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Committee Environmental Wellbeing Committee
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Waikanae River Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) Review Report 2012

1. Purpose

To advise the Committee of the outcomes of the review of the Waikanae Floodplain Management Plan, and to seek endorsement of the proposed actions that are an outcome of the review.

2. The decision-making process and significance

Officers recognise that the matters referenced in this report may have a high degree of importance to affected or interested parties.

The matter requiring decision in this report has been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act). Part 6 sets out the obligations of local authorities in relation to the making of decisions.

2.1 Significance of the decision

Part 6 requires Greater Wellington to consider the significance of the decision. The term 'significance' has a statutory definition set out in the Act.

Officers have considered the significance of the matter, taking the Council's significance policy and decision-making guidelines into account. Officers recommend that the matter be considered to have low significance.

Officers do not consider that a formal record outlining consideration of the decision-making process is required in this instance.

3. Review Process

3.1 Summary

The Waikanae FMP was completed in October 1997 following a five-year process of investigation, development and consultation. It was produced to provide an agreed blueprint for the management of the river and floodplain for 40 years.

Feedback from the community, KCDC, GWRC staff and other users of the FMP is that it has largely worked well over the past 15 years.

Implementation of the various structural, non-structural, river management and environmental measures is proceeding well. The implementation progress is reported annually to the Council. A summary from last year's report is included as **Attachment 1** to this report.

Nevertheless, it is recognised that regular review is an important part of the FMP process to ensure that progress is monitored and that critical elements are kept up to date. The plan stated that a review should be undertaken after ten years.

3.2 Outcomes

This is the first full review of the 1997 Waikanae Floodplain Management Plan. The outcomes of the review are detailed as a list of actions which are summarised in Attachment 2 to this report.

The review was a technical appraisal rather than a complete revision of the FMP, and covered the scope as listed in Table 7 of the FMP.

Generally speaking, the review has assessed progress in meeting the original outcomes, and has updated the methods/guidelines/outcomes where necessary to bring the FMP up to date with current information, practices and expectations.

Some key changes/outcomes of the review are:

- Climate change is being taken into account explicitly in all river modelling and design.
- Changes have been made to reflect the latest flood hazard zones and descriptions in the KCDC District Plan.
- The establishment of the Friends' group to monitor the implementation of the plan has been very successful and they have played an important role with implementing the environmental enhancements of the Environmental Strategy.
- Management of gravel is an ongoing problem, and different options are being considered under a Sediment Transport Study to address this issue.

- Some appendices have been updated to reflect changes in Civil Defence Emergency Management.

The review was mainly carried out during 2010 and 2011, and is described in detail in the report “Waikanae Floodplain Management Plan – 10 year review: Stage 1 – Performance Review summary report and consultation”. This review was presented to the Economic Wellbeing Committee at its meeting of 15 December 2009.

The summary report formed the basis for extensive consultation during late 2010 and early 2011 with the feedback incorporated into the revision of the FMP and the recommended actions.

It is likely that the next review will include a complete revision and republishing of the FMP. This is anticipated to take place in 2022.

3.3 Action List

The Actions List identifies the outstanding tasks, and will be updated annually.

These tasks are either incomplete items from the original FMP or new items that have arisen subsequently.

Some key actions of the review are:

- River Management Review; this is already being actioned through the Waikanae Rivers – Sedimentation Transport Study which investigates the preferred river management options, assessment of potential environmental effects and a sensitivity and risk assessment.

The Waikanae River Optimum Bed Level Guidelines are being developed in conjunction with the above study. The outcomes of which will support the River Management Consent Project – Western Rivers.

- Providing submission to the proposed Mackays to Peka Peka Expressway Board of Inquiry.
- Ongoing liaison with Kapiti Coast District Council on planning matters, e.g. KCDC District Plan Changes.
- Updating the Waikanae River hydraulic model; this is already being actioned through the development of Staged Flood Maps for Flooding Preparedness: Civil Defence Emergency Management Grant Funded.
- Revision of flood damage assessment to help prioritise remaining structural works.
- Annual meeting between KCDC and GWRC on synergies, e.g. project / investigations, Environmental Strategy Plan implementation, Community Awareness and Preparedness.
- Development of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Conservation for river works in the Estuary Scientific Reserve.
- Jim Cooke Park stopbank; scoping the design work.

- Develop a policy and procedures to regularly assess the Level of Service of all GWRC structures, taking into consideration non GWRC assets, in light of Climate Change Impacts.
- Scoping and possible development of real-time flood forecasting.

4. Communication

Communication is central to the FMP concept, process and implementation, and the community as a whole has taken a keen interest in the progress of the FMP implementation work to date as well as the review of the FMP.

The review has provided an opportunity to maintain and raise awareness of the flooding issues, and of the plan developed to mitigate the impacts of flooding. It is intended to report the Waikanae FMP with the amendments developed during the review incorporated into the plan. The proposed amendments are listed in detail in “Waikanae FMP Addendum 2012”, which is included as **Attachment 3** to this report. Once the plan has been republished, a press release will be prepared and the plan distributed to stakeholders.

5. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*
3. *Approves the proposed actions from the review of the Waikanae Floodplain Management Plan.*
4. *Approves the reprinting of the Reviewed Waikanae River Floodplain Management Plan 2012, including “Waikanae FMP Addendum 2012”.*

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Attachments:

- 1 Waikanae FMP summary progress table
- 2 Actions List 2012/13 version – draft
- 3 Waikanae FMP Addendum 2012