
Cr Barbara Donaldson	Barbara	GWRC
Cr Chris Laidlaw	Chris	Chair, GWRC
Cr Prue Lamason	Prue	GWRC
Kerrie Falconer	Kerrie	UHCC personal assistant
Cr Sam Kaho	Sam	GWRC
Cr Dean Rabbitt	Dean	Upper Hutt City Council

Community Groups and Individuals with Specific Interest

Alan Smith	Alan	
Alan Stevens	Alan	
Alison MacDonald	Alison	
Angela Kilford	Angela	Artist
Anne Packer	Anne	Downer
Barry Chapman	Barry	
Betty Ross	Betty	60's Up Movement-Silverstream Branch
Blackwell		
Carolyn Nimmo	Carolyn	Living Streets Aotearoa
Colin Smith	Colin	Automatic Gates
Communications Manager	Communications Manager	Trentham United Harriers
Cynthia Hunefield	Cynthia	
Dan Waechter		
Derek Wilshere	Derek	
Dionne Ward	Dionne	Photographer
Dominique and Kathey Heller	Dominique and Kathey	
Evan Freshwater	Evan	Manager, NZ Cycle Trail Inc
George Butters	George	Friends of the Hutt River
Glenise Jones	Glenise	60's Up Movement-Maidstone Branch
Glenise Thomas	Glenise	
Graham Hamilton	Graham	Flood Park Markets
Grant Birkinshaw	Grant	Planning Consultant
Hadley Bond	Hadley	Aurora harrier Club
Heather Miller	Heather	Wellington Flyfishers Club
Jade Badcock	Jade	HV Thunderbolts BMX
James MacDonald		
Janet Islington	Janet	60's Up Movement-Moonshine Branch
Jenny Grimmett	Jenny	Planning Consultant
Johanna Mechen	Johanna	
John & Pat Tristram	John & Pat	
Karen de Wit	Karen	Dog Training School
Kathryn Hicks Secretary	Kathryn	Forest and Bird Upper Hutt Branch
Kendron Parker	Kendron	
Kieran Govind		
Linton Adams	Linton	Rotary club of Hutt City

Name**Name1****Organisation**

Lorraine Dick		Moera Community House
Mark Amery	Mark	Letting Space
Merilyn Merrett	Merilyn	Friends of Waiwhetu Stream
Michelle Ducat	Michelle	Enviro schools
Mike Travis		
Pam Crisp	Pam	
Pat van Berkel		Friends of the Hutt River
Paul Kennett	Paul	Kennett Bros
Paul Singleton	Paul	
Paula Warren	Paula	Growing Places Charitable Trust
Phaedra Upton	Phaedra	Hutt Valley Tramping Club
Phil Teal	Phil	Fish and Game Wellington Region
Philippa Sissons	Philippa	
Rob Van Der Raaij	Rob	GNS Science
Robin Maud	Robin	Rotary club of Hutt City
Sandy Nimmo	Sandy	Rimutaka Inline Hockey Club
Steve Meeres	Steve	HV Mountain Bike Club
Stuart Reid	Stuart	Consultant Engineer
Sue Millar	Sue	Upper Hutt Froest and Bird
Teresa Homan	Teresa	Friends of the Hutt River
The Secretary	The Secretary	Upper Hutt Athletic Club
The Secretary	The Secretary	Rimutaka Harrier Club
The Secretary	The Secretary	Hutt Valley Canoe Club
The Secretary	The Secretary	Hutt Valley Orienteering
The Secretary	The Secretary	UH Walking & Tramping Club
The Secretary	The Secretary	Hutt Valley Angling Club
The Secretary	The Secretary	Hutt Cycle Network
The Secretary	The Secretary	Forest and Bird Lower Hutt Branch
The Secretary	The Secretary	Lower Hutt Athletic Club
The Secretary	The Secretary	Hutt Valley Harriers
The Secretary	The Secretary	Hutt Valley Marathon Clinic
The Secretary	The Secretary	Kaumatua Tramping Club
The Secretary	The Secretary	Alicetown Walking Group
The Secretary	The Secretary	Orienteering Hutt Valley
Thomas LaHood	Thomas	Barbarian
Tim Trengrove	Tim	
Val Kelly, President	Val	60's Up Movement-Brown Owl Branch
Whetu Campbell	Whetu	Ultimate Frisbee