



Report 07.152
Date 13 March 2007
File N/03/21/01

Committee Landcare
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Waiwhetu Stream Advisory Committee – Summary and Minutes of 8 February 2007 meeting

1. Purpose

To provide a summary of the key outcomes from the Waiwhetu Stream Advisory Committee meeting held on 8 February 2007.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision 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 confirmed minutes from the meeting are attached to this report.

House Raising

The Advisory Committee has requested that additional work be done to identify the most flood prone houses within the Waiwhetu catchment and options to raise them. The purpose is to see if it is viable to provide relief to the worst affected houses as quickly as possible, recognising that it could be some time before all of the structural and non structural options are implemented and the full benefits felt. The house raising option could form part of the overall mix of options available within the Waiwhetu Floodplain Management Plan.

Approximately 75 houses had at least one room flooded during the storm in February 2004. Options for funding house raising, including contributions from private property owners and the local and regional councils, are also to be considered.

Progress will be reported at future WSAC meetings.

Viability of Source Control

A mixture of structural and non structural options will be required to mitigate the flooding risks from the Awamutu and Waiwhetu streams. Structural options have been identified in Phase 1 of the project which was completed in June 2006. Phase 2 of the Waiwhetu project, underway since last year, is intended to identify the range of non structural options that are available.

The investigation into the viability of source control (which are measures to reduce or delay peak flows into the streams) has indicated that source control has the potential to reduce the peak flooding levels in the Awamutu and Waiwhetu streams. This could involve, for example, throttling piped stormwater discharges and allowing low levels of nuisance flooding in streets in preference to having all piped stormwater discharges arriving at the stream at the same time. Other councils in New Zealand are adopting principles of source control in stormwater planning such as requiring that new developments achieve hydrological neutrality.

The adoption of a source control regime for the Waiwhetu catchment would have major infrastructural implications for Hutt City. The Advisory Committee has requested that a Working Group be established (with GW and HCC officers) to further develop the source control concept; that further consultation be undertaken to assess community acceptance of source control and that further updates be provided at future WSAC meetings. An additional resolution was added requesting that Hutt City Council investigate source control as part of the current review of the city's residential plan.

Application to the MfE's Contaminated Sites Remediation Fund

A meeting held with MfE officials in December resulted in an offer from the MfE to fund 40% of the requested \$5.9M for the remediation of the contaminated sediments in the lower Waiwhetu. This equates to \$1.2M this financial year and \$1.2M in 2007/08, leaving a shortfall of about \$3.5M.

A meeting was arranged for Hon. David Benson-Pope, Ian Buchanan and David Ogden on 6 March. At this meeting, the merits and national significance of the project were outlined to the Minister, as well as the need for a greater level of financial support from the MfE's remediation fund. However the Minister has declined to grant the Waiwhetu project special funding status citing a lack of funds from treasury and the high demands being placed on the remediation fund from competing projects.

Both councils now need to consider options for meeting the shortfall in funding for the full clean up costs (\$5.9M).

4. Project Managers Comments

Work is continuing on the Phase 2 investigations with the expectation of completing the technical studies by 30 June 2007. The development of the draft floodplain management plan will then be undertaken in the 2007/08 financial year using the outcomes from the Phase 1 and 2 studies.

5. Recommendations

That the Committee:

- 1. Receives the report.*
- 2. Notes the content of the report.*

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Report approved by:

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Attachment 1: Waiwhetu Stream Advisory Committee Report – 8 February 2007