

## **Proposed Dangerous Dams Policy**

### **Summaries of submissions and General Managers' responses**



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## *Dangerous Dams Policy*

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**Submitter:** A. D. Walker

**Submission Number:** 1

**Organisation:**

**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11086

**Summary:** The submitter is neutral on the proposed Dangerous Dams policy.

**Response:** Your submission on the Dangerous Dams policy is noted.

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**Submitter:** G Atkinson

**Submission Number:** 2

**Organisation:**

**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11085

**Summary:** The submitter believes this policy to be overkill, and wonders where the evidence for the proposed changes are considering that no dams have collapsed in the past 100 years.

**Response:** The Building Act 2004 (the Act) requires Greater Wellington to develop and adopt a policy on Dangerous Dams. The Act also requires the policy to be reviewed every five years. This is a statutory requirement placed on Councils.

Changes to the Act and the introduction of regulations in 2008 required the 2006 policy to updated to incorporate new definitons and requirements.

The dam safety provisions of the Building Act 2004 were introduced as there was no specific legislation in New Zealand covering dam safety. Greater Wellington is unaware of any dams collapsing in the Wellington Region, however, there have been incidents within New Zealand such as the Opuha Dam in 1997, the Ruahihi Canal in 1981 and the Wheao Canal in 1982.

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**Submitter:** Patricia Reesby

**Submission Number:** 3

**Organisation:**

**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11236

**Summary:** The submitter has no idea if they support the proposed Dangerous Dams Policy.

**Response:** Your comments regarding the Dangerous Dams policy have been noted.

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**Submitter:** Ivey Russell Kirkwood

**Submission Number:** 5

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11237

**Summary:** The submitter thinks the proposed Dangerous Dams policy is very necessary because of rainfall.

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**Response:** Your support for the Dangerous Dams policy has been noted.

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**Submitter:** Mary McGregor

**Submission Number:** 6

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11238

**Summary:** The submitter does not support the proposed Dangerous Dams policy and just wants to know which dams are dangerous so the submitter can stay away from those dams.

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**Response:** Your comments regarding the Dangerous Dam Policy have been noted. Greater Wellington is waiting on the development of regulations defining the parameters of a dangerous dam. This work is being undertaken by the Department of Building and Housing. Until those parameters are defined, Greater Wellington is unable to determine whether any dams in the Wellington Region fall in to the dangerous category. Changes have been made to the policy to clarify that the policy does not come in to effect until the relevant regulations are in force.

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**Submitter:** David Scott

**Submission Number:** 7

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11239

**Summary:** The submitter believes the proposed Dangerous Dams policy is really about private water storage. The submitter notes that no dams failed in Japan recently and that all Greater Wellington should do is ensure new dams are built to the best engineering standards.

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**Response:** Your comments regarding the Dangerous Dams Policy have been noted. Greater Wellington ensures new dams built in the region are processed through a robust building consent process to ensure they comply with the building code.

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**Submitter:** Barrie and Beryl Green

**Submission Number:** 8

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11240

**Summary:** The submitter strongly supports the proposed Dangerous Dams policy.

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**Response:** Your support of the Dangerous Dams policy has been noted.

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**Submitter:**

**Submission Number:** 9

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11241

**Summary:** The submitter believes no dams should be built.

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**Response:** Your comments regarding the Dangerous Dams policy have been noted.

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**Submitter:** Mr Keith Miles

**Submission Number:** 10

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11242

**Summary:** The submitter states that the dam looks okay and should only be looked at if absolutely necessary in 2012/13. There is enough water to currently service the region and the real issue is growth over the next 20 years.

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**Response:** Your comments regarding the Dangerous Dams policy have been noted. The Dangerous Dams policy is one of a number of dam safety measures included in the Building Act 2004. The dam safety scheme (due to come in to effect July 2012) requires large dam owners to check their dams annually and provide an annual compliance certificate. If this inspection shows any problems with the structure or integrity of the dam, then remedial action will be required to be undertaken.

Greater Wellington has a long term strategy for the development of additional water sources as well as an active conservation and demand management programme.

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**Submitter:** Gwynn F. Walker

**Submission Number:** 11

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11243

**Summary:** The submitter believes that dangerous dams need to be looked into quickly.

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**Response:** Your comments regarding the Dangerous Dams policy have been noted.

