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Committee Te Kauru Upper Ruamahanga River Floodplain Management Plan Subcommittee  
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## Project Manager's Report

### 1. Purpose

This report outlines the general progress of Te Kāuru Floodplain Management Plan (FMP), as well as outlining other flood protection activities being undertaken within the catchment area by Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC).

### 2. Progress

Overall, the project is three months behind the original schedule. The forward work programme has been restructured to enable the original objective of recommending a preferred option combination in December 2015 to still be met.

### 3. Waipoua Flood Frequency Analysis

The independent report that proposed a different flood frequency analysis for the 1998 flood in the Waipoua River is currently being discussed between GWRC, Masterton District Council, NIWA, and Pattle Delamore Partners Ltd.

- A technical meeting is being held on 14 April.
- A communications meeting is being held on 17 April
- It is intended that a press release is prepared for the week commencing 20 April.

An update will be provided to the Subcommittee at the meeting on 21 April.

### 4. Vision and Aims

The Subcommittee considered and approved the vision and aims for Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga FMP at its last meeting on 26 February 2015, subject to minor alterations by the Chair if required. The vision and aims have been updated following feedback received subsequent to that meeting, and some minor alterations have been made and approved by the Subcommittee Chair.

The final Vision and Aims are recorded below.

#### **4.1 Vision**

*A connected, resilient, economically prosperous and sustainable community, proud of its rivers, that is involved in managing flood risks in a manner that recognises local identity and protects, enhances or restores natural and cultural value.*

#### **4.2 Aims**

The aims listed below have been split into five categories that focus on governance, economy, Māori cultural values, community, and environmental values. There is no hierarchy within these and they are intrinsically linked to each other.

##### **4.2.1 To work together to develop a sustainable floodplain management plan**

1. Provide affordable flood hazard management across a whole continuum of flood risk to agreed standards.
2. Align with integrated catchment management principles.
3. Follow the principles set out in the flood protection code of practice.
4. Endeavour to make future development and land-use compatible with flood risk.

##### **4.2.2 To support sustainable economic development**

5. Inform the Long Term Plans of local authorities.
6. Reduce the likelihood of loss to private property, business and agriculture.
7. Make property owners aware of their flood risks and damage potential.
8. Manage or reduce the risk to essential public infrastructure and maintain lifelines during flood events.

##### **4.2.3 To protect and improve the cultural values of rivers**

9. Improve the recognition of impacts of flooding and flood hazard management on cultural activities.
10. Improve the Mauri of water ways within the catchment.
11. Improve access for mahinga kai and cultural activities.
12. Recognