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Committee Hutt River Advisory Subcommittee
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Whirinaki Crescent stopbank upgrade

1. Purpose

To update the Advisory Subcommittee on progress made with the upgrade of the Whirinaki Crescent stopbank.

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 Whirinaki Crescent stopbank upgrade project is designed to provide the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan recommended 2,300 cumec (440 year) standard of flood protection to the Whirinaki Crescent community. To construct the stopbank, land was acquired from both Silverstream St Patrick's College and the Royal Wellington Golf Club (RWGC). These land purchase negotiations took some time to work through but were eventually concluded with construction commencing in early 2007. The stopbank upgrade is essentially now complete, except for a small section to connect the upgraded stopbank into the high ground that borders the proposed Wineglass subdivision.

4. Stopbank upgrade works

4.1 Introduction

Attachment 1 shows a plan of the Whirinaki Crescent stopbank. The stopbank currently consists of two sections; 875 metres of upgraded stopbank extending from the RWGC to St Joseph's Home of Compassion, which was completed in June 2008, and a 50 metre section of stopbank still to be completed, which will connect into the high ground that borders the proposed Wineglass subdivision. The original stopbank is still in place and provides an acceptable level of protection until Wineglass section is completed.

4.2 Completed stopbank to date

The stopbank was upgraded in two stages. Stage 1 was completed in May 2007 and involved the upgrade of 175 metres of stopbank on the RWGC boundary. Stage 2 commenced in January 2008 and was completed in June 2008. Stage 2 involved the upgrade of the remaining 700 metres of stopbank from the RWGC to St Joseph's Home of Compassion.

The stage 2 construction works progressed well, and were completed on time and under budget with our contractor, S R Adamson Contracting Ltd, making the most of Wellington's long dry summer. Now that these stopbank works are complete the local environment, particularly the Mawaihakona Stream, has been enhanced and some of the longstanding drainage issues have been resolved.

The work to upgrade approximately 875 metres of stopbank included:

- Extensive tree removal from the old stopbank and streambed of the Mawaihakona Stream.
- Reconstructing the stopbank to the 2,300 cumec design level with a 3 m crest width and 2.5:1 batters.
- Drainage works on a corner of land bordered by St Patrick's College and the Home of Compassion, and at the rear of the stopbank on the residential boundary.
- Relocation of a 33 kV overhead transmission line.
- Landscaping works on the Mawaihakona Stream berm and at the rear of the stopbank on the residential boundary.
- Continued consultation with the adjoining residents and major landowners.

4.3 Wineglass subdivision connection

The remaining 50 metre section of the stopbank will connect the upgraded stopbank into the high ground that borders the proposed Wineglass subdivision. The design of this section resulted from negotiations with the Wellington Golf Club for access into their property. Constructing the stopbank connection requires the removal of five trees. When the stopbank connection was first proposed, the tree removal was a permitted activity under Upper Hutt City Council's District Plan. However, to allow the development of the Wineglass subdivision, the RWGC initiated District Plan Change 13. This change saw the stopbank connection site rezoned as Residential Conservation and the tree removal, which was previously permitted, became a discretionary activity requiring resource consent.

A resource consent application for the tree removal was submitted in July 2008 and notified on a limited basis. Seven landowners who border the application site were deemed affected and five submissions were received on our application. The main concerns of those residents who submitted are associated with the proposed Wineglass subdivision and not with the effects of the tree removal. Our application is currently on hold and we are working with

the RWGC and the developer to look at options that would reduce the number of trees requiring removal and therefore alleviate the residents' concerns. If an alternative alignment, which all parties are agreeable to, is not feasible we will proceed with our current application and go to a resource consent hearing. We hope to gain resource consent and complete this final stage of the project in the coming summer construction season.

5. Communication

A letter was sent to all residents of the Whirinaki Crescent community and key project stakeholders thanking them for their patience and understanding throughout the construction period.

6. Recommendations

That the Subcommittee:

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

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Attachment

1 - Stopbank plan