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**Submitter:** Mr Paul Bryant

**Submission Number:** 12

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11244

**Summary:** The submitter supports the proposed Dangerous Dams policy but notes that the cost of appeals should not be onerous.

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**Response:** Your comments regarding the Dangerous Dams policy have been noted.

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**Submitter:** Pat Murdoch

**Submission Number:** 13

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11245

**Summary:** The submitter states that with modern engineering ideas, there should not be any problems.

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**Response:** Your comments regarding the Dangerous Dam Policy have been noted.

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**Submitter:** Ms Penny Salmon

**Submission Number:** 14

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11246

**Summary:** The submitter supports the proposed Dangerous Dams policy.

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**Response:** Your support for the Dangerous Dam policy has been noted.

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**Submitter:** Mr Tadeusz Ostapowicz

**Submission Number:** 15

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11247

**Summary:** The submitter states that reason must prevail in the proposed Dangerous Dams policy.

**Response:** Your comments regarding the Dangerous Dams policy have been noted.

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**Submitter:** Nadine Warbrick

**Submission Number:** 16

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11248

**Summary:** The submitter states that the proposed Dangerous Dams policy needs wider environmental consultation.

**Response:** Your comments regarding the Dangerous Dams policy have been noted. The proposed policy was sent to all large dam owners in the Wellington region and to interest groups such as Federated Farmers. Additionally, the proposed policy was publicly notified in conjunction with Greater Wellington's proposed annual plan.

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**Submitter:** Fi Coster

**Submission Number:** 17

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11249

**Summary:** The submitter supports the proposed Dangerous Dams policy.

**Response:** Your support for the Dangerous Dam policy has been noted.

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**Submitter:** Natashe Fordyce

**Submission Number:** 18

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11250

**Summary:** The submitter states that earthquake proofing and increasing water storage capacity, along with conservation measures are vital to the region.

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**Response:** Your comments regarding the Dangerous Dams policy have been noted. The policy is aimed at ensuring dams in the Wellington region are not dangerous. Greater Wellington also has a long term strategy for the development of additional water sources as well as an active conservation and demand management strategy.

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**Submitter:** Karryn McKenna

**Submission Number:** 19

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11251

**Summary:** The submitter supports the proposed Dangerous Dams policy considering that flooding threats are more likely than a tsunami and the threat of a large earthquake is more possible than ever before.

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**Response:** Your support for the Dangerous Dam Policy has been noted.

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**Submitter:** Mr Peter Broughton

**Submission Number:** 20

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11941

**Summary:** The submitter objects to spending rates on private assets. The submitter believes that if the landowner cannot or will not fix the dangerous dam they should have to remove it or forfeit land to cover the cost of Greater Wellington doing it for them.

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**Response:** Your comments regarding the Dangerous Dams policy have been noted. In the first instance, the dam owner is required to remediate their dam at their expense. However, if required, there is provision in the policy and in the Building Act 2004 for Greater Wellington to apply for a court order to carry out work on a dam. If work is carried out by Greater Wellington under a court order the dam owner is liable for the costs.

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**Submitter:**

**Submission Number: 21**

**Organisation:**

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**Topic: Dangerous Dams Policy**

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**SummaryID** 11311

**Summary:** The submitter supports the proposed Dangerous Dams policy.

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**Response:** No response prepared as no contact details provided.

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**Submitter: A. R. Branson**

**Submission Number: 22**

**Organisation:**

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**Topic: Dangerous Dams Policy**

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**SummaryID** 11312

**Summary:** The submitter supports the proposed Dangerous Dams policy in general.

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**Response:** Your support for the Dangerous Dams policy has been noted.

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**Submitter: Mr Laurie Greig**

**Submission Number: 23**

**Organisation:**

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**Topic: Dangerous Dams Policy**

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**SummaryID** 11313

**Summary:** The submitter supports the proposed Dangerous Dams policy.

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**Response:** Your support for the Dangerous Dams policy has been noted.

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**Submitter:**

**Submission Number: 24**

**Organisation:**

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**Topic: Dangerous Dams Policy**

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**SummaryID** 11314

**Summary:** The submitter supports the proposed Dangerous Dams policy.

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**Response:** No response prepared as no contact details provided.

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**Submitter:** A. J. Prentice

**Submission Number:** 25

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11315

**Summary:** The submitter supports the proposed Dangerous Dams policy.

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**Response:** Your support for the Dangerous Dams policy has been noted.

