

Kaihū River Working Group

Wednesday 24 September 2025 at 10:30 am

AGENDA

Kaihū River Working Group Agenda

Meeting to be held in the SEED
Fosters Arcade
42 Victoria Street
on Wednesday 24 September 2025, commencing at 10:30 am

Please note: working parties and working groups carry NO formal decision-making delegations from council. The purpose of the working party/group is to carry out preparatory work and discussions prior to taking matters to the full council for formal consideration and decision-making. Working party/group meetings are open to the public to attend (unless there are specific grounds under LGOIMA for the public to be excluded).

MEMBERSHIP OF THE KAIHŪ RIVER WORKING GROUP

Chairperson, NRCCouncillor John Blackwell

KDC Councillor, Ash Nayyar	Area 1 Representative, John Murray	Area 2 Representative, Bryce Wyatt
Area 3 Representative, John Greensmith	Te Roroa Representative, Snow Tane	Te Houhanga Marae Representative, Cedric Beazley

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TITLE: **Record of Actions – 8 May 2025**


From: Haylee Labelle, Personal Assistant Community Resilience

Authorised by Louisa Gritt, Group Manager - Community Resilience, on 18 September
Group Manager/s: 2025

Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary

The purpose of this report is to present the Record of Actions of the last meeting (attached) held on 8 May 2025 for review by the meeting.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Attachment 1: Record of Actions - 8 May 2025 [↓](#) 

Kaihū River Working Group
8 May 2025

Kaihū River Working Group Record of Actions

Meeting held in the SEED
Fosters Arcade
42 Victoria Street, Dargaville
on Thursday 8 May 2025, commencing at 10:30 am

Tuhinga/Present:

Chairperson, NRC Councillor John Blackwell
KDC Councillor, Ash Nayyar
Area 1 Representative, John Murray

I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

Full Meeting

NRC Rivers Manager, Joseph Camuso
NRC Rivers and Natural Hazards Officer, Nicole Basher
NRC GM Community Resilience, Louisa Gritt (online)
NRC Regional Climate Adaptation Programme Lead, Rakesh Pinao (online)
Colin McDonald

Part Meeting

NRC Biosecurity Specialist - Pest Plants, Nancy Chaves (arrived 10.38am)
Te Roroa Representative, Sharon Murray (arrived 10.39am)
Robert Wade (arrived 10.43am)

The meeting commenced at 1030am.

Ngā Mahi Whakapai/Housekeeping (Item 1.0)

Ngā Whakapahā/Apologies (Item 2.0)

Cr Craw, Cr Shortland, NRC Secretariat Haylee Labelle, Alayne Fitness, Kieran Gilmour, John Greensmith, Snow Tane

Record of Actions – 21 November 2024 (Item 3.1)

Presented by: Cr Blackwell

Agreed action points:

- **Cr Blackwell to contact Area Representative 2 to confirm his intentions of stepping down from the working group.**

Secretarial notes: It was raised that there are more apologies than those present. Cr Nayyar queried the non-attendance of NRC councillors and wants to ensure an option is available for members to join virtually for better accessibility. It was confirmed that virtual attendance by way of MS Teams is a current option that is provided and the link is included on the calendar invitation sent to all invitees. MS Teams is the way in which two attendees were able to join and participate in today's meeting

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Receipt of Action Sheet (Item 3.2)

Presented by: Cr Blackwell

Agreed action points:

- NIL

Secretarial notes: Comments on the size of the font for the action sheet (hard to read). Cr Nayyar raised concerns about silting of Wairoa, regardless of the tributary, causing grief to locals. Cr Nayyar asked if the KDC floodgates operating as they should. Floodgates are not managed by NRC and therefore while we would assume they are operational, this is something KDC would need to provide comment on.

Kaihu River Working Group - Presentation (Item 3.3)

Presented by: NRC Rivers Manager

Agreed action points:

- **NRC Rivers Manager to ascertain if NRC manages from the outside of the floodgate to the channel**
- **NRC Biosecurity Specialist - Pest Plants to obtain quotes for spraying California bullrush once a control area has been determined by the committee. Until a control area is established only ball park figures and recommendations can be suggested.**
- **NRC Rivers and Natural Hazards Officer to update number 1b under the proposed works season budget so that \$30,000 is allocated to weed spraying as a whole, not just MWR.**
- **NRC Rivers and Natural Hazards Officer to email the findings of the Kaihu cross sectional survey to the working group (once received by the consultant and analysed in-house).**
- **Rivers team to carry out drone flight before November**

Secretarial notes: Questions were raised relating to clear communication on the scope/scale of the machine cleaning. Machine cleaning should be done based on conditions, not a specific month, to ensure ground conditions are suitable for the work. Colin wanted it noted that the contractor made a mess i.e. he dumped silt where he was operating. He also stopped short (whether it was due to budget or error) and did not clean the canal outlet. NRC Rivers Manager has encouraged landowners to talk to operator, or contact NRC, when they are on site if able to address these concerns before the machine moves off site.

NRC Biosecurity Specialist – Pest Plants talked about MWR to give an overview of the worked completed last year and why an autumn control round was not carried out, and she also talked about the program of work she is involved in which is separate to the NRC/Kaihu work. She was prepared to do an autumn control round along the Kaihu river but was instructed not to by landowners along the area of control. It takes a month of work planning to set up the spray operation before control work can be undertaken per control round. MWR spray can be worked into the planning schedule going forward, but it needs to be completed consistently and as an ongoing long-term commitment moving forward. It was asked if control work could still be undertaken this autumn on the areas controlled last year, it was said it was no longer possible due to the insignificant lead time necessary to plan

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8 May 2025

ops. Spring treatment will be possible, but autumn treatment is for favourable in comparison to spring treatment.

Important to note that spraying from this budget is for control not eradication.

Te Roroa representative voiced concerns about rock and poplar trees upstream in the river. Bullrush is of concern along the Kaihu, starting above the marae and heading upstream.

The annual budget is not enough for all the work we are wanting to achieve. Discussed rates increase that would have to go into the long term plan.

Any other business (Item 3.4)

Presented by: Cr Blackwell

Agreed action points:

- **NRC Rivers Manager to confirm that the Kaihu rate is tied to CPI**
- **NRC Rivers Manager to contact Te Roroa representative to discuss her concerns around the tributaries of the Kaihu and the concern of rocks and poplars located upstream.**

Secretarial notes: It could not be determined whether the area of concern Te Roroa has falls within the Kaihu's targeted rating area. Cr Nayyar would like water restrictions to be softened. He suggested that NRC and KDC work together to moderate the levels at which restrictions kick in to avoid unnecessary costs for the community. Water level consent and restrictions are something managed by NRC's Compliance team, not the Rivers team

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The meeting concluded at 12.10pm

TITLE: **Receipt of Action Sheet**

From: Haylee Labelle, Personal Assistant Community Resilience

Authorised by Louisa Gritt, Group Manager - Community Resilience, on 18 September
Group Manager/s: 2025

Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary

The purpose of this report is to enable the meeting to receive the current action sheet.

Nga mahi tutohutia / Recommendation

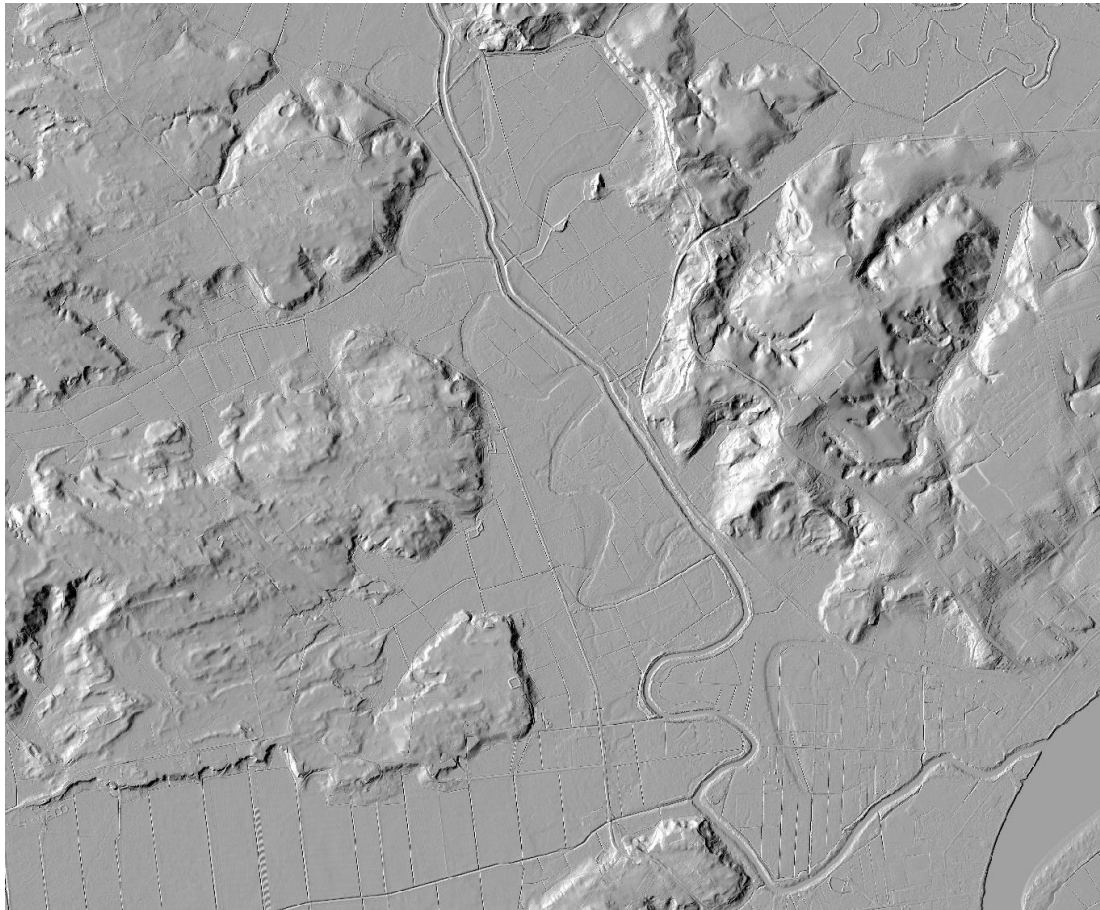
That the action sheet be received.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Attachment 1: Action Sheet [↓](#) 

