

Report 08.124  
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Committee Hutt River Advisory  
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## **Hutt River Floodplain Management Report: Project Manager's Report**

### **1. Purpose**

To advise the Advisory Subcommittee on progress made with implementing the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan (HRFMP).

### **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**

This report provides an update for the Committee on progress with implementing the outcomes of the HRFMP. This report is fuller than the normal project manager report to provide a background for the new committee members.

### **4. Summary progress to June 2007**

Implementation of the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan, in its 7<sup>th</sup> year, is about 12% complete by June 2007, and progressing well. The total project expenditure to June 2007 was \$12 million. The total budget for 2007/08 is \$3.6 million.

We are currently working on four structural projects and a proposed UHCC district plan change. Belmont improvement project and the Hutt City district plan change were completed in 2006.

### **5. Ava to Ewen project**

The Ava to Ewen project is the highest priority project in the HRFMP. The project involves improving the waterway, strengthening bank edge protection, and upgrading stopbanks from Ava Rail Bridge to Ewen Bridge. This project

costing about \$16 million, is being implemented in four stages. The project, about 80% complete, is currently within budget and on programme to be completed by 2010.

Stage 1, a river realignment to provide security to Alicetown stopbank, costing \$4.6 million, was completed in April 2005. Stage 2, Alicetown stopbank reconstruction costing \$2.6 million was completed in 2006.

Stage 3 includes the Opanu Stream pump station, Ava Rail stopbank and waterway upgrade and the Opanu Stream outlet channel enhancement works.

Opanu pump station, completed in February 2007, enables the widening of waterway under the Ava Rail Bridge while significantly reducing the flood risk to the Opanu Stream catchment. The pump station project is a GWRC/HCC joint initiative.

The Ava Rail stopbank reconstruction and waterway upgrade works are now substantially complete. The project involved the reconstruction of about 500 metres of stopbank, placement of about 17,000 tonnes of riprap to protect the stopbank from erosion, removal of the existing Opanu Stream training bank to widen the waterway under the bridge, concrete works and foot paths. The contractor is currently working on foot paths, grassing and other tidying up works and expects to complete the works by the end of March 2008.

The last stage of the Ava to Ewen project is to reconstruct the Strand Park stopbank extending from the Ewen Bridge to Whites Line west. This work is scheduled for 2008/09 and we have now commenced finalising the tender documents to complete the tendering process by June 2008. GWRC and HCC are also investigating the feasibility of providing some public car parks on the river berm below the Ewen Bridge. If this is feasible, car park construction will be included in the contract. HCC will fund the car park construction.

## **6. Boulcott/Hutt stopbank project**

The purpose of the Boulcott/Hutt stopbank project is to construct a new stopbank, including an upgraded section, from Mills Street to Kennedy Good Bridge to provide the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan recommended standard protection to Hutt City. The proposed new stopbank will be mostly located in the privately owned land of the Boulcott and Hutt Golf Clubs.

A feasibility study to determine a preferred alignment commenced in March 2006 has gone through an extensive consultation process. In September 2007, the Hutt River Advisory Committee recommended the Green alignment as the preferred alignment for the proposed stopbank. However, following a submission from the Boulcott Golf Club, GWRC asked officers to investigate an alternative alignment proposed by the Boulcott Golf Club.

The investigations for the Boulcott Alternative are now complete and Report 08.123 contains our recommendations.

## **7. Whirinaki Crescent stopbank**

The Whirinaki Crescent stopbank upgrade project is designed to provide the HRFMP recommended 2300 cumec (440 year) standard of flood protection to the Whirinaki Crescent community. The existing stopbank, providing 100 year level protection, is on a thin strip of land owned by UHCC. Land was required from St Patricks College and Wellington Golf Club to upgrade the stopbank to an acceptable standard. Land purchase negotiations are now complete. However, these negotiations took extra time delaying the commencement of the project.

The project is now being implemented in two stages. Stage 1 includes construction of a 175 metre long stopbank on the Golf Club boundary and site filling of an area of about 1600 m<sup>2</sup> to provide the required protection. Stage 1 stopbank was completed but the site filling is delayed because of extra time required to gain consent from UHCC to remove four trees.

At the time of the original proposal for site filling, tree removal was a permitted activity under the Upper Hutt district plan. However, following a rezoning promoted by the Golf Club, which became operative on 11 July 2007, tree removal in the site filling area became a discretionary activity needing consents. We have had difficulties in getting sign off for tree removal from 5 potentially affected residents. We are now in discussion with the affected residents and the Golf Club on options for reducing the number of trees required to be removed. At this stage, we expect to complete the site filling before June 2008.

Stage 2 works includes reconstructing the remaining 700 metres of stopbank from Home of Compassion to the golf course boundary. This work is now progressing well. The 200 metre section of the stopbank and the drainage works on the St Patrick's land boundary are substantially complete.

The contractor has commenced construction of the Mawaihakona stream section and has made good progress with removing trees on the eastern bank of the stream to allow excavation for the stopbank foundation. The stopbank formation has commenced from the golf course end.

We expect to complete this section of the stopbank and environmental planting by June 2008.

## **8. Maoribank riverbed stabilisation**

The purpose of the Maoribank investigations project is to develop a strategy to manage degrading bed levels at the Maoribank bend of the Hutt River. The existing protection works from Totara Park Bridge to Norbert Street Bridge are getting undermined due to dropping bed levels. Downstream of the Maoribank corner, the river has degraded more than 2 metres since 1988.

The investigation project will be undertaken in two stages. Stage 1, a risk assessment, includes an assessment of the bed rock erosion rates and its

consequences. A strategy for managing the riverbed will be developed in Stage 2.

Stage 1 investigations are currently underway. A river process study for this reach of the river was completed and failure scenarios were identified. We are currently assessing the failure consequences for each scenario.

## 9. District plan changes

The HRFMP recommends district plan changes to include the Hutt River flood hazard information in the Hutt City and Upper Hutt City district plans. The required change to the Hutt City district plan was completed in 2006.

The Hutt River flood hazard information for inclusion in the Upper Hutt district plan is ready. UHCC is yet to commence the process for the proposed plan change.

## 10. Communication

Each HRFMP project has its own communication initiative. In November 2007, a newsletter was distributed to Whirinaki Crescent residents and other stakeholders providing an update on the Stage 1 and Stage 2 works of the Whirinaki Crescent project. A newsletter will be distributed to Boulcott/Hutt residents and other stakeholders once a preferred alignment is chosen.

## 11. Recommendations

*That the Committee:*

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

Report prepared by:

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