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**Submitter:** Mr Bob Aldred

**Submission Number:** 26

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11316

**Summary:** The submitter supports the proposed Dangerous Dams policy and is pleased Greater Wellington is being proactive in the proposed policy.

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**Response:** Your support for the Dangerous Dams policy has been noted.

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**Submitter:** Mr Roy Hewson

**Submission Number:** 27

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11317

**Summary:** The submitter supports the proposed Dangerous Dams policy.

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**Response:** Your support for the Dangerous Dams policy has been noted.

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**Submitter:** Mr Rod Stubbs

**Submission Number:** 28

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11318

**Summary:** The submitter wants Greater Wellington to ensure safety first.

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**Response:** Your comments regarding the Dangerous Dams policy have been noted. The aim of the policy is to ensure dangerous dams are dealt with quickly and effectively to minimise any risks.

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**Submitter:** John Gibbs

**Submission Number:** 29

**Organisation:** Porirua City Council

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11445

**Summary:** Porirua City Council reviewed the proposed Dangerous Dams Policy notes that it appears to comply with legislative requirements. However, the document would benefit from some relatively minor improvements have been identified if it is to be used as a stand alone document and available to dam owners:

- Add some more definitions (for example, what is meant by High Potential or Medium Potential dam)
- Clarify which actions will incur a cost to the dam owner.
- Clarify normal time frames for requests for information and time the information needs to be produced.
- How are new potential dams identified? How soon after construction do they need to be assessed?
- Are elevated roads potential dams even though there is no intention for water to pond behind them?
- Who is the Dam Owner if the dam is formed when earthworks are undertaken to create building platforms - so the buildings are on the dam? Or is ownership shared?
- Should the policy document mention how new large dams are identified?

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**Response:** Your comments and suggestions regarding the Dangerous Dams policy have been noted. Thank you for taking the time to look through this policy so carefully. The following changes have been made to the policy:

- Costs incurred by the dam owner have been clarified.
- Time frames for information requests have been clarified.
- How new large dams are identified and time frames for assessing new dams have been included.
- Definitions for high and medium potential impact dams have been included in the policy.

Greater Wellington's interpretation of the definition of dam in the Building Act 2004 does not include elevated roads or building platforms as they are not constructed to hold back water or used for the storage, control or diversion of water.

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**Submitter:** Ms Siobhan Procter

**Submission Number:** 30

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11446

**Summary:** The submitter supports the proposed Dangerous Dams policy so long as costs are competitive.

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**Response:** Your support for the Dangerous Dams policy has been noted. Greater Wellington will ensure any costs incurred by dam owners are actual and reasonable.

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**Submitter:** H. B. Rennie

**Submission Number:** 31

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11447

**Summary:** The submitter supports the proposed Dangerous Dams policy.

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**Response:** Your support for the Dangerous Dams policy has been noted.

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**Submitter:** Ms L. A. Glasson

**Submission Number:** 32

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11448

**Summary:** The submitter supports the proposed Dangerous Dams policy but notes that heritage values should also be taken into consideration, for example the 2 dams in Zealandia and the one in Korokoro Stream.

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**Response:** Your support for the Dangerous Dams policy has been noted. The policy contains a section on how heritage dams will be considered.

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**Submitter:** M. Mawer

**Submission Number:** 33

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11449

**Summary:** The submitter supports the proposed Dangerous Dams policy so long as money is spent on improving dams rather than just research.

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**Response:** Your support for the Dangerous Dams policy has been noted. In the first instance, Greater Wellington will require the dam owner to undertake work on a dam to ensure it is not dangerous. Where Greater Wellington needs to undertake work to ensure a dam is not dangerous, costs will be recovered from the dam owner.

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**Submitter:** B. Connell

**Submission Number:** 34

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11450

**Summary:** The submitter states that anyone living in proximity of a dam should be notified of any changes its condition.

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**Response:** Your comments regarding the Dangerous Dams policy have been noted. Should Greater Wellington become aware of a dam that is 'dangerous', every effort will be made to inform those people potentially affected by the dam.

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**Submitter:** S. de Vere

**Submission Number:** 35

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11451

**Summary:** The submitter supports the proposed Dangerous Dams policy.

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**Response:** Your support for the Dangerous Dam Policy has been noted.