Kaihū River Working Group - Action Tracker

#	Date of meeting	Agenda item number	KRWG action	Responsible staff	Status	Notes
1	8/05/2025	3.1 - Record of Actions	Contact Area Representative 2 to confirm his intentions of stepping down from the working group.	Cr Blackwell	Completed	1/9/25 Confirmed that Bryce Wyatt wishes to step down from the working group - membership to be updated accordingly
2	8/05/2025	3.3 Kaihu River Working Group - Presentation	Ascertain if NRC manages from the outside of the floodgate to the channel	NRC Rivers Manager/Officer	Completed	4/06/2025 - Met with KDC online on 3rd June. Determined that regarding KDC owned floodgates (not privately owned); KDC to maintain the physical floodgate structure, including flaps, headwalls, wingwalls and culvert barrels. And NRC to maintain the outlet channels from the floodgates to the river channel including the control of vegetation in and around the outlet channels and floodgates structures.
3	8/05/2025	3.3 Kaihu River Working Group - Presentation	Obtain quotes for weed spraying	NRC Biosecurity Specialist - Pest Plant	Completed	24/07/25 - Nancy confirmed she had obtained quotes for helicopter spray work of Californian bullrush (CB). Northland helicopters will charge \$2500 per hour for spray work and she estaimtes would take an hour or 2 depending on the area, but has not recieved the areas of concern from committee members as discussed at the May meeting 2025 meeting. Also noting that the risk of things going wrong during calibration with a helicopter is a lot larger and CB is also easily treatable and is something farmers could do from land. She has also gone through the procurement process with Northland Helicopters and got the sign off from HR for them to be used should this piece of work proceed.
4	8/05/2025	3.3 Kaihu River Working Group - Presentation	Update number 1b under the proposed works season budget so that \$30,000 is allocated to weed spraying as a whole, not just MWR.	NRC Rivers & Natural Hazards Officer	Completed	13/5/25 - The proposed budget in Sharepoint has been updated, the change will be reflected in the budget at the next meeting
5	8/05/2025	3.3 Kaihu River Working Group - Presentation	Email the findings of the Kaihu cross sectional survey to the working group (once received by the consultant and analysed in-house).	NRC Rivers & Natural Hazards Officer	In progress	20/05/25 - Data received by surveryors 01/09/25 - Will present at the meeting as opposed to sending via email.
6	8/05/2025	3.3 Kaihu River Working Group - Presentation	Ensure that the NRC Rivers team carry out drone flight before November	NRC Rivers & Natural Hazards Officer	In progress	24/07/25 - NZ lowest high-tides according to NIWA are 30th Sep - 2nd Oct and 30 - 31st Oct. Need to assess against Northland west coast to book in potential (weather permitting) dates 01/09/25 - Will carry out flight in October, we want the river as low as can get it, ideally this would be even later in the year i.e December. Once MetService releases Dargaville Low Tide times for October, will book in a date and a backup date.
7	8/05/2025	3.4 Any other business	Confirm that the Kaihu rate is tied to CPI	NRC Rivers Manager	Completed	14/5/25 - Response received from NRC Finance: Yes and no. We don't automatically adjust the rate up for inflation like we do for our general targeted rates, but it is adjusted based on the spend that has occurred. So if costs increase on product due to inflation, then this would feed into the rate.
8	8/05/2025	3.4 Any other business	Contact Te Roroa representative to discuss her concerns around the tributaries of the Kaihu and the concern of rocks and poplars located upstream.	NRC Rivers Manager	Completed	15/5/25 Charles Chaves reaching out to Sharon to arrange a site visit 20/05/25 - Charles had meet with Sharon on site to dicuss concerns and reported back to Joe. Determined that the trees and rocks are not of concern.



Kaihu River Working Group Meeting

24th September
2025

Kaihu River Financial Report

5003

Description	2024-2025			2025-2026		
	Full year Budget	Actual	Variance	YTD August Budget	YTD August Actual	YTD Variance
Operating Expenses						
Consultants	0	110	(110)	0	0	0
Valuation Consultants	5,378	5,300	78	924	907	17
Contractors	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stopbank & River Schemes works	0	0	0	0	0	0
River Clearance Works	63,131	30,740	32,391	0	274	(274)
Advertising - Statutory Notices	366	0	366	0	0	0
Sundry Supplies	0	33	(33)	0	0	0
Rate Collection Cost - TA's	1,450	1,103	347	249	250	(1)
Labour Charged	0	2,776	(2,776)	0	0	0
Vehicle Running Costs Charged	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sub Total	70,325	40,061	30,263	1,173	1,431	(257)
Operating Income						
Rates Revenue	69,452	65,081	4,371	11,575	11,113	463
Contract Revenue	0	0	0	0	0	0
TLA Share of Costs	0	4,361	(4,361)	0	0	0
Interest - Internal	0	2,263	(2,263)	0	52	(52)
Sub Total	69,452	71,705	(2,253)	11,575	11,165	410
Net operating Surplus / (Deficit)	(873)	31,644	(32,516)	10,402	9,734	668
Capital expenditure	0	0	0	0	0	0
Less depreciation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net operating and capital surplus / (Deficit)	(873)	31,644	(32,516)	10,402	9,734	668
Surplus / (Deficit) carried forward	89,061	42,056	47,005	51,299	73,699	(22,400)
Surplus / (Deficit) at balance date	88,188	73,699	14,489	61,701	83,434	(35,187)

PROPOSED WORKS SEASON BUDGET

No.	Item	Estimated Cost
1	Confluence to Parore Road Bridge	
1a	Machine cleaning of right bank from Duck Creek to Parore Road Bridge OR left bank from 73 Beach Road to Parore Road Bridge*	\$ 20,000
1b	Spraying of weeds (such as Manchurian Wild Rice and Bullrush) on the left and right banks from the Confluence to Parore Road Bridge	\$ 30,000
2	Parore Road Bridge to the Bottleneck	
2a	Machine cleaning sections from Parore Road Bridge to Bottleneck on an as needed basis	\$ 8,000
3	North of the Bottleneck	
3a	Tree Removal Upper Kaihu as needed	\$ 10,000
	Total	\$ 68,000

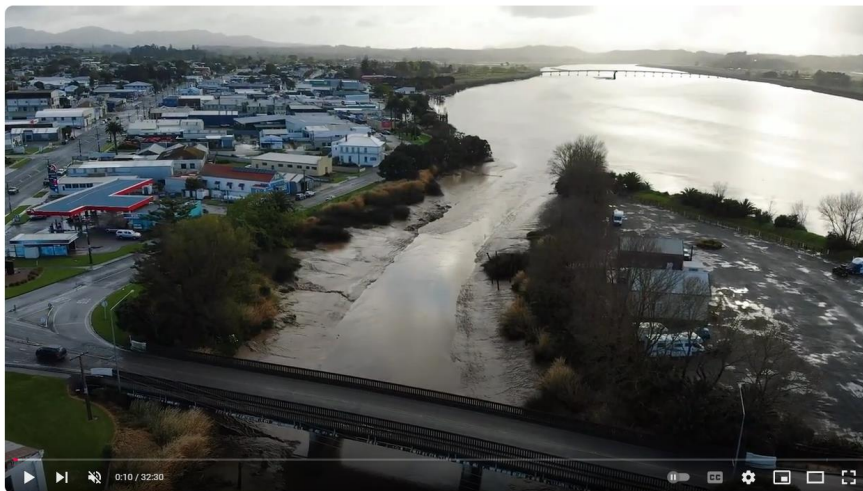
* Each bank will be cleaned on a biennial basis (every second year).

