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**Committee**        **Rural Services & Wairarapa Committee**  
**Author**             **Mike Longworth, Engineer (Northern)**

## **River Scheme Asset Management Plan Performance**

### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To present to the Committee the 2005/06 Asset Performance Statements for the seven river management schemes within the Wairarapa.
- 1.2 To inform the Committee of the outcome of the recent audit of Wairarapa river management works carried out by staff from the Flood Protection Department's Wellington Office.

### **2. Background**

- 2.1 The Local Government Act 2002 requires the Council to prepare long term strategic plans (LTCCP). The Asset Management plans are a key planning tool for infrastructural assets and provide inputs into the LTCCP.
- 2.2 Basic Asset Management plans have been prepared for seven river management Schemes serviced by the Catchment Management Division as listed below.
  - Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme
  - Waiohine-Mangatarere
  - Waingawa
  - Upper Ruamahanga – Mount Bruce
  - Upper Ruamahanga – Te Ore Ore
  - Upper Ruamahanga - Gladstone
  - Waipoua

- 2.3 These plans are “live” documents, and will be improved and updated on an ongoing basis. A major review of all Western and Wairarapa river Asset Management plans is in progress to achieve a more consistent approach, with an “umbrella” front document covering common policies/procedures with the specific details for each river appended. Asset registers and condition assessments are updated annually, and provide a basis for developing sustainable ongoing Scheme maintenance programmes.
- 2.4 Each year Performance Statements are prepared reporting on plan performance indicators. The 2005/2006 Scheme Performance Statements are attached.
- 2.5 An annual audit of Wairarapa Scheme maintenance standards is carried out by our peers from the Flood Protection Department’s Wellington Office. A report summarising the results from the August 2006 audit is attached.

### **3. Scheme Status**

#### **3.1 Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme**

There were no flood events during the period under review. About \$381,000 was brought forward from the 2004/05 financial year and also additional funding of \$75,000 was approved, in addition to the annual maintenance budget of \$622,000.

All major works programmed were completed except for the upgrading of the electric wiring on the Barrage Gates. Major works included shifting of stopbanks at Biss property on the Huangarua River and Vollebregt’s on the Ruamahanga River, and the upgrading of the Mahaki Culvert. The Scheme reserve balance is \$1.1 million and the Major Flood Recovery Fund balance is \$389,000.

The Scheme review was planned to be completed by the end of the year. However due to extended consultation, it is now scheduled to be completed by January 2007.

This year’s work programme is for \$750,000 of normal maintenance work and \$585,000 of development work. This includes the upgrade of the Barrage electrical works.

The Scheme’s Asset Management Plan performance criteria have been satisfied, except for a length of fence renewal due to funds being shifted to other more urgent areas. However this item is not critical.

### **3.2 Waiohine-Mangatarere River Management Scheme**

The current annual works programme is seen as adequate to meet ongoing Scheme maintenance needs.

The physical condition of the Waiohine-Mangatarere Scheme has continued to improve. Durable repairs have been completed at the most vulnerable sites, and Asset Management Plan performance criteria have been satisfied.

The major work completed during 2005/06 was the reinstatement of the Moroa stopbank which was badly damaged during the 2004 floods. Flood damage funding was not called upon, as these repairs were undertaken by the annual works programme.

The Scheme has continued to build its reserves, ending the financial year with a combined reserve balance of \$213,149.

### **3.3 Waingawa River Management Scheme**

The Waingawa Scheme is in good overall financial and physical condition. Asset Management Plan performance criteria have been satisfied. The Waingawa River has benefited from a relatively flood free period since 2004. This has enabled good progress to be made on improving the river alignment and planting. The current annual programme of \$151,000 is adequate to meet the Scheme's ongoing maintenance needs. Scheme assets are generally in good condition. The Scheme has accumulated a combined reserve of \$36,927.

A review of the Waingawa Scheme is planned in the next financial year.

### **3.4 Upper Ruamahanga – Mt Bruce River Management Scheme**

This Scheme was created as a result of the splitting of the Upper Ruamahanga Scheme into three new Schemes during the comprehensive review completed in 2002. The ratepayers rejected the three options for Scheme management suggested by staff and consultants and instead opted for a fourth option which had a much lower annual Scheme maintenance level than recommended. The Scheme works programme this year is \$68,400 excluding the \$22,810 available for works above Hidden Lakes funded on a 50% contribution from landowners. The Scheme has a combined reserve of \$21,026.