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**Submitter:** D. Chapman

**Submission Number:** 36

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11452

**Summary:** The submitter supports the proposed Dangerous Dams policy.

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**Response:** Your support for the Dangerous Dams policy has been noted.

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**Submitter:** Mike O'Shaughnessy

**Submission Number:** 37

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11453

**Summary:** The submitter supports the proposed Dangerous Dams policy.

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**Response:** Your support for the Dangerous Dams policy has been noted.

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**Submitter:** Matthew Fitzsimons

**Submission Number:** 38

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11454

**Summary:** The submitter opposes the proposed Dangerous Dams policy because it will lead to future rates increases.

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**Response:** Your opposition to the Dangerous Dams policy has been noted. It is unlikely the Dangerous Dams policy will lead to increase in rates as costs associated with identifying and remediating a dangerous dam will be born by the dam owner.

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**Submitter:** C.S. Butcher

**Submission Number:** 39

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11455

**Summary:** The submitter supports the proposed Dangerous Dams policy.

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**Response:** Your support for the Dangerous Dams policy has been noted.

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**Submitter:** Tony Watts

**Submission Number:** 40

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11456

**Summary:** The submitter supports the proposed Dangerous Dams policy.

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**Response:** Your support for the Dangerous Dams policy has been noted.

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**Submitter:** Robin Gunston

**Submission Number:** 41

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11457

**Summary:** The submitter states that the proposed Dangerous Dams policy should only apply to those dams that would affect another party, not one where any problem would only affect a landowner.

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**Response:** Your comments regarding the Dangerous Dams policy have been noted. The dangerous dam policy does not apply to low potential impact dams, i.e. dams that likely to cause minimal damage and do not endanger any lives.

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**Submitter:** Peter Graham

**Submission Number:** 42

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11458

**Summary:** The submitter supports the proposed Dangerous Dams policy.

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**Response:** Your support for the Dangerous Dams policy has been noted.

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**Submitter:** Hilda M Mendosa

**Submission Number:** 43

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11459

**Summary:** The submitter opposes the proposed Dangerous Dams policy.

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**Response:** Your opposition to the Dangerous Dams policy has been noted.

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**Submitter:** Ms Patricia Venn

**Submission Number:** 44

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11537

**Summary:** The submitter does not want dangerous dams.

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**Response:** Your comments regarding the Dangerous Dams policy have been noted. The aim of the policy is to ensure dangerous dams are dealt with quickly and effectively to minimise any risks.

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**Submitter:** Miss J Waugh

**Submission Number:** 45

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11538

**Summary:** The submitter believes there is no option but to amend the policy and that the changes are obvious ones.

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**Response:** Thank you for your support with regard to the review of the Dangerous Dams Policy.

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**Submitter:** R.F. McStay

**Submission Number:** 46

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11540

**Summary:** The submitter believes it is a good proposal.

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**Response:** Your support for the Dangerous Dams policy has been noted.

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**Submitter:** L.M. Watson

**Submission Number:** 47

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11542

**Summary:** The submitter supports the proposed policy.

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**Response:** Your support for the Dangerous Dams policy has been noted.

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**Submitter:** Ms Sherry Phipps

**Submission Number:** 48

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11544

**Summary:** The submitter asks Greater Wellington's staff to exercise care and diligence.

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**Response:** Your comments regarding the Dangerous Dams policy have been noted. Greater Wellington staff will ensure the policy is implemented in an effective manner.

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**Submitter:** Mr Brian Hooper

**Submission Number:** 49

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11545

**Summary:** The submitter believes a well constructed dam supplying the Kapiti area would provide additional and alternative supply in the event of an earthquake or failure of other Greater Wellington dams.

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**Response:** Your comments regarding the Dangerous Dams policy have been noted. The Dangerous Dams policy is one of a number of dam safety measures included in the Building Act 2004. The dam safety scheme (due to come in to effect July 2012) requires large dam owners to check their dams annually and provide an annual compliance certificate. If this inspection shows any problems with the structure or integrity of the dam, then remedial action will be required to be undertaken.

Any new large dams constructed will be required to comply with the dam safety scheme requirements and the Dangerous Dams policy.

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**Submitter:** Chris Renwick

**Submission Number:** 50

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11546

**Summary:** The submitter believes the policy is long over due. The submitter would like to see something done about dangerous streams such as Waiwhetu and to a lesser degree the Hutt River.