2025-2026 Works Programme

- 2025 Drone Flight
- MWR and California Bull Rush Spring Control
- Machine Cleaning of True Right-Hand Bank from Duck Creek to Parore Road Bridge
- Machine cleaning on an as needed basis from Parore Road Bridge to the Bottleneck

2025 Drone Flight

- Confluence of the Northern Wairoa to Rotu Bottleneck
- Scheduled for the week starting 20th October to align with early morning low tides, subject to weather conditions.

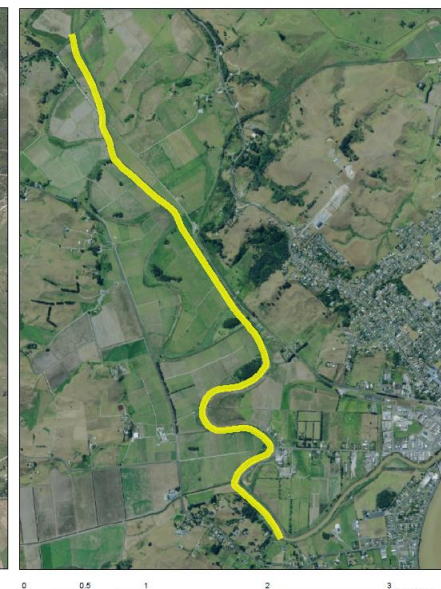


2024 Flight: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kygV4ojTUI8>

2025-2026 Works Update: Machine Cleaning

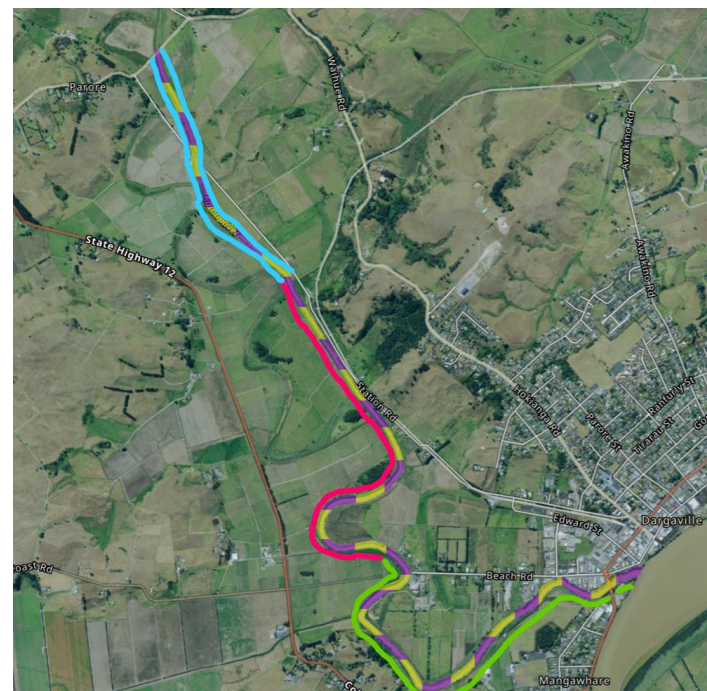
Late 2025/Early 2026 (depending on ground conditions):

- Machine cleaning along the true right-hand bank of the Kaihu river from 73 Beach Road to Duck Creek (yellow line). Budget \$20,000.
- Cleaning sections of the Kaihu River between Parore Road Bridge to the Rotu Bottleneck on as needed basis (orange line). Budgeted \$8,000.
- Tender in October/November 2025
- Require a new consent for the above works (process underway).



- \$5000 for Californian Bull rush control
- \$10,000 for partial control of MWR in November 2025
- \$15,000 for further control work of MWR in Autumn 2026

Any questions will be taken back to Nancy to answer and will be distributed to the group via email.



Other Business: Northern Wairoa Flood Model

WELLINGTON, February 5.
A Dargaville message states that a
torrential downpour took place at
Northern Wairoa on Friday night and
on Saturday the river was in heavy
flood. The Kaihu Creek drainage area
is under water and the traffic bridge
has been carried away.
Two young Maoris were drowned and
a large quantity of stock destroyed on
the Wairoa settlements, which are now
under water.
The fatalities now total six.
At Kirikopuni the store is flooded to
the roof and valuable stock has been
drowned.
Farmers will suffer severely.
Heavy rain again fell this morning.
Dargaville is not affected so far.
Fishes are expected down to-morrow.

6 Feb 1917

Current models:

