

Report 14.591  
Date 20 November 2014  
File N/03/13/25

Committee Hutt Valley Flood Management Subcommittee  
Author Daya Atapattu, Team Leader, FMP Implementation

## Hutt Valley Flood Management Project Manager's Report - November 2014

### 1. Purpose

To update the Subcommittee on progress made with various Hutt Valley flood management projects.

### 2. Background

The Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) is currently implementing a number of flood protection projects in the Hutt Valley. There are separate reports to the Subcommittee providing updates on major projects. This report keeps track of progress on all projects, and also provides references to the major project reports.

### 3. City Centre Project

Investigations to prepare the Integrated Concept Designs, which will combine components of the Making Places Project and Melling Intersection project with the flood protection improvement options, are progressing with the aim of commencing community consultation in mid 2015.

A key determinant of all works is the potential replacement of the Melling Bridge, and the Working Group, comprising of officers of GW, NZTA and HCC and consultants, has completed a strategic assessment (Strategic Case) for replacing the Melling Bridge on the Hutt River. **Attachment 1** contains a copy of the 'Melling Gateway Strategic Case'.

This strategic assessment has confirmed that there is a compelling case for investment in the current infrastructure at the Melling Gateway to improve the resilience, accessibility and safety of Hutt City. A decision on the timing for the Melling Bridge replacement will enable the three agencies to coordinate and develop appropriate plans for the flood protection and Making Places activities. The next step in this process, using NZTA's Business Case approach, is to now prepare a Programme Business Case. It is proposed to commence this work in November 2014, with a view to having the Programme Business Case completed in early 2015.

#### **4. Boulcott/Hutt project**

The Boulcott/Hutt stopbank works are complete and are currently under the contractor's maintenance period. The boundary surveys required for land transfers have completed. The golf club is continuing with course development works.

Safeway's injurious affection claim is now with the Land Valuation Tribunal.

#### **5. Waiwhetu Stream Flood Management Plan**

In June 2014, the Subcommittee approved the deferral of completing the draft Waiwhetu Stream Floodplain Management Plan to June 2016. It is currently proposed to recommence investigations in early 2015.

#### **6. Pinehaven Floodplain Management**

Community consultation on the draft FMP has commenced. Report 2014.597 in this Order Paper provides more details of the programme to completion.

#### **7. Mangaroa FHA and Upper Hutt City Council Proposed Plan Change 15**

Proposed Plan Change 15 sought to introduce flood and erosion hazard information for the Mangaroa River, and to update and expand flood and add erosion hazard information for the Hutt River, within the Upper Hutt City District Plan. This included objectives, policies, rules and maps that were intended to ensure that development in these areas is managed appropriately. At the Upper Hutt City Council meeting of September 2013, Council resolved that the decision to approve Plan Change 15 be deferred, pending an independent review into the accuracy of the model and data used for the Hutt and Mangaroa Rivers. This decision was later amended to a review of the Mangaroa River information.

UHCC has subsequently had legal advice that there is no recognised process outlined in Schedule 1 of the RMA to follow with continuing to rehear PC15 following peer review. As a consequence, there is a risk that any subsequent decision may be challenged by judicial review. The legal advice recommended that it would be best to withdraw and start again with a new plan change. Following this legal advice, UHCC officers will be recommending to their Council that Plan Change 15 be withdrawn and a new plan change initiated.

Review of the Mangaroa River flood hazard information resulted in some issues to be addressed, which have resulted in the model being updated this year. The 2014 modelling results are similar to the 2006 results, but the updated flood hazard modelling now includes climate change and updated flood storage in the Black Creek area. GWRC provide the new planning maps based on the 2014 model results to UHCC. We anticipate that the remapping can be completed this calendar year. We are continuing to work with UHCC officers on the process and timeframes.

GWRC is currently forecasting that additional modelling/floodplain mapping and participation in a new Plan Change process would cost around \$50k. UHCC officers have indicated that they would consider contributing to the

costs of the remapping exercise. In order to not delay UHCC processes, GWRC officers propose to meet the forecast costs this year through the existing Investigations Capex budgets by bringing forward some of the proposed future expenditure. Capex funding has been set aside in 2015-16 and 2017-18 for the Mangaroa FHA project – this funding was proposed to be used for improving flood warning/gauging on the Mangaroa River, and for assistance with managing the flood hazard.

## **8. Land Matters**

Officers have been progressing with a number of land related matters associated with the Hutt River system, in addition to the HRFMP related land purchase at Mills Street and Woollen Mills point.

During the last two years officers have been negotiating with NZTA regarding their disposal of surplus land at Manor Park. GWRC has expressed interested in acquiring (or having in public ownership) an 80 metre width of land adjacent to the river and land areas on which flood protection assets (stopbanks) are located. Much of the area is floodable. The 80 metre width is consistent with the buffer strip detailed in the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan. Approximately 7 hectares of land will be transferred from NZTA of which 4.6 hectares will be acquired by GWRC and the balance will be a marginal strip owned by DOC.

Valuations for the various land parcels have been obtained and agreed in principle. Acquiring this land will ensure public land is available to extend the Hutt River Trail.

Staff have also been in discussion with HCC officers regarding the extension of the trail through the Manor Park Golf Club. Hutt City Council has allocated \$600,000 this financial year for the design and construction of a 2 km section of trail through or around the edge of Manor Park golf course. They have employed Frame Group, an Auckland consulting engineering firm, to advise on track design and construction. The company has extensive experience on technically difficult projects including sections on a number of the new national cycleways.

Unilever Industries in Petone have approached GWRC offering to transfer ownership of a portion of Te Mome Stream at nil consideration. This section of Te Mome stream is maintained by the Flood Protection Department in accordance with the Watercourses Agreement with Hutt City Council. As part of the agreement, Unilever will undertake works on their property and have agreed to grant a 5 metre easement along the edge of the stream to enable maintenance. Arrangements are continuing.

## **9. Maintenance and recreation activities**

Hutt River asset inspections have now been completed and Report 2014.579 of this Order Paper provides details.

Willow layering is in progress along the full reach of the Hutt River. Staff have constructed tree groynes on the right bank above Kennedy Good Bridge to repair an area of eroding bank edge. Designs are also underway to repair

significant bank edge erosion below Totara Park Bridge in Upper Hutt and below Kennedy Good Bridge in Boulcott.

Fence line clearing and spraying is continuing and noxious plants (clematis, Wild Ginger and Honey Suckle) are being cut and poisoned in a number of areas along the river berms to reduce further infestations.

The beginning of the month was cold and wet but the Hutt River trail and its surrounds continues to be well patronised. The Belmont Scout troop planted some big rata trees in the Belmont Domain near the river trail and Upper Hutt Corrections Department workers have been spreading mulch around native plants at County Lane and along the River Road. Lower Hutt PD workers have continued to paint over graffiti in the lower river.

## **10. Communication**

Communication initiatives, including newsletters, meetings with residents and other stakeholders, are in place for all projects. Most of the major projects are receiving wide publicity through the local press.

## **11. The decision-making process and significance**

No decision is being sought in this report. This report provides an update on implementing the current floodplain management projects, and is for information only.

## **12. Recommendations**

*That the Subcommittee:*

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

Report prepared by:

**Daya Atapattu**  
Team Leader  
FMP Implementation

Report approved by:

**Graeme Campbell**  
Manager  
Flood Protection

Report approved by:

**Wayne O'Donnell**  
General Manager  
Catchment Management

**Attachment 1:** Melling Gateway Strategic Case