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**Response:** Your support for the Dangerous Dams policy has been noted. With regard to dangerous streams, Greater Wellington has Floodplain Management Plans for the Waiwhetu Stream and the Hutt River. Additionally, Greater Wellington, in conjunction with the Hutt City Council, 'cleaned-up' a section of the Waiwhetu Stream by removing contaminated sediment.

**Submitter:** Jim

**Submission Number:** 52

**Organisation:**

**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

**SummaryID** 11547

**Summary:** The submitter believes all dams should be checked and if need be new dams should be built.

**Response:** Your comments regarding the Dangerous Dams policy have been noted. In 2012 the Dam Safety Scheme (part of the Building Act 2004) comes in to force. The Dam Safety Scheme requires large dam owners to check their dams annually and provide an annual dam compliance certificate. If these inspections show any problems with the structure or integrity of the dam, then remedial action will be required to be undertaken.

**Submitter:** Waverley Jones

**Submission Number:** 53

**Organisation:**

**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

**SummaryID** 11548

**Summary:** The submitter supports Greater Wellington in their review of dangerous dams.

**Response:** Your support for the Dangerous Dams policy has been noted.

**Submitter:** Frank Cook

**Submission Number:** 54

**Organisation:**

**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

**SummaryID** 11549

**Summary:** The submitter has concerns that the policy has certain weaknesses in terms of dams where Greater Wellington is the owner. The submitter believes additional detail is required to lay down a procedural framework and ensure Greater Wellington is not compromised with respect to actions or inactions concerning dams it owns.

**Response:** Your comments regarding the Dangerous Dams policy have been noted. There are a number of other situations where Greater Wellington is the owner/operator as well as the regulator. In all cases, Greater Wellington (as the owner/operator) is treated with the same degree of rigour as any other owner/operator.

The Dangerous Dams policy is one of a number of dam safety measures included in the Building Act 2004. The dam safety scheme (due to come in to effect July 2012) requires dam owners to, among other things, submit an annual dam compliance certificate that has been certified by a 'recognised engineer'. A 'recognised engineer' is an engineer that has been assessed as being competent in the area of dam safety engineering. This independent certification adds an additional robustness to the process.

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**Submitter:** Elizabeth Rose **Submission Number:** 55

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11550

**Summary:** The submitter believes the proposed policy is a good idea.

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**Response:** Your support for the Dangerous Dams policy has been noted.

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**Submitter:** Dr Graeme Lyon **Submission Number:** 56

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11551

**Summary:** The submitter thinks the proposed policy is okay.

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**Response:** Your support for the Dangerous Dams policy has been noted.

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**Submitter:** Ms Geraldine McDowall **Submission Number:** 57

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11575

**Summary:** The submitter is in favour of the proposal. The submitter comments that it appears to be well thought out and reasonable.

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**Response:** Your support for the Dangerous Dams policy has been noted.

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**Submitter:** **Submission Number:** 58

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11576

**Summary:** The submitter believes any water dams should be built or controlled by quality employed staff and not let out to any shark companies.

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**Response:** Response not prepared as no submitter details provided.

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**Submitter:** Mr Philip Smith

**Submission Number:** 59

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11577

**Summary:** The submitter agrees with the proposal.

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**Response:** Your support for the Dangerous Dams policy has been noted.

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**Submitter:** Viv Chapple

**Submission Number:** 60

**Organisation:** Ngaio Progressive Association

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11578

**Summary:** The submitter assumes this policy has arisen out of necessity. The submitter thinks the policy is not clear that dams found wanting will be rectified at the owner's expense.

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**Response:** Your comments regarding the Dangerous Dams policy have been noted. The policy has been amended to provide more clarity around costs incurred by the dam owner.

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**Submitter:** Ms Fiona Knight

**Submission Number:** 61

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11579

**Summary:** The submitter believes the policy is fine in principle, but cannot agree or disagree without further information. The submitter would like to know the number and extent of dangerous dams.

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**Response:** Your comments regarding the Dangerous Dams policy have been noted. Greater Wellington is waiting on the development of regulations defining the parameters of a dangerous dam. This work is being undertaken by the Department of Building and Housing.

Until those parameters are defined, Greater Wellington is unable to determine whether any dams in the Wellington Region fall in to the dangerous category. Changes have been made to the policy to clarify that the policy does not come in to effect until the relevant regulations are in force.