Lower Kaihu model, 2016

Regionwide model, 2021

Ruawai model, 2024



Kaihu catchment

1% AEP (1 in 100 year) rainfall

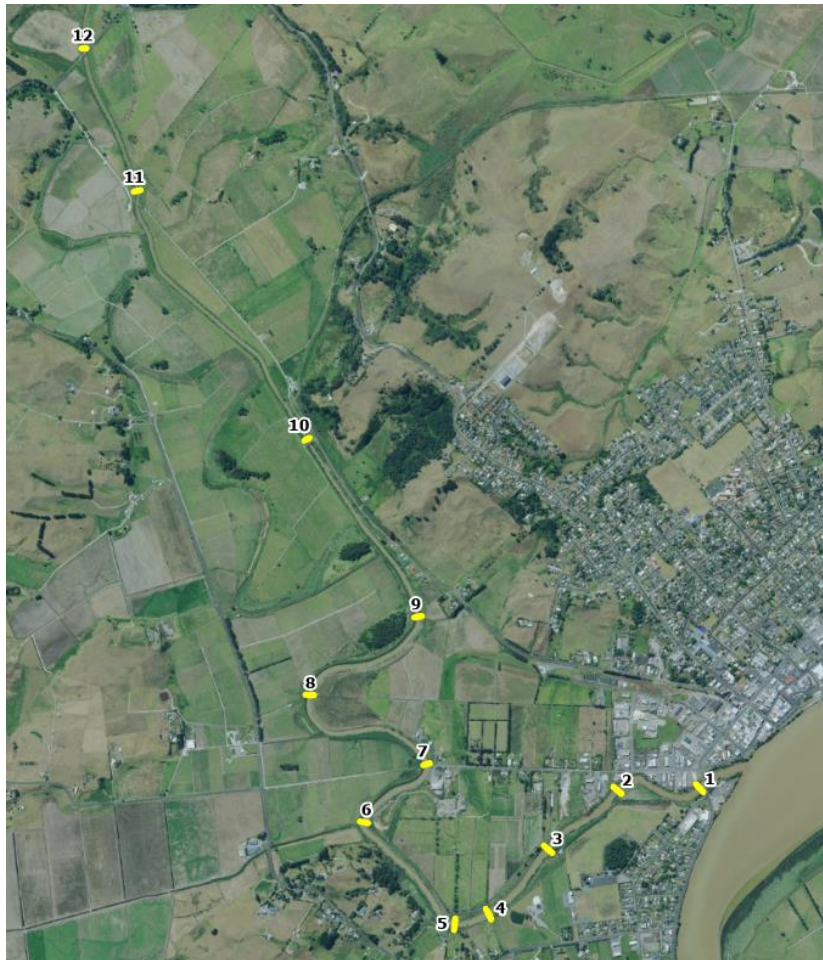
with 50% AEP (1 in 2 year) storm surge



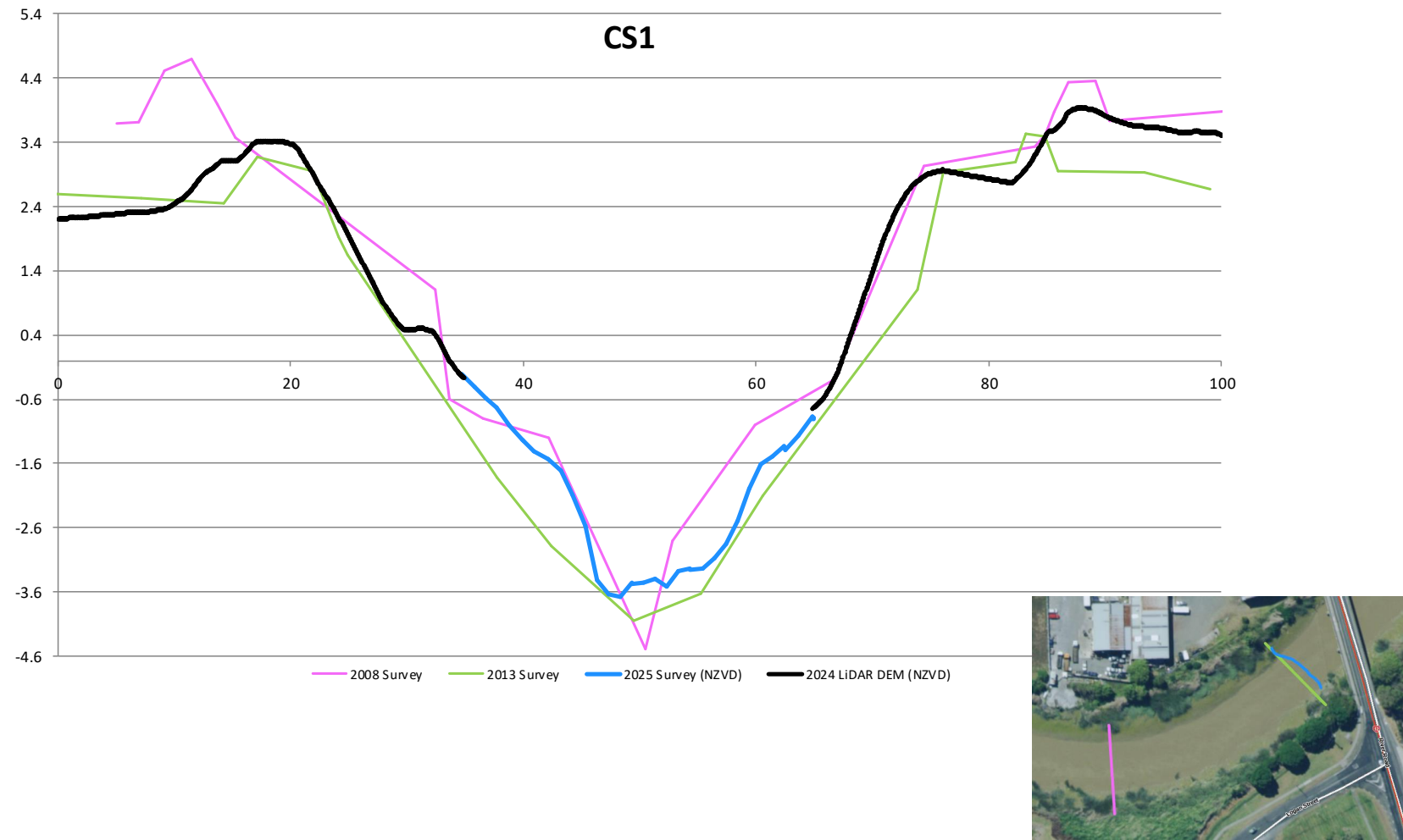
Next steps: Ground truthing

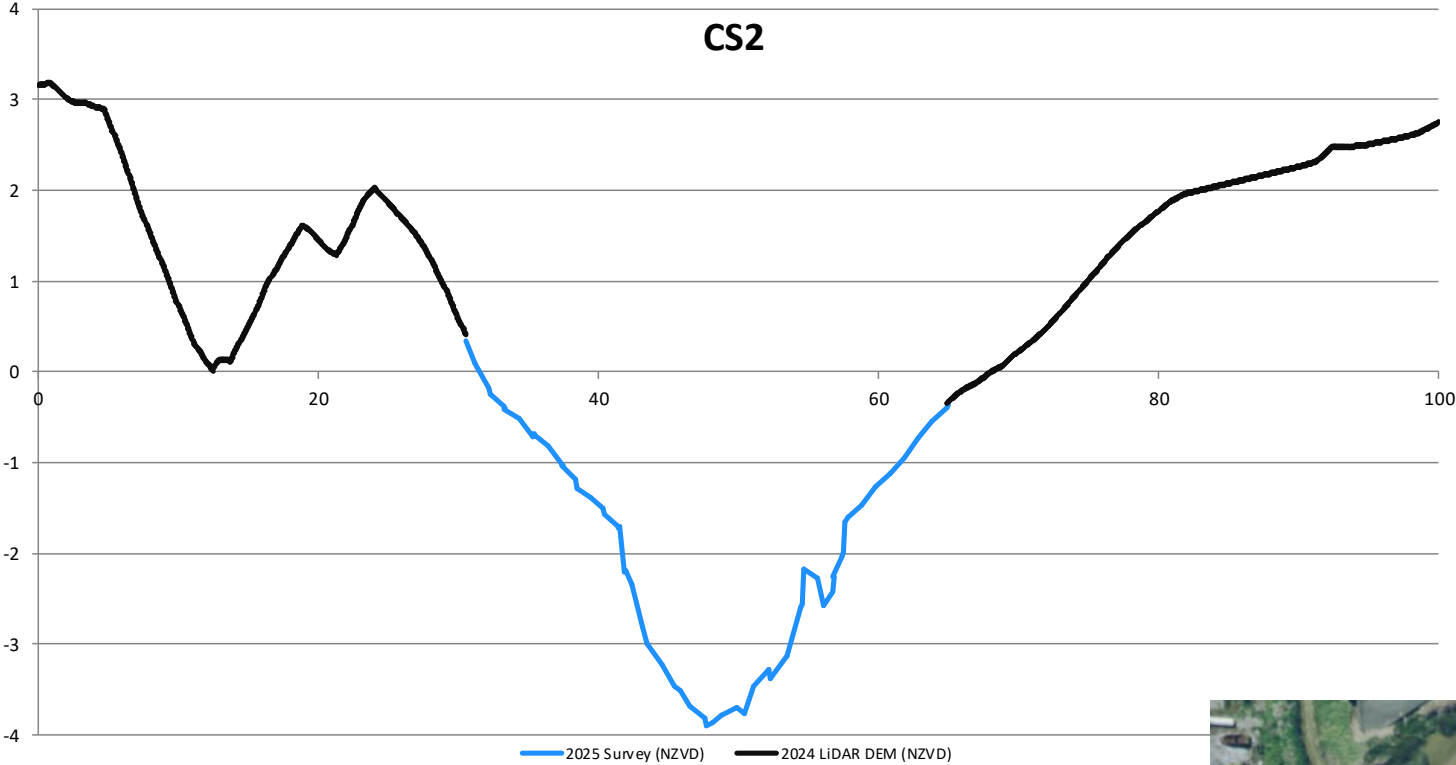
Does the model align with lived experience?

