

Submission on

Resource Consent Application

Form 13

Under Section 96 of the Resource Consent Management Act 1991.



Reference Number:

RCS261301474

Submitted On:

23/07/2026 05:54 p.m.

Person making submission:

Surname

Kohere-Smiller

First Name(s)

Nicky-Marie

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Submission on:

Application No

LR-2026-113441-00, LV-2026-113442-00, LL-2026-113443-00, WS-2026-113444-00

Name of Applicant

Gisborne District Council - Community Lifelines

Type of resource consent applied for

Land-Use - Extract Sand/Shingle; Land-Use - Vegetation Clearance; Land-Use - Works and structures in a River/Lake Bed; Take Surface Water; Land Use - Earthworks

Brief description of proposed activity

The proposal includes the construction and upgrading of approximately 4.2 kilometres of stopbanks, associated earthworks, road raising, drainage and stormwater infrastructure, works within and adjacent to the Waipaoa River, temporary water take and discharge activities during construction, vegetation clearance, temporary access works, service relocations, and landscape planting and site reinstatement.

Position on application

I support the application

Clearly state which parts of the application you support or oppose or wish to have amended:

Mahaki Tiaki Tangata (MTT) supports the proposed Te Karaka Stopbank Upgrade and recognises it as an important investment in improving the resilience and safety of the Te Karaka community.

MTT was established in response to Cyclone Gabrielle, following the devastating impacts experienced by Te Aitanga-a-Māhaki whānau in our communities. The cyclone demonstrated the vulnerability of our people, infrastructure and emergency management systems during a significant weather event. It also highlighted the strength, leadership and capability that exists within our own communities when local people are empowered to respond.

The proposed stopbank upgrade represents one important component of building a more resilient future for Te Karaka.

Mahaki Tiaki Tangata supports the proposal because it contributes to reducing the flood risk faced by our community and strengthens the resilience of Te Karaka for future generations.

The experiences of Cyclone Gabrielle fundamentally changed our understanding of emergency management. While engineered infrastructure plays a critical role in protecting

The reason for making my submissions are (briefly describe the reasons for your views):

I wish the Gisborne District Council to make the following decision (give details, including nature of any conditions sought):

I wish to speak at the hearing in support of my submission
Would you consider presenting a joint case with others who have made a similar submission?

[MTT Submission on Te Karaka Stopbank Upgrade July 2026.pdf](#) (158 kb)

Confirmation

Are you submitting this form on behalf of another person?

Name

Postal Address

Mobile

Other phone

Email

I confirm that all the above details are correct.

communities, our experience has shown that physical infrastructure alone cannot eliminate risk.

True resilience is achieved through the combination of:

- Resilient infrastructure;
- Prepared communities;
- Effective emergency management partnerships; and
- Ongoing investment in community capability.

For this reason, Mahaki Tiaki Tangata strongly supports continued investment in flood mitigation infrastructure while recognising that emergency preparedness and community response capability must continue alongside these physical improvements.

As an iwi-led emergency response organisation, Mahaki Tiaki Tangata has continued to develop local response capability, strengthen relationships across our communities, and maintain collaborative relationships with Tairāwhiti Civil Defence Emergency Management and Gisborne District Council. While our operating model is iwi-led, we recognise that effective emergency management relies on partnership between iwi, local government and emergency services.

We acknowledge the collaborative approach that has been undertaken during the development of this proposal and encourage that partnership to continue throughout construction, future maintenance, emergency planning and ongoing flood resilience initiatives.

Mahaki Tiaki Tangata requests that the Gisborne District Council:

- Grant the resource consent for the Te Karaka Stopbank Upgrade.
- Encourage continued partnership between Gisborne District Council, Tairāwhiti Civil Defence Emergency Management, Te Aitanga-a-Māhaki and Mahaki Tiaki Tangata throughout implementation and future emergency planning.
- Recognise that long-term community resilience is strengthened through both flood protection infrastructure and sustained investment in iwi and community emergency capability.

No

No

Yes

Mahaki Tiaki Tangata - Iwi Response to Emergency Management

