



Report 07.61
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Committee Hutt River Advisory
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Whirinaki Crescent stopbank upgrade update

1. Purpose

- To update the committee on progress made with the Whirinaki Crescent stopbank upgrade project.
- To obtain the advisory committee's endorsement of the proposed revised programme and budget.

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 Flood Protection Operating Plan provides for completing the Whirinaki Crescent stopbank construction by June 2007. In November 2006, we reported to the Advisory Committee on the delays and that the project could not be completed by June 2007 as originally planned. Through the annual plan process we now propose to move part of the budget to 2007/08 to complete the construction.

In November 2006, we also reported to the Advisory Committee on expected cost increases in several areas. Since then we have made significant progress in land purchase negotiations and we have now updated the cost estimates and prepared a revised programme.

4. Land purchase agreements

Wellington Golf Club (WGC) and St Josephs Home of Compassion have now signed off their land purchase agreements. We are currently in the final stages of securing the St Patrick's College Silverstream land purchase agreement.

We have pursued the construction of a floodwall on WGC land at their request. This floodwall is located at the south-eastern end of the stopbank and will remove the need to upgrade 45m of stopbank. The floodwall on WGC land will be fully funded by Greater Wellington. In exchange for this, WGC will provide the land required for stopbank and floodwall construction at no cost to GWRC.

Land to be acquired from Silverstream College allows for stopbank construction and for relocating the power line.

5. Revised project scope and programme

The works will now be completed in two stages.

1. The first stage (**Attachment 1**) will include the construction of a floodwall along an internal boundary of the golf club. It will also include the construction of the new upgraded stopbank along the remainder of the boundary with Wellington Golf Club (approx 175m length). This first stage of works will be completed in this 2006-2007 financial year. We have recently appointed a consultant to manage the floodwall works.
2. The second stage (**Attachment 2**) will include the construction of the remainder of the stopbank upgrade including approximately 700m of stopbank, drainage works and a reconstructed overhead transmission line. This second stage of works will be completed in the next 2007/2008 financial year.

6. Cost estimate

The revised cost estimate for completing the Whirinaki Crescent stopbank works is \$ 917,000 and the approved budget is \$671,000. The following summarises the major unforeseen cost increases since 2004.

Drainage

The design provides for two unforeseen areas of drainage improvement:

- Drainage at the corner of land owned by St. Patrick's College Silverstream and St Joseph's Homes of compassion owned land. This is from a historic soak pit which had not been identified previously. Drainage works to alleviate this problem were essential to construct the stopbank in the vicinity of the soak pit.
- It was also necessary to provide drainage behind the stopbank on the residential boundary. This was due to concerns of local residents that the extra height of the stopbank would increase run-off into their properties.

Access

Access has been a significant problem and will continue to require effective planning and consideration through the construction. We have investigated a number of alternatives for access. The current proposed access is through Kiwi Street via Heretaunga Park for the main stopbank and through WGC land for

the floodwall and the WGC section of the stopbank. A temporary culvert across the stream and reinstatement costs of Heretaunga Park have significantly increased the access costs.

Overhead Transmission line

The 33kV transmission line will have to be moved to suit Greater Wellington and United Networks requirements. This was a historical problem with the transmission line being constructed into the stopbank sometime after its construction. GWRC as a matter of design principle do not allow structures in new stopbank construction. GWRC will have to pay for the new poles to be erected and United Networks will reuse the conductors and attachments and realign the poles outside of the upgraded stopbank. These costs had not been budgeted for.

Landscaping works

After consultation with the adjacent landowners and the community it became clear that the removal of the existing vegetation was a significant issue. We have taken on board these concerns and offered some limited landscaping on the boundaries in addition to originally proposed landscaping works.

Construction costs

The cost Implications of the above additional works could not have been fully appreciated in August 2004 when the original budget to complete the works was prepared.

Construction costs have significantly increased since the preparation of original estimates in 1999. Budgets were increased inline with the Producers Price Index (PPI, code *SNE*) but some construction costs, have increased at a greater rate than the PPI.

7. Budget

Attachment 3 provides the proposed programme and budget to project completion. The expenditure to June 2006 is \$115,747. The proposed total budget for 2006/07 and 2007/08 is \$801,300. The total revised cost estimate is therefore \$917,000. An additional budget of \$246,000 over the approved budget of \$671,000 is required to complete the proposed project.

The proposed project provides the HRFMP recommended 440 year protection to Whirinaki Crescent community. The options are to proceed with the proposed project at increased costs or to do minimum works to formalise the existing 100 year standard and defer the major upgrade.

Report 07.79 of this Order Paper provides budget forecasts to completion of current HRFMP projects. The report shows that this increase can be accommodated without increasing GWRC's total commitments because of cost savings in other projects. However, there will be an increase in the contribution from Upper Hutt ratepayers.

8. Communication

Following this meeting, a newsletter will be distributed to the Whirinaki Crescent community and stakeholders updating them with the progress and the construction delays. Another newsletter will be distributed before commencing construction works.

9. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. ***Receives*** the report.
2. ***Notes*** the content of the report.
3. ***Notes*** the revised costs and programme for completing the Whirinaki Crescent stopbank upgrade project.
4. ***Recommends*** to the Landcare Committee that the Whirinaki Crescent project is completed to the 440 year standard and that it seeks the necessary additional funding to complete the works to the proposed programme.

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Attachment 1: Stage 1 works

Attachment 2: Stage 2 works

Attachment 3: Table of programme and budget