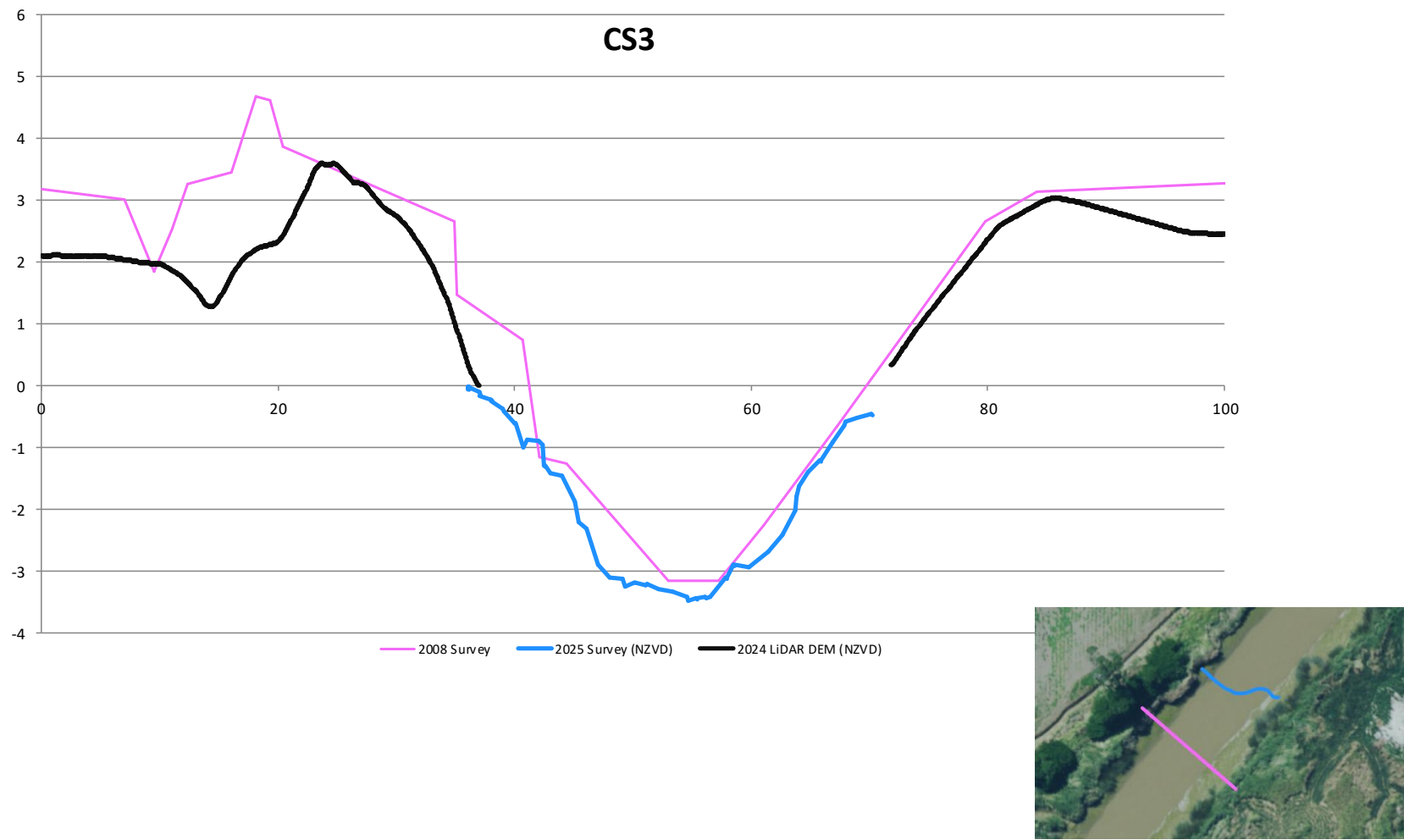
Email: sarahg@nrc.govt.nz

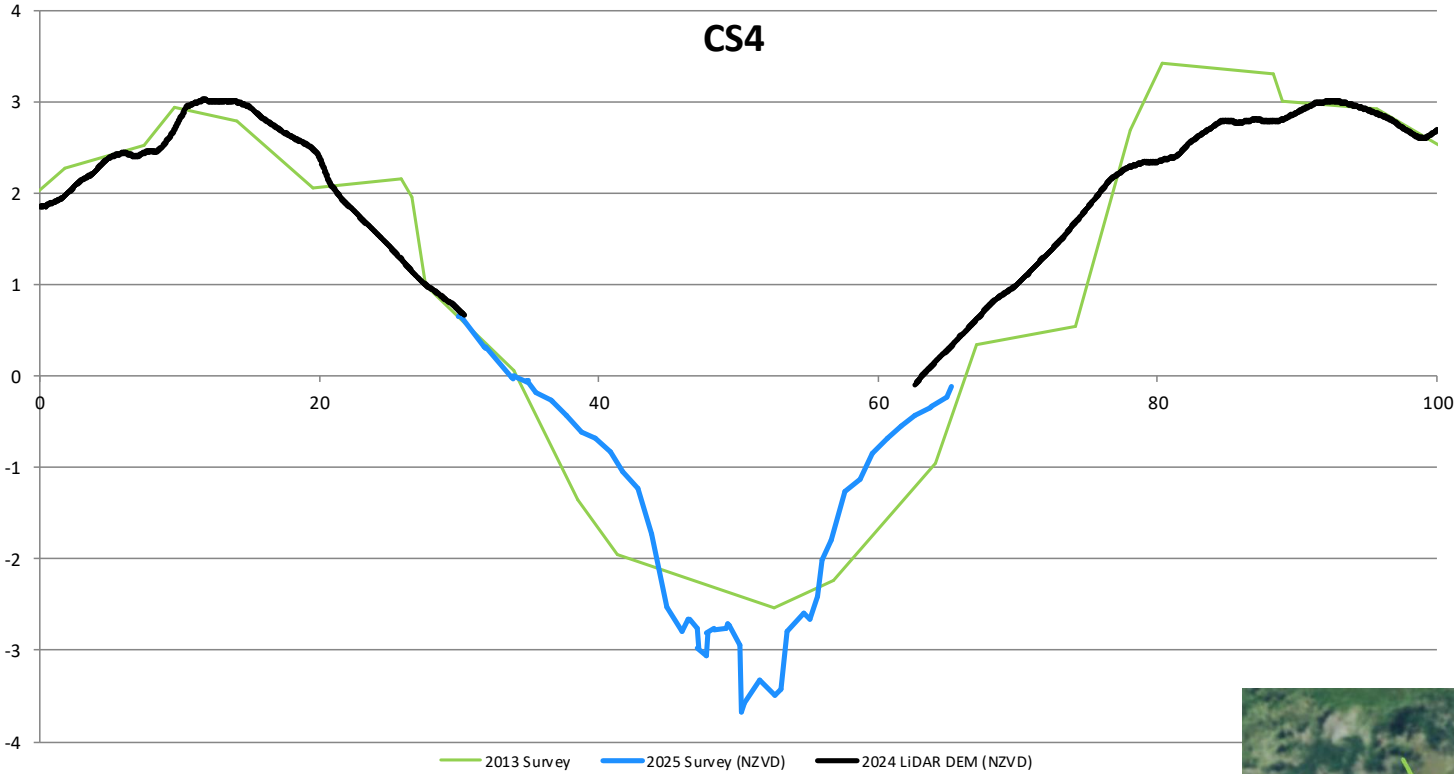


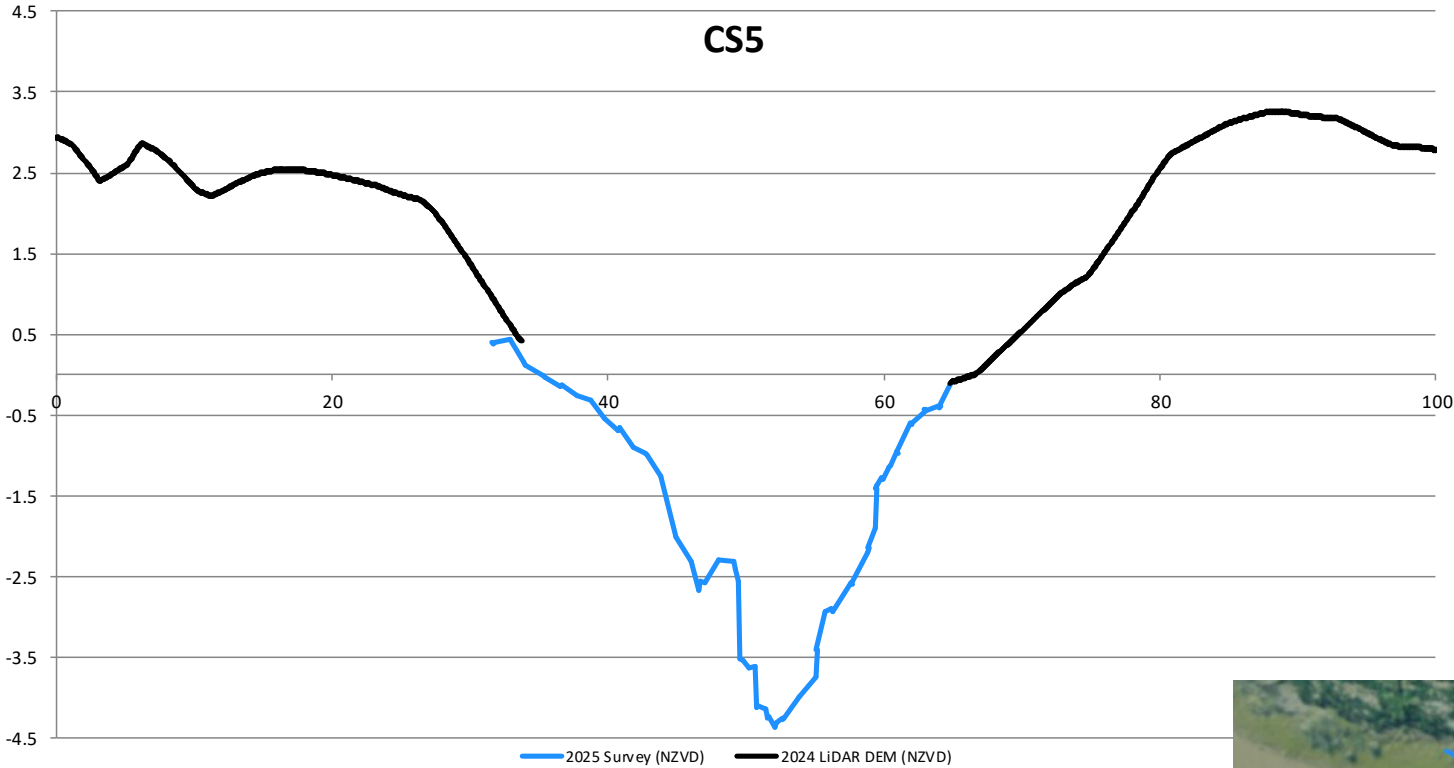
Other Business: Kaihu Cross-Sectional Survey Results