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**Submitter:** Mrs M. A. Coventry

**Submission Number:** 62

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11581

**Summary:** The submitter believes the proposal is money making at the expense of farmers. The submitter thinks there is a double standard. The submitter asks how many dams in the Wairarapa were damaged by the massive floods that inundated the lower North Island? The submitter suggests Greater Wellington investigate our own work for an irrigation dam first. The submitter believes the only dangerous dams for the population are at Te Marua.

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**Response:** Your comments regarding the Dangerous Dams policy have been noted. The policy only applies to 'large dams' and is therefore unlikely to affect most farm dams.

The Stuart Macaskill Lakes at Te Marua have a dam safety surveillance programme to ensure their integrity. The lakes are also covered by the Dangerous Dams policy.

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**Submitter:** G.W. & S.N. Blathwayt

**Submission Number:** 63

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11582

**Summary:** The submitter believes any development of a dams policy requires a substance and immediacy of concern.

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**Response:** Your comments regarding the Dangerous Dams policy have been noted. The Building Act 2004 (the Act) requires all Regional Council's to develop a policy on dangerous dams.

The Act therefore requires Greater Wellington to develop and adopt a policy on Dangerous Dams. The Act also requires the policy to be reviewed every five years. This is a statutory requirement placed on Councils.

Changes to the Act and the introduction of regulations in 2008 required the 2006 policy to updated to incorporate new definitions and requirements.

The dam safety provisions of the Building Act 2004 were introduced as there was no specific legislation in New Zealand covering dam safety. Greater Wellington is unaware of any dams collapsing in the Wellington Region, however, there have been incidents within New Zealand such as the Opuha Dam in 1997, the Ruahihi Canal in 1981 and the Wheao Canal in 1982.

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**Submitter:** Mr Edwin Leong

**Submission Number:** 64

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11583

**Summary:** The submitter believes it is a good policy to safeguard existing infrastructure.

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**Response:** Your support for the Dangerous Policy has been noted.

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**Submitter:** Pat Lakeman

**Submission Number:** 65

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11584

**Summary:** The submitter supports the proposal.

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**Response:** Your support for the Dangerous Dams policy has been noted.

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**Submitter:** Mr Tom C. Wotherspoon

**Submission Number:** 66

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11585

**Summary:** The submitter believes urgent attention must be given to speed up the process.

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**Response:** Your comments regarding the Dangerous Dams policy have been noted. Greater Wellington is waiting on the development of regulations defining the parameters of a dangerous dam. This work is being undertaken by the Department of Building and Housing. Until those parameters are defined, Greater Wellington is unable to determine whether any dams in the Wellington Region fall in to the dangerous category. Changes have been made to the policy to clarify that the policy does not come in to effect until the relevant regulations are in force.

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**Submitter:** Robert McCrone

**Submission Number:** 67

**Organisation:** Capacity Infrastructure Services Ltd

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11652

**Summary:** The submitter agrees with the proactive approach adopted. The submitter seeks three amendments to policy:

1. Remove the term 'potentially' from the policy, or at least not use it as a prefix to the words 'dangerous' and 'flood prone'. The removal of the term will reduce ambiguity and will ensure that the policy is consistent with the definitions provided in the Act.
2. In Paragraph 6.3 replace the term "every attempt" with "will". Given the potential cost implications for the dam owner, Greater Wellington must be required to consult before undertaking assessments. The submitter notes an inconsistency with paragraph 6.4 that states Greater Wellington "will write to and meet with" a dam owner.
3. In Paragraph 6.4 provide greater clarity of the financial responsibilities of Greater Wellington and a dam owner. This is particularly important in the event of a dispute where Greater Wellington's assessment is found to be wrong. If Greater Wellington's assessment is overturned, the submitter believes the costs should be borne by Greater Wellington.

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**Response:** Your comments on the Dangerous Dams policy have been noted. Thank you for taking the time to review the policy so thoroughly and for the constructive feedback on the policy. The following changes have been made to the policy:

- Rewording section 6.2 to remove 'potentially' from the heading and in the text.
- Removed 'make every attempt to' from section 6.3.
- Clarification of costs where disputes arise.

