Auckland Council Plan Change 120

Waitītiko-Meola Catchment Priorities

Revised Memorandum: 22 November 2026

On behalf of Councillor Julie Fairey, Trixi Pavey of SPICE requested a "with 5-10 priority requests for action that you would like council to take" on 27 October 26. On 19 November this was revised by SPICE as "Sandringham and Balmoral Recovery, Community Priorities", and it included STEPS' 4 November memo.

STEPS has now revised our priority ordered request list, in consultation with an experienced Stormwater Engineer who is very familiar with the Meola Catchment.

Our first change on 4 November was to propose the SPICE list for Cr Julie Fairey include:

- "Daylighting (and regenerating) our local awa - Waitītiko / Meola Creek"

We recommended that Waitītiko awa stream regeneration should be incorporated within the climate and stormwater mitigation projects as a high priority.

This action is now reflected in the SPICE Recovery Priorities attachment (19 November).

Our next changes following feedback, are to specify enhancements and upgrades to the often-inadequate stormwater infrastructure in Waitītiko-Meola catchment. Viz use open channel stormwater approaches, separate combined sewers, and improve "soakage" and other existing stormwater assets.

Please see our priority list revision for Auckland Council below.

STEPS is willing to meet to discuss the underlying rationale for the priority order requests submitted, and the Society would be happy to clarify further the various engineering and other factors that have been taken into account in compiling the list. We suggest that a meeting between experts already familiar with the issues involved could be helpful. We would welcome Auckland Council Healthy Waters staff if Councillor Fairey needs further clarification.

STEPS MISSION: "Protect the Waitītiko-Meola Creek ecosystem and enhance its native biodiversity for the climate and the community by connecting and empowering people."

Elizabeth Walker

Co-Chair St Lukes Environmental Protection Society Inc.

References FYI

-STEPS' September PC 120 submission recommended that future daylighting of the pipe between Alberton Ave and Norgrove Ave is essential, and requested that the creek path should not be upzoned. https://www.meolacreek.org.nz/2026/09/25/steps-submissions-on-auckland-plan-change-120/

- There is a stormwater conference paper available which includes regenerating/ daylighting Meola Creek. https://www.meolacreek.org.nz/2026/06/25/daylighting-meola-creek-morphum-environmental/

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Waitītiko-Meola Catchment Priorities

Priority Requests for Auckland Council Action: 22 November 2026

1. Halting intensification plans in our area until adequate piped or open channel stormwater infrastructure is in place.
2. Utilising land from category 3 properties to expand local blue-green networks, particularly wetlands, sponge gardens, and increased community green spaces.
3. Develop and action climate mitigation and adaptation plans for AELB and AC Healthy Waters Funding, for catchment level stormwater mitigation projects, as part of the blue-green networks program. Priority actions include: regenerating and daylighting Meola Creek 'from mountain to sea'; constructing bunds in Watea/ Taumata reserves; and promoting wetland planting.
4. A flood and aquifer/stream hydrology responsive consenting process for any property development proposed in our area.
5. Introduce targeted development fees that feed directly into improving local stormwater management.
6. Enable the development and communication of transparent floodwater asset mapping, measurements and monitoring which includes ground water/aquifer levels.
7. Undertake improvement to- and better maintenance- of current stormwater assets, e.g. upgrading the various detention basins such as those beneath Maungawhau and Balmoral School fields to ensure they are working effectively. Continue to separate combined sewers by removing stormwater from them, and investigate improvements to public and private soakage, and other existing stormwater assets.
8. Formulate and implement tools to log/record stormwater failings and issues in areas which flood during frequent heavy rain and major flooding events.

STEPS VISION:

"To make Waitītiko-Meola Creek a thriving eco-corridor from Ōwairaka to the Waitematā"

St Lukes Environmental Protection Society

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