

Report **05.487**
Date 8 September 2005
File N/03/21/01

Committee **Landcare**
Author **Geoff Dick Manager, Flood Protection**

Waiwhetu Stream Advisory Committee – 29 August 2005

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to:

- Provide a summary of the key outcomes of the Waiwhetu Stream Advisory Committee (WSAC) meeting on 29 August 2005, and to;
- Advise the Committee of the funding requirements resulting from the recommendation (Minute No. WSAC 050404) that the detailed Awamutu and Lower Waiwhetu structural investigations commence in the current 2005/06 financial year.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

The WSAC held its second meeting on 29 August 2005. The Order Paper for the meeting will have been circulated to all Landcare Committee members.

Three papers were considered by the WSAC:

1. The Project Managers report
2. Revised study timeline
3. Consultation

The key paper for the meeting was the second paper which discussed options for speeding up the study, and the possible early implementation of works. As the Committee will be well aware the Hutt City Council has been uncomfortable with the proposed study completion date of June 2007, and wants to commence flood mitigation works as soon as possible.

4. Project Managers and Consultation reports

Both these papers were submitted for information only.

The Project Manager's report provided an update on appointments to the project team, work undertaken over the report period and presented a Draft Issues Report for the consideration of the Committee. The draft Issues report will require some further refinement before it is released in November as a consultation document.

The Consultation report provided an outline of the key consultation events with indicative dates. Members of the Committee commented that some lateral and imaginative thinking will be required to engage the Waiwhetu community, and thereby get some useful feedback into the study. The consultation will also need to be executed well to get the information and feedback required and keep within the study budget.

5. Revised Study Timeline

The WSAC held its inaugural meeting on 26 April 2005. The key issue raised by members at that meeting was the time frame for the study. The purpose of Report WSAC2005/4/2 was to report back on officers findings following a review of the study timeline.

The key findings from the review were that:

- It was not realistic to bring forward the study's target completion date of June 2007.
- There were advantages in bringing forward the detailed structural investigations for the lower Waiwhetu Stream and the Awamutu Stream by 6 months. However this is Phase 2 work (due to be undertaken in 2006/07), and accordingly there is no funding for this work in the current financial year.
- Officers are not yet in a position to recommend any particular work for early implementation.

The WSAC's recommendations from the Revised Study Timeline report show that the Committee accepted officers' findings.

6. Financial Considerations

Project Budget

The current approved budget for completing the Waiwhetu Stream Floodplain Management Study is \$495,000 (funded 75% GWRC: 25% HCC) spread over three financial years –

2004/05	-	\$151,050	Commence Phase 1
2005/06	-	\$129,050	Complete Phase 1

2006/07 - \$214,900 Complete Phase 2

Expenditure for the first year was \$117,420, or \$33,630 under budget. It is expected that Phase 1 of the study can be completed within the total approved cost of \$280,100.

Additional budget required in 2005/06 to accelerate investigations work

Additional budget will be required in the current financial year to accelerate the detailed investigation of structural measures – the Phase 2 work. The additional cost required is estimated as follows:

- Lower Waiwhetu Stream – up to \$100,000, to be funded 100% by GWRC
- Awamutu Stream – up to \$100,000, to be funded 100% by HCC

The exact extent, and hence cost, of this work will not be known until it is scoped in October/November this year.

The investigation costs are currently being rate funded. However investigations of this sort that will lead to a substantial programme of capital works should rightfully be loan funded. Following discussion of the funding of this project with Council's Chief Financial Officer it has been decided that this project should more correctly be loan funded as it will lead to flood improvements that will benefit Waiwhetu residents and businesses for several generations.

Provided the work programme for 2005/06 (and subsequent 2006/07) is loan funded acceleration of the lower Waiwhetu investigations can be accommodated within the Flood Protection rate envelope.

Total project budget

Current indications are that the total cost of the study may exceed the current approved budget of \$495,000 because Phase 2 is likely to exceed the estimated cost of \$214,900.

The additional costs result from more of the work having to be externally resourced than anticipated, and it appears some of the Phase 2 detailed options investigations costs have been under estimated. An update on the estimated total project cost is currently being made as part of reviewing the 2006/07 budget estimates.

It should be noted that because the Committee recommended that Hutt City Council directly fund the Awamutu detailed option investigation the impacts on any increase project costs to GWRC have been reduced.

7. Recommendations

That the Committee recommends that Council:

1. *Receive the report.*
2. *Note the content of the report.*
3. *Receive the report of the Waiwhetu Stream Advisory Committee meeting held on 29 August 2005, Items WSA 050401 to WSA 050405 inclusive.*
4. *Agree the Waiwhetu investigation costs (net after HCC share) from 2005/06 be loan funded.*
5. *Approve the expenditure of up to an additional \$100,000 in 2005/06 on the Waiwhetu Stream Floodplain Management Study to enable the Lower Waiwhetu structural investigations work to be brought forward from the 2006/07 work programme.*
6. *Note that the total estimated cost of Phase 2 of the investigation is being reviewed as part of reviewing budget estimates for 2006/07.*

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Geoff Dick

Manager, Flood Protection

Barry Turfrey

Chief Financial Officer

8. **Attachment 1:** Minutes from the Waiwhetu Stream Advisory Committee held in the Hutt City Council Chamber, 30 Laings Road, Lower Hutt on Monday 29 August 2005 at 4.30pm