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**Submitter:** Mr Tony Shaw

**Submission Number:** 68

**Organisation:** Utilities and Services Department (GWRC)

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11658

**Summary:** The submitter supports the general approach taken by the policy. The submitter is concerned that the policy relies on standards and criteria to determine whether a dam is dangerous, earthquake-prone or flood-prone, which have not yet been regulated or put into effect. The submitted believes the should not come into effect Dangerous Dams Policy until the regulations come into force and the methodology for dam measurement has been agreed. The submitter recommends the following text is added at the end of Section 1 Introduction or in a separate section similar to that provided below: "The Building (Dam Safety) Regulations 2008, that prescribe the criteria for dam classification, are proposed to come into force on 1st July 2012. Regulations that prescribe the standards and criteria for determining moderate and threshold event earthquakes and floods for medium and high potential impact dams in section 153 of the Act, are yet to be finalised. These standards and criteria are key components of the Dangerous Dams Policy. The Dangerous Dams Policy 2011 will come into effect three months after the Building (Dam Safety) Regulations 2008 come into force, or when regulations prescribing the criteria and standards to determine dangerous, earthquake-prone and flood-prone dams are gazetted, if not gazetted prior." The submitter believes the Building Act 2004, sections 154 to 159 provide Greater Wellington with appropriate mechanisms for action on dams considered dangerous, until the policy comes into effect. The submitter believes it would also useful for the policy to state under Section 2, that Greater Wellington will provide guidance and interpretation to dam owners on the criteria for large dams.

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**Response:** Your comments regarding the Dangerous Dams policy have been noted. The policy has been amended to clarify that the policy does not come in to effect until all the necessary regulations come in to force. As with all councils, Greater Wellington is waiting for these regulations to be developed by the Department of Building and Housing.

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**Submitter:** Roger Hughes , Jennifer Antoinett **Submission Number:** 69

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11661

**Summary:** The submitter believes that given the recent Christchurch earthquake Greater Wellington needs to rigorously inspect the dams in the region to ensure that they meet stringent criteria. The submitter believes Greater Wellington should agree with the Government and its insurers the magnitude and depth of the earthquake that needs to be used to assess the safety of the dams.

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**Response:** Your comments regarding the Dangerous Dams policy have been noted. Greater Wellington is working closely with the Department of Building and Housing to develop regulations that specify the standards and criteria for determining a dangerous dam.



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**Submitter:** Mr Steven Hack

**Submission Number:** 70

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11662

**Summary:** The submitter believes the proposed policy is okay.

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**Response:** Your support for the Dangerous Dam Policy has been noted.

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**Submitter:** Bryon Bishop

**Submission Number:** 71

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11663

**Summary:** The submitter believes there is no need for a formal policy as they are sure that the vast majority of dams belong to Greater Wellington, instead is dams are dangerous just fix them.

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**Response:** In adopting a policy on Dangerous Dams, Greater Wellington is complying with the requirements of the Building Act 2004.

There are approximately 36 large dams in the Wellington Region, nine of which Greater Wellington is responsible for. Greater Wellington ensures the dams it is responsible for are regularly monitored and maintained

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**Submitter:** Mr Hamish Hamish Allordice

**Submission Number:** 72

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11665

**Summary:** The submitter supports Greater Wellington ensuring that dams are kept safe. The submitter would not support the building of new dams - citizens need to be educated to conserve water. The submitter is concerned about that if the pipe to the dams located in Upper Hutt are damaged Wellington will have a real problem.

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**Response:** Your comments regarding the Dangerous Dams policy have been noted.

The Building Act 2004 (the Act) requires Greater Wellington to develop and adopt a policy on Dangerous Dams. The Act also requires the policy to be reviewed every five years. This is a statutory requirement placed on councils.

In 2012 the Dam Safety Scheme (part of the Building Act 2004) comes into force. The Dam Safety Scheme requires large dam owners to check their dams annually and provide an annual dam compliance certificate. If these inspections shows any problems with the structure or integrity of the dam, then remedial action will be required to be undertaken. In the first instance, the dam owner is required to remediate their dam at their expense.

Greater Wellington has a long term strategy for the development of additional water sources as well as an active conservation and demand management programme.

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**Submitter:** Mrs Betty van Gaalen

**Submission Number:** 73

**Organisation:** Kapiti Grey Power Association Inc

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11667

**Summary:** The submitter supports the proposed policy.

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**Response:** Your support for the Dangerous Dams dams policy has been noted.