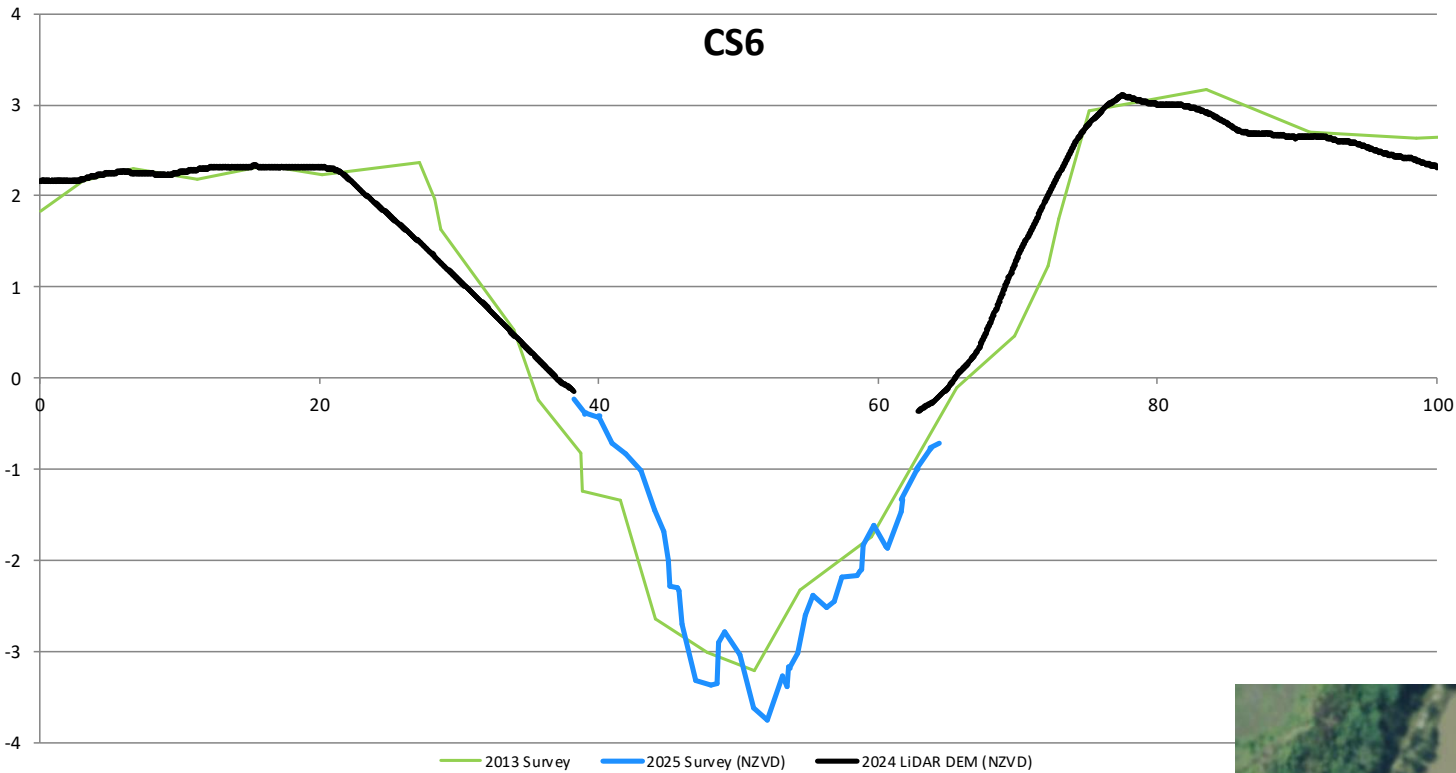


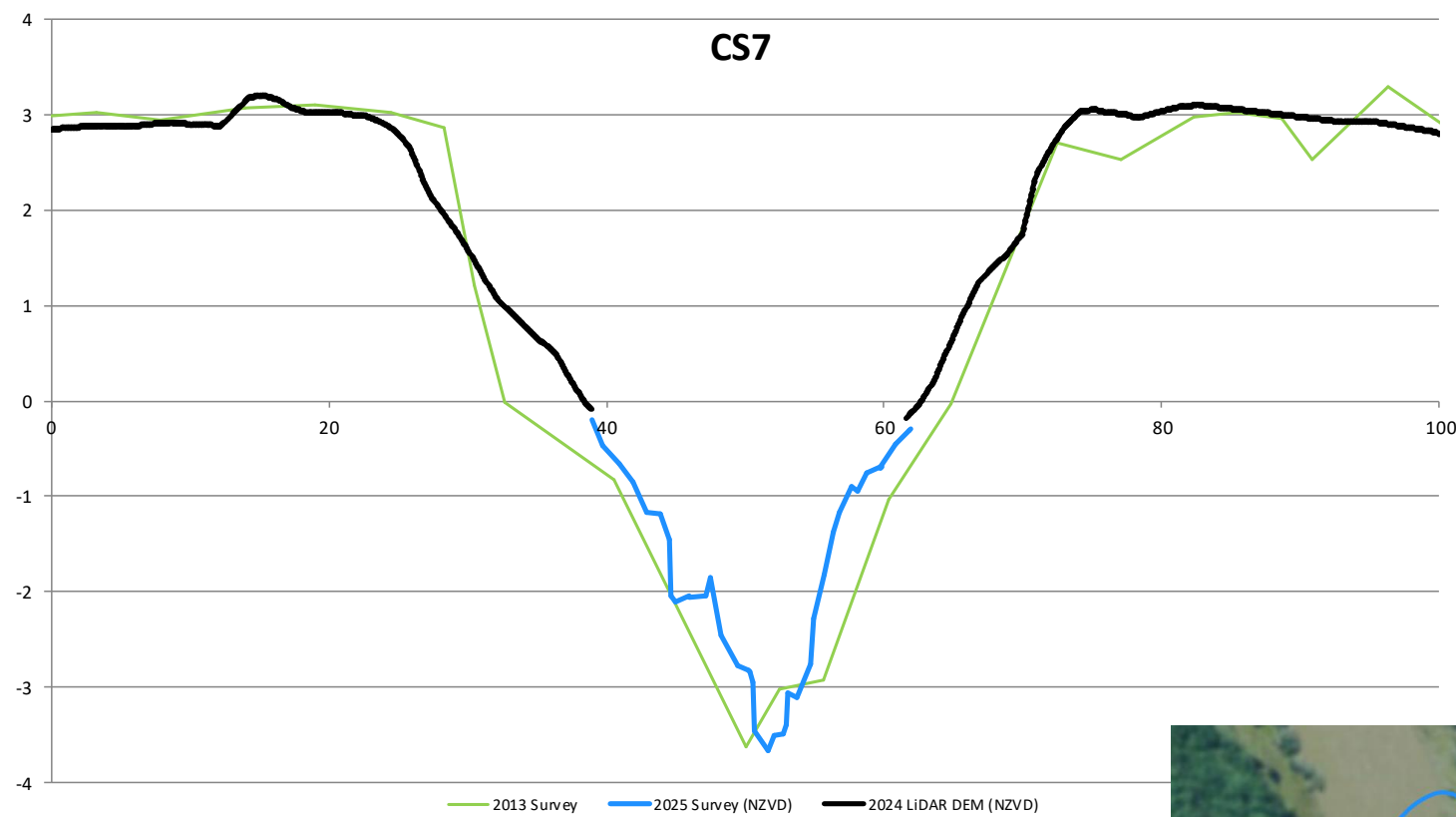


