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Report 01.110

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20 February 2001

Report to the Hutt River Floodplain Management Advisory Committee
From Daya Atapattu, Project Leader, Flood Protection Group

Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan (HRFMP) : Project Leader's Report

1. Purpose

To update the Advisory Committee on the status of the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan (HRFMP) investigations and implementation.

2. Background

Through the Appointees Information Bulletin of 24 November 2000, the Advisory Committee received information on the:

- status of HRFMP investigations and plan writing
- status of Design Standard implementation
- October 2000 flood damage
- Melling substation improvement strategy.

At the 8 March 2001 meeting the Advisory Committee will receive:

- the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan: Consultation Draft
- a revised priority list for HRFMP upgrades
- a proposed services policy for the Hutt River Corridor
- information on HRFMP implementation
- the Hutt River Environmental Strategy.

3. HRFMP Phase 2/3 Investigations

3.1 Hutt River Environmental Strategy

Now the Hutt River Environmental Strategy is complete, we are delighted to present it to the Advisory Committee at the March meeting.

On 16 November 2000 the Landcare Committee endorsed the Strategy for publishing, with flexibility given to officers to carry out minor editing and layout changes as part of the publishing process.

Hutt City and Upper Hutt City officers accepted minor editing changes proposed by Trecia Smith. The document layout was completed by Des Taurima, a student at Whitireia Polytechnic.

3.2 Hutt River Bed Level Management Guidelines

A draft Hutt River Bed Level guidelines document has been prepared and is under review by Flood Protection staff. The document sets out an envelope of preferred minimum and maximum bed elevations for each reach of the river and, when finalised in March 2001, will provide guidance for gravel and channel management in the Hutt River.

3.3 Fault Rupture Study

The Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences' (IGNS) has submitted a revised proposal to the Earthquake Commission (EQC). The revised proposal includes dating two uplift events in the eastern Wairarapa (a DOC request) and excludes the Upper Hutt, Porirua and Kapiti Coast investigations due to lack of base data in these areas. The focus of the revised proposal is on the lower Hutt Valley and Wellington City. This work will be used as a pilot before recommending further work on Upper Hutt, Porirua and Kapiti Coast. IGNS are optimistic that they will obtain EQC funding for the proposal.

The study scope will be finalised when the EQC decision is given in March 2001.

4. HRFMP Phase 4 : Plan Preparation

4.1 Drafting the Plan

The Plan drafting process has reached a major milestone with the completion of the HRFMP Consultation Draft. Report 00.141, prepared by Alistair Cross, seeks Advisory Committee endorsement to release the Consultation Draft. The report also outlines the consultation strategy.

The Working Draft of the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan was sent to Hutt City and Upper Hutt City officers at the end of January 2001. Their comments were considered in preparing the Consultation Draft.

4.2 **Proposed Utilities and Services Policy**

A utilities and services policy for the Hutt River Corridor is being developed for inclusion in the HRFMP. Hutt City and Upper Hutt City officers and a number of utility owners have commented on the policy principles sent to them. Staff met with Hutt City and Upper Hutt City officers to discuss the principles in general and issues specific to their functions.

Attachment 1 contains the proposed policy principles and the process for progressing the policy. The finalised policy will be included in the Draft Plan, for consideration by the Advisory Committee on 28 June 2001.

4.3 **Completing the Plan**

The next milestone in the Plan drafting process is for the Advisory Committee to hear submissions on the Consultation Draft. The target date for presenting the Draft Plan to the Advisory Committee is 28 June 2001. The Plan will be published by October 2001.

5. **HRFMP Phase 5 : Implementation**

5.1 **Ava Railway Crossing Investigations**

Stage 1 of the Ava Railway crossing feasibility study is on track for completion by mid April 2001. The appointed consultant, Holmes Consulting Group (HCG), is currently investigating floodway and structural upgrade options. The Council and Tranz Rail have accepted a set of evaluation criteria established by HCG, for evaluating the various upgrade options.

Stage 1 of the study involves investigating and evaluating selected options and recommending at least two preferred options for further evaluation. Stage 2 will further evaluate and refine the two preferred options and will recommend an option for implementation. Stage 2 will commence in April 2001 and should be completed by June 2001.

Negotiation of a Memorandum of Understanding, between Tranz Rail and the Regional Council, to define an upgrading strategy and responsibilities for the crossing, will be completed in the 2001/02 financial year.

5.2 **Ava to Ewen Preliminary Design and Resource Consents**

The Ava to Ewen reach upgrading includes channel relocation, edge protections, stopbank upgrades and other associated works. A professional services tender for survey, preliminary design and resource consents closed on 2 February 2001. The successful consultant was AC Consulting Group who were appointed on 26 February 2001. The target date for completing the preliminary design and consent applications is June 2001.

Detailed designs and tender documents will be completed in 2001/02 ready for construction to commence in 2002/03.

5.3 Belmont Edge Protections (Owen Street Groynes)

Construction of the Owen Street groynes is underway with two of the three large rock groynes completed. Restoration of the adjacent berm area is also underway. Construction of the third groyne will follow when the remaining rock has been obtained. The work is expected to be substantially complete by May.

6. Communication

The release of the Hutt River Environmental Strategy will be reported back to the community through the next “*Living with the River*” newsletter.

Report 01.141 details the proposed community involvement in finalising the HRFMP.

Progress in implementing the HRFMP will be reported to the community through press releases and newsletters. Local community and major stakeholder preferences for Ava to Ewen structural works will be obtained through direct consultation and public meetings. The resource consent process undertaken for structural works will provide further opportunities to make formal submissions.

7. Recommendation

That the Advisory Committee receive the report and note the contents.

Report prepared by:

Approved for submission:

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Attachment 1 : Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan : Utilities and Services Policy