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**Submitter:** Ms Patricia Kane

**Submission Number:** 74

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11753

**Summary:** The submitter believes the policy is a good idea, especially considering more extreme weather conditions and consequent danger of flooding.

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**Response:** Your support for the Dangerous Dams policy has been noted.

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**Submitter:** Bernie Harris

**Submission Number:** 75

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11754

**Summary:** The submitter believes that common sense demands attention is given to dangerous dams.

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**Response:** Your support for the Dangerous Dams policy has been noted.

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**Submitter:** Ms Philippa Boardman

**Submission Number:** 76

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11755

**Summary:** The submitter believes the policy should definitely be adopted and that it is very necessary given recent earthquake damage.

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**Response:** Your support for the Dangerous Dams policy has been noted.

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**Submitter:** Mrs Rachel Palmer

**Submission Number:** 77

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11756

**Summary:** The submitter would like to know if the policy allows for more dams to be considered for water supply to urban areas.

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**Response:** The Dangerous Dams policy sets out how Greater Wellington will identify dangerous dams and what action we will take to reduce or remove the danger. This particular policy does not address whether more dams are required in the Wellington Region. Greater Wellington has a long term strategy for the development of wholesale water which considers the alternatives for supplying reticulated water.

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**Submitter:** Mrs Janet MacDonald

**Submission Number:** 78

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11757

**Summary:** The submitter believes it sounds like a "Clayton's" policy - you either establish criteria that dams have to meet or you don't. The submitter does not want the policy to be a waste of ratepayers money.

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**Response:** Your comments on the Dangerous Dams policy have been noted. Greater Wellington is required by the Building Act 2004 to adopt a policy on Dangerous Dams and review the policy every five years.

Greater Wellington is waiting on the development of regulations defining the parameters of a dangerous dam. This work is being undertaken by the Department of Building and Housing. The policy has been changed to clarify that the policy does not come in to effect until the relevant regulations are in force.

The majority of costs arising from implementing the policy will be incurred by dam owners.

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**Submitter:** Elizabeth McGruddy

**Submission Number:** 79

**Organisation:** Federated Farmers of New Zealand

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11759

**Summary:** The submitter opposes the proposed definition of "large dams", opposes this definition being used to trigger action at landowner cost; and recommends that further discussion of appropriate policy instruments be deferred pending the outcome of the Department of Building and Housing's Review of Dam Safety.

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**Response:** Your comments regarding the Dangerous Dams policy have been noted.

Greater Wellington is aware the definition of 'large dam' and other aspects of the Dam Safety scheme are under review, however, in the interim Greater Wellington is required to have a Dangerous Dams policy in place.

The policy uses the definition of 'large dam' as the trigger for a dangerous dam, as this is what the Building Act 2004 specifies.

It is envisaged that when the Dam Safety review is complete, any new definition of 'large dam' will replace the current definition. It is likely there will be no other changes necessary to the policy.

The policy has been amended to indicate that any changes to the Building Act 2004 (in particular, changes to the definition of 'large dam') will not require the policy to be reviewed. New definitions will simply replace the existing.

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**Submitter:** Rick Mooney

**Submission Number:** 80

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11826

**Summary:** The submitter supports the proposed Dangerous Dams policy.

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**Response:** Your support for the Dangerous Dams policy has been noted.

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**Submitter:** Andrew

**Submission Number:** 81

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11828

**Summary:** The submitter requests that work to fix the dams be paid for with targeted rates.

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**Response:** Your comments regarding the Dangerous Dams policy have been noted. In the first instance, the dam owner will be required to carry out any work. Should Greater Wellington be required to carry out any work, cost will be recovered from the dam owner.

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**Submitter:** Louise Cleghorn

**Submission Number:** 82

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11866

**Summary:** The submitter believes the policy is too much red tape.

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**Response:** Your comments regarding the Dangerous Dam policy have been noted. Greater Wellington is required by the Building Act 2004 to adopt a policy on Dangerous Dams.

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**Submitter:** C Walker

**Submission Number:** 83

**Organisation:**

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**Topic:** Dangerous Dams Policy

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**SummaryID** 11867

**Summary:** The submitter presumes this is a safety first policy and that none of the region's dams are in need of the remedial process.

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**Response:** Your comments regarding the Dangerous Dams policy have been noted. The policy, together with the Building Act 2004 Dam Safety regime, are designed to ensure dams are monitored regularly to minimise risks for people, property and the environment.

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