Although the Asset Management Plan performance criteria have been satisfied, the Upper Ruamahanga - Mt Bruce Scheme does suffer from the small budget in that progress in gaining an optimum alignment will be slow and it is vulnerable to floods at any stage.

### **3.5 Upper Ruamahanga - Te Ore Ore River Management Scheme**

This is the middle section of the Upper Ruamahanga Scheme and the one which has benefited most from the Scheme review and creation of three new Schemes.

River management is extremely important for the security of a number of Masterton District Council (MDC) assets located close to the river in this section. Since the Scheme review MDC has started making a significant financial contribution to the Scheme in recognition of the increased standard of protection offered.

The level of the annual Scheme maintenance programme for this section is \$125,000 and is considered to be satisfactory. The Asset Management Plan performance criteria have been satisfied and the Scheme has a combined reserve of \$21,987.

### **3.6 Upper Ruamahanga - Gladstone River Management Scheme**

This is the lower section of the Upper Ruamahanga Scheme extending from Wardells Bridge to the Waiohine confluence. The rating anomalies that existed in the past have been rectified through the Scheme review process and the level of maintenance has increased.

This section did not require any flood funding this financial year, as any damage from minor floods were minimal, and were managed under the current annual works programme.

Asset Management Plan performance criteria have largely been satisfied. This is in spite of a relatively small budget for the length of river required to be maintained.

The Scheme ends the financial year with a total Reserve balance of \$21,509 which includes the Major Flood Recovery Fund amount of \$2,959.

### **3.7 Waipoua River Management Scheme**

The quiet year in terms of floods enabled the deferred flood damage repairs from the 2004 floods to be carried out in 2005/06. These works consisted of river realignment and heavy bank protection at the Mahunga/Daniel, Gold and Payton properties and stop bank repairs/replacement at the Akura nursery, Gold and Garrod properties.

The Asset Management Plan performance criteria have been largely satisfied. The Scheme is slowly recovering financially from the significant costs incurred from repairing flood damage in the period up to and including 2004. This recovery necessitated the rates to be doubled in 2001 and the provision of additional external funding from a number of sources. The Scheme now has a deficit of \$6,706 which is expected to be repaid in this coming year.

Although the financial position is recovering it is still planned to review the lower section of the Scheme within the next two years once the Waingawa Scheme has been reviewed. The major flood recovery fund balance for the scheme is \$8,554.

#### **4. Audit of Maintenance Standards**

An audit of Wairarapa Scheme maintenance standards was carried out by river engineering staff from the Council's Flood Protection Department Wellington office in August 2006 (see Attachments). A total of eight sites were inspected within the northern Wairarapa area.

Within the Waipoua River Scheme sites at Mahunga, Daniel, Gold and Buick properties were inspected.

Within the Waingawa River Scheme sites at Davidson and Hyde properties were inspected.

Within the Upper Ruamahanga – Te Ore Ore – River Scheme, sites at Henley Lake, Te Ore Ore weir and Masterton District Council land above the oxidation ponds were inspected.

The auditors are of the view that given the resources available correct decisions are being made with regard to river maintenance works. They particularly noted the difficulties for Wairarapa staff in trying to meet the expectations of rural ratepayers often with insufficient funding levels. They appreciated the innovative river management methods adopted by staff in meeting this challenge.

#### **5. Summary**

The Wairarapa River Scheme Asset Management Plans have been updated, and the 2005/2006 Performance Statements for these Plans are attached.

The respite from significant floods since 2004 has enabled most of the deferred flood damage repairs to be repaired and overall the Schemes are generally in a reasonable physical condition, with any deferred maintenance to be addressed over the next year.

Adequate regional funding has been approved in the Council's Business Plan to support satisfactory Scheme maintenance programmes.

The Waipoua Scheme deficit is programmed to be paid off within the next year.

## 6. Communication Requirements

The Asset Management Plan Performance Statements and copies of the Flood Protection Group's audit report will be presented to the Scheme advisory committees for their information.

## 7. Recommendation

*That the Committee:*

- (1) **Receive** the Asset Management Plan Performance Statements prepared for the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme; and the Waiohine-Mangatarere, Upper Ruamahanga - Mt Bruce, Upper Ruamahanga - Te Ore Ore, Upper Ruamahanga - Gladstone, Waingawa, and Waipoua River Management Schemes.
- (2) **Receive** the August 2006 Audit of River Management Asset Maintenance Standards for the Wairarapa.

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

**Mike Longworth**  
Engineer (Northern)

**Ian Gunn**  
Acting Manager, Flood Protection (Wairarapa)

**Geoff Dick**  
Divisional Manager, Catchment Division