**LINZ River Network Q & A**

Questions and Answers based on feedback received on the draft dataset specification

August 2017

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| **#** | **Category** | **Question** | **LINZ Response** |
| 1 | Accuracy | Can the spatial accuracy against aerial imagery be improved? | Spatial accuracy improvements may be considered in future updates of the River Network Dataset, but is dependent on resources. Accurate data from local or regional sources might be considered for incorporation where available. |
| 2 | Accuracy | Will there be a method to provide local information from local authorities? | Hopefully yes. Depending on resources, future versions of the River Network Dataset may include improvements in spatial accuracy, attribute and flow direction information. This would be more likely where suitable local data is sent in to LINZ for incorporation into the dataset. |
| 3 | Publishing | How will updates and improvements to the dataset be provided beyond the initial release? | The River Network Dataset will be published on the LINZ Data Service as open data. Future updates to the dataset will also be published there. |
| 4 | Related data | What is the connection between this dataset and NIWA’s River Environment Classification (REC)? | In the short term, the River Network Dataset will not be linked to the REC because it will be spatially very different. NIWA has shown some interest in possibly incorporating the River Network Dataset into future versions of the REC. However this would depend on NIWA’s view on the degree of suitability of the River Network Dataset, resources, timing, and the implications of doing this. |
| 5 | Related data | Will an associated catchment dataset be created? | Not in the short term. The current NIWA REC catchment dataset was derived from LINZ’s 20m contours. To create a new catchment dataset for the River Network Dataset, we would want to use a nationwide elevation dataset with a higher resolution as this would improve the accurate delineation of smaller catchment boundaries. Such an elevation dataset does not currently exist. |
| 6 | Attributes | Will elevation related information be included in the attributes? | Only flow direction will be included in the short term. A higher resolution elevation dataset would be required to attribute other elevation information accurately. Improved spatial accuracy may also be required before correct elevations can be applied. |
| 7 | Feature types | How will drains and water races be handled? Will there be an option to either include or exclude them? | In the initial release of the River Network Dataset, drains and water races will only be included where they join existing Topo50 river centrelines to maintain connectivity to the network.  The ‘river\_type’ attribute field can be used to identify drains and water races. |
| 8 | Attributes | Will centrelines generated from lakes, swamps, river polygons, and braided rivers be distinguishable? | The ‘river\_type’ attribute field can be used to identify connector lines, and the type of feature the connector was derived from. |
| 9 | Attributes | Will there be a river segment length attribute? | This attribute is easily calculated in most GIS software packages, so will not be included as part of the River Network Dataset. This also makes the dataset easier to manage when there are spatial adjustments. |
| 10 | Attributes | Will there be average river width or braided river width, or other river flow dynamic attributes? | Not in the short term, due to the resources required to develop and correctly assign this information.  River flow dynamic attributes (river friction, bed material, Thalweg, flow volume, etc) will not be included as LINZ does not normally collect this information. Some CRI’s have expressed interest in possibly incorporating these attributes if the River Network Dataset supports their purposes. |