



## USH LICENCE HOLDER MEETING 4

Date	7 December 2024	Time	10pm-12pm
Location	Lincoln Events Centre		

### Meeting Notes

#### Opening: 10.03am

- **Welcome:** Chris Mene, independent facilitator, opened the meeting.
- 26 attendees + 3 speakers + facilitator
- **Karakia:** Traditional blessing for the meeting.
- **Operating principles:** Chris reiterated the principles agreed at all meetings.
  - **Confidentiality:** Confidentiality with discussion tonight.
  - **Respect:** Maintain respectful communication.
  - **Equity:** Acknowledge that some may not be present tonight therefore the information from tonight would be shared / notes are being taken.
  - **Safety:** Physical and psychological safety for all participants.
  - **Trust:** Engagement and progress depend on trust. Noting there is still trust to be earned.

#### Aqualinc Climate Assessment:

- Andrew summarised the draft report as per slide presentation

##### Flooding:

- Considered the future flood risk to Te Waihora and the potential impacts on the Upper Selwyn Huts
- 2013 flood reported as the “worst flood in decades” – used as baseline for the study
- Adopted the SSP4.5 and SSP8.5 climate change scenarios
- Included the NZ Sea Level Rise data
- Includes a sea level rise between 0.55– 1.3m by the end of the century
- Inundation maps available as part of presentation and report
  - SSP 4.5: Mid-century: Days Road access issues
  - SSP 8.5: More wide-spread flooding predicted
- Days Road depths are in the order of 300 mm

##### Questions on the flood risk:

- Even in scenarios where the settlement isn't flooded – there would be issues with access
- Even if a bund is built, there will still be issues with groundwater (main concern)
- Discussion around effect of 300mm of water on cars (e.g., Coes Ford is still used, Little River)
- Unaware of any work investigating weir at lake outlet for controlling the lake levels

##### Groundwater:

- Prolonged high-water levels can cause degradation of road and foundation materials
- Monthly measurements back to 1994 available
- Higher levels in winter

- Model calibrated to land use (irrigation)
- Model run with and without sea level rise
- Map of historical modelled groundwater levels – purple shows the where the average groundwater level is within 0.3m of the ground surface (groundwater levels fluctuation within and between years)
- High groundwater levels to the east of the huts
- Groundwater levels could be (on average) 0.2m higher than historic levels
- Noted that any changes to averages also causes changes to the extremes

Questions on the groundwater risk:

- Request for graphs and information to be shared
- Shallow groundwater on the lower plains is tightly linked to Te Waihora lake levels
- Higher lake levels (as a result of sea level rise) will result in higher groundwater levels (higher frequency of high groundwater and for a longer duration)
- Greater potential for hazard and nuisance impacts (groundwater flooding, damage to infrastructure and buildings, health impacts)
- Requests for accurate monitoring of groundwater at the settlement (not just around) – more data = better informed
- Generally, there are mitigation strategies with groundwater drainage, however there are many challenges
- Request for groundwater monitoring costs – information to be fed back through to community

**Monique:**

- We only received the report yesterday but given this shows the risk is limited it seems premature to talk about climate change triggers at this point so propose we finish early
- Want to go back to Council to see how they want us to proceed
- Still need to consider the safety risk – proximity of houses and fire risk of houses
- Community happy with going back to Council in January

**Tim:**

- Climate change risk is potentially not as bad as what some Councillors may have thought
- Report and slides to go on SDC website

Additional requests from the community

- If trigger points and options for if retreat are needed and would like a further meeting to discuss
- Looking for renewable licences with no mention of finite
- Want built in trigger points and compensation when it is no longer safe to stay
- Need to be able to plan for the future

**Closing:** Chris closed with a karakia at 11.25 AM.