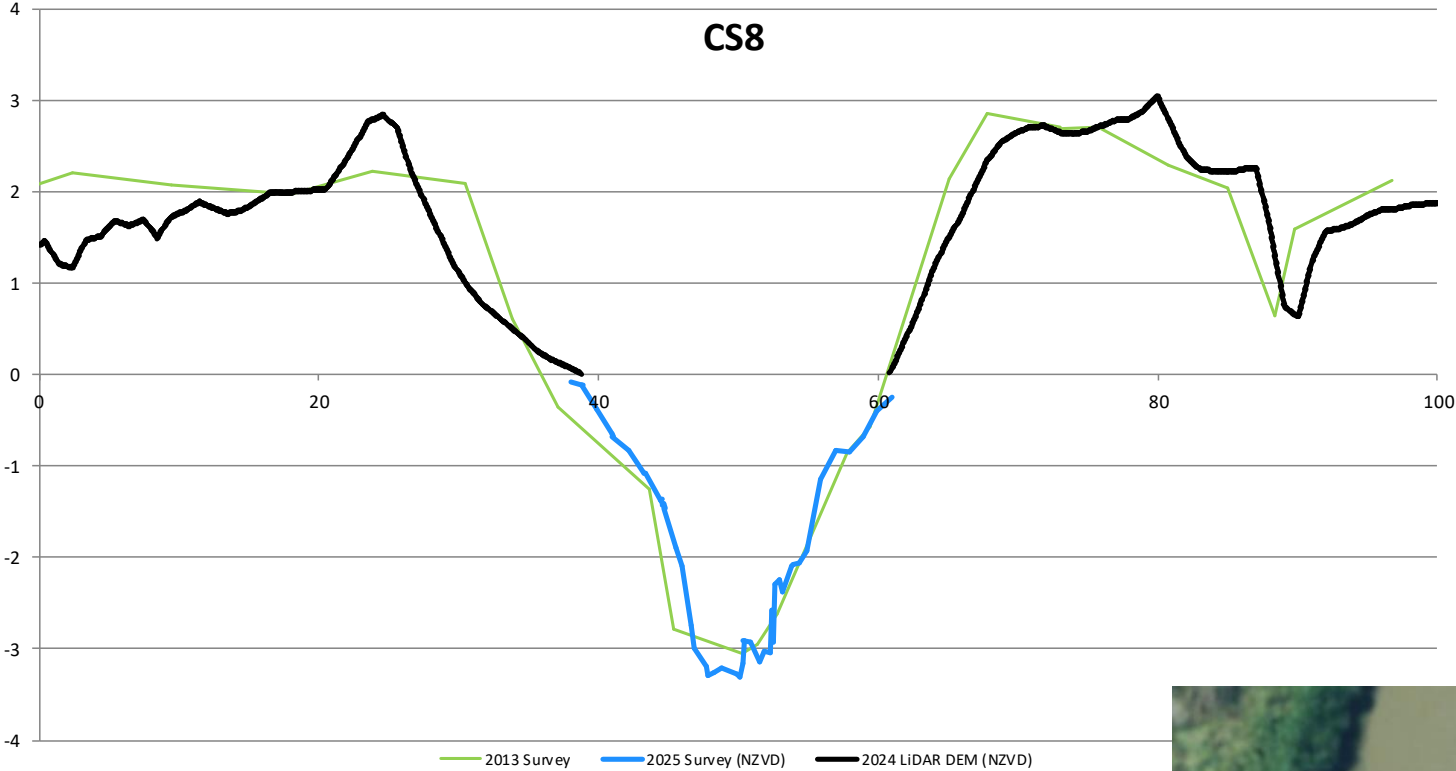


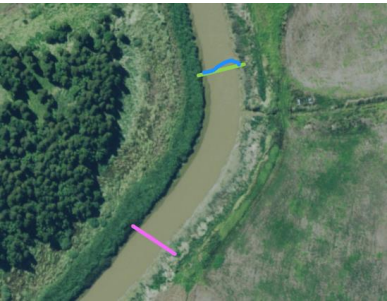
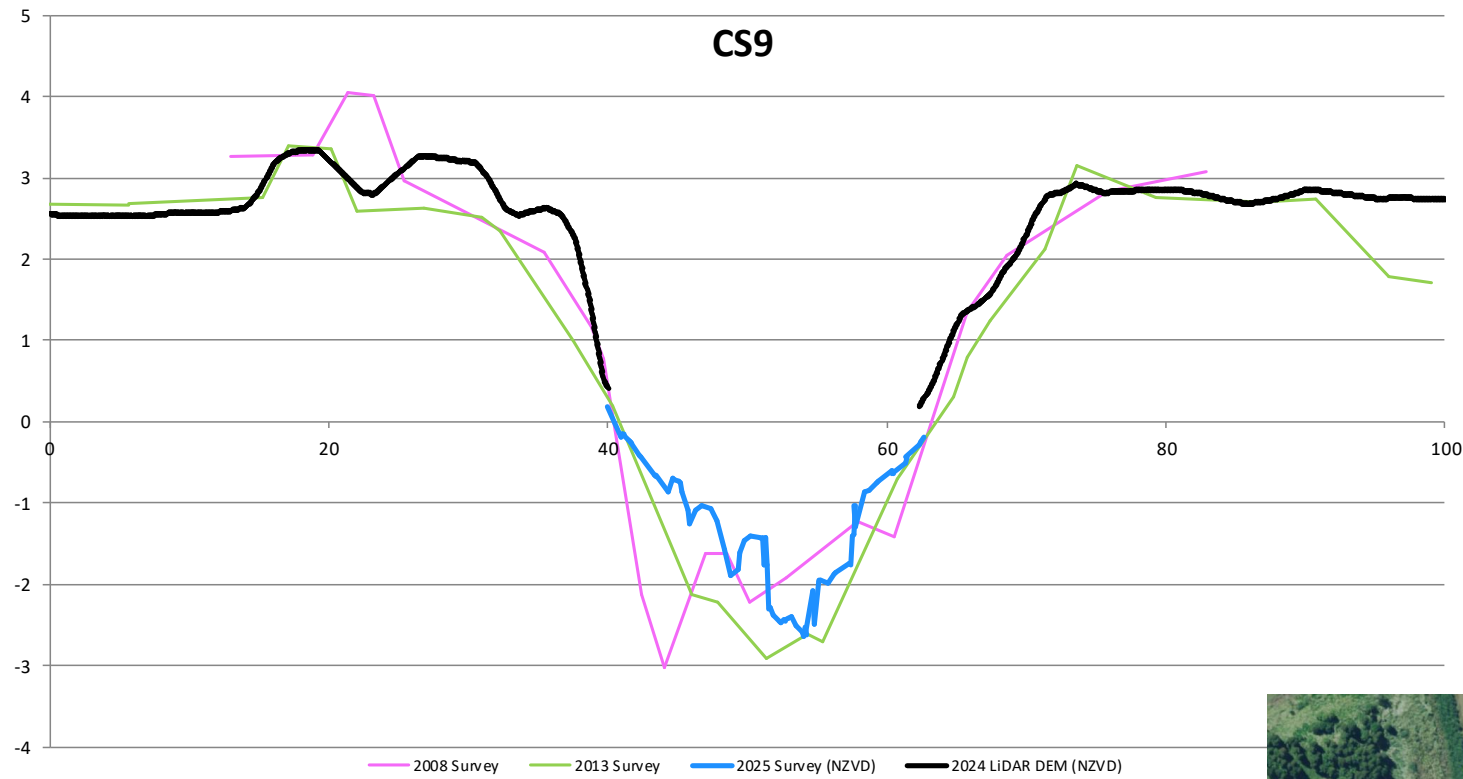


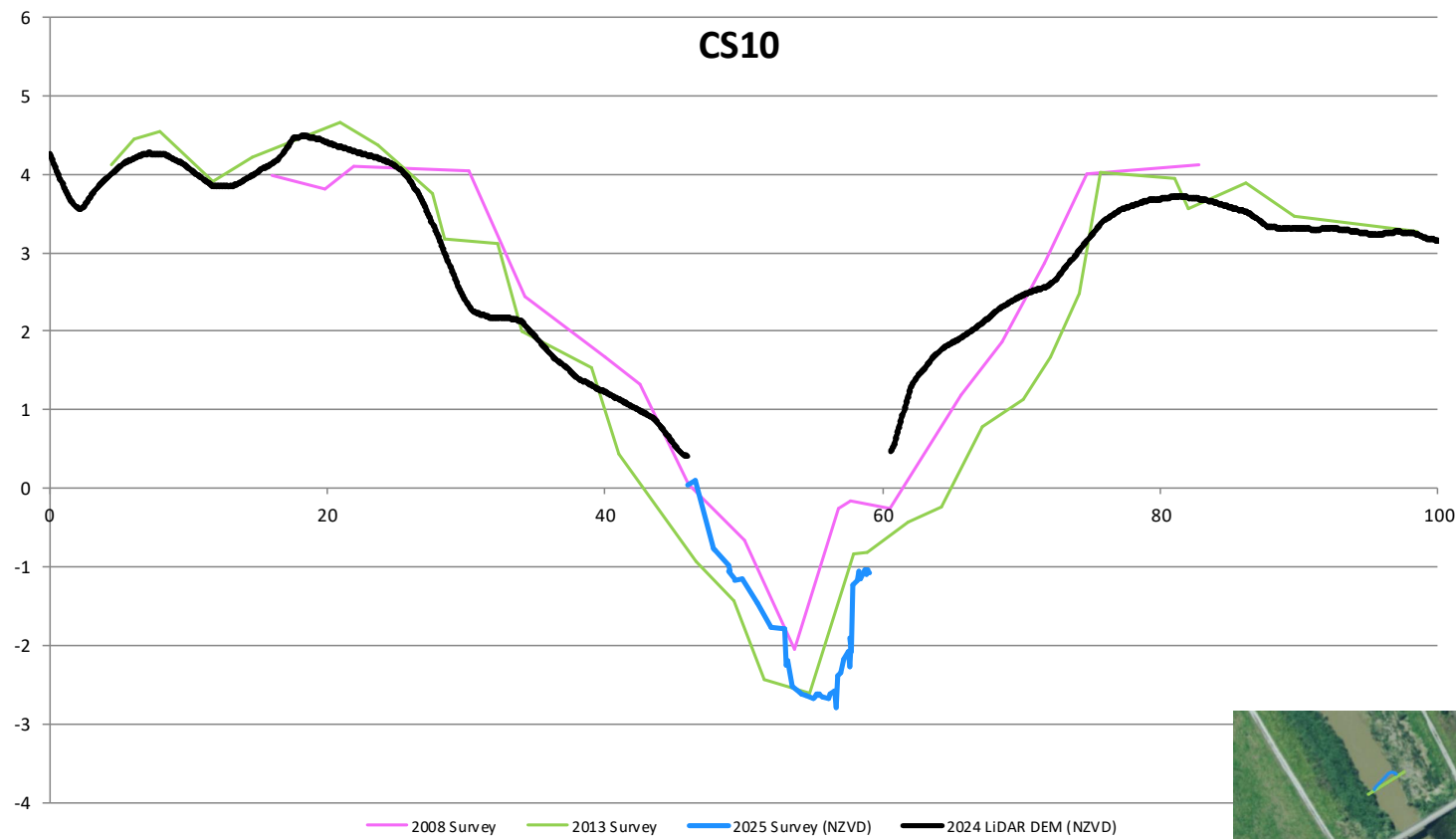


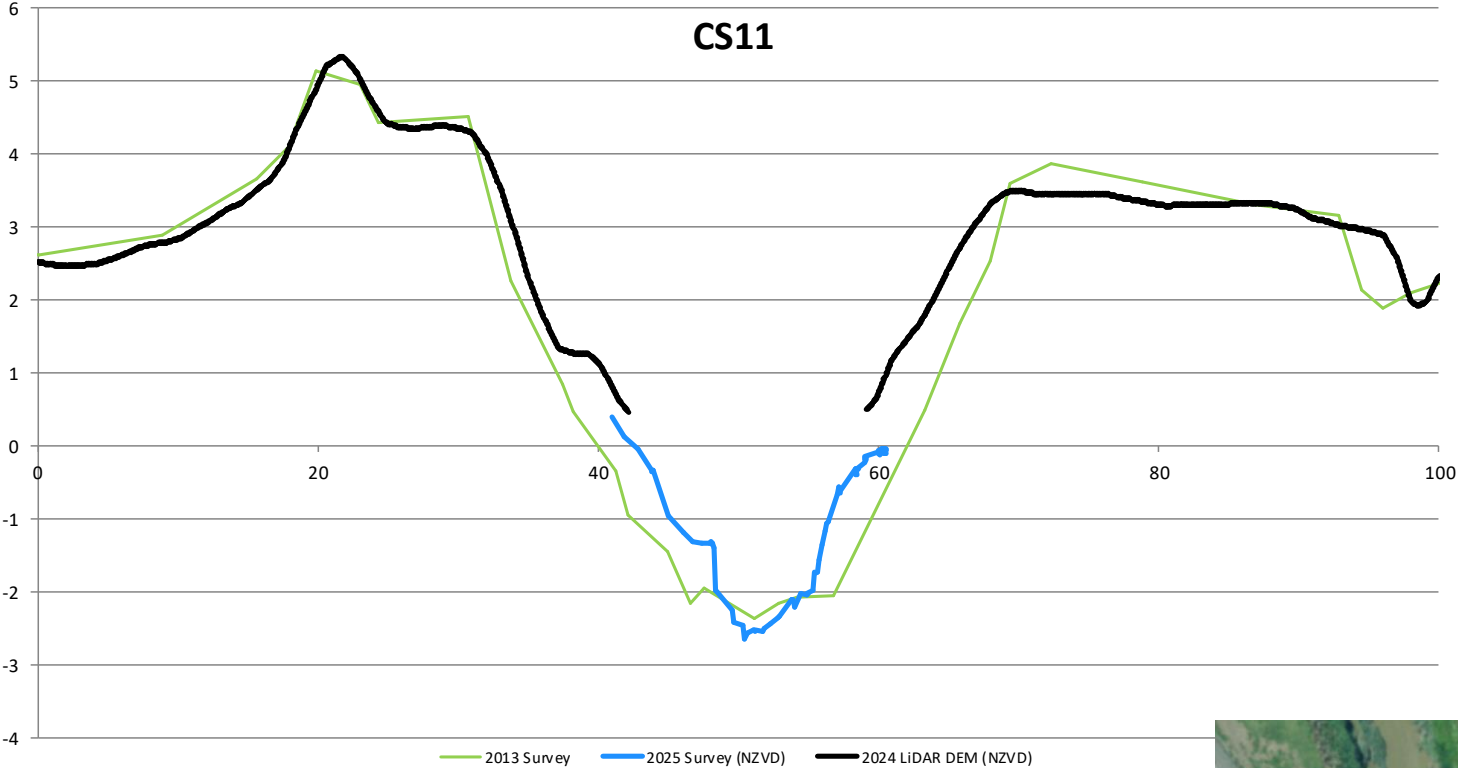


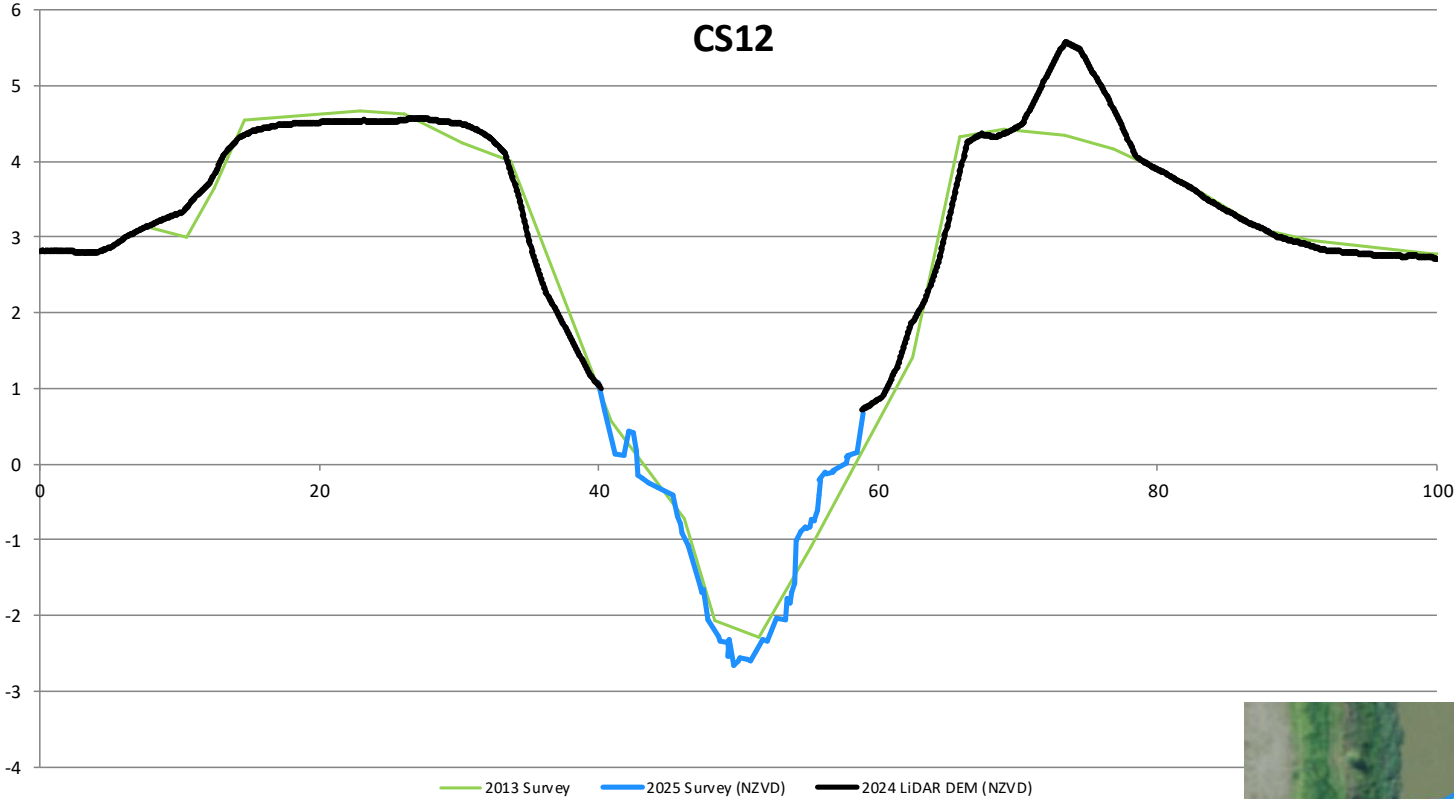














Kaihu River Cross Section Survey Comparison Table				
*calculated to bank full level				
CS #	2013 m ²	2025 m ²	Delta	%
1	243.45	218.04	-25.41	-0.10
2	n/a	157.79	n/a	n/a
3	n/a	195.37	n/a	n/a
4	202.01	193.36	-8.65	-0.04
5	n/a	194.04	n/a	n/a
6	151.87	145.18	-6.69	-0.04
7	180.49	158.02	-22.47	-0.12
8	109.10	133.17	24.07	0.22
9	151.44	110.39	-41.06	-0.27
10	171.73	136.65	-35.08	-0.20
11	155.86	115.09	-40.77	-0.26
12	121.40	137.15	15.75	0.13

Other Business: Nga Manga Atawhai Tree Removal

- 180 trees removed between November 2024 and June 2025 along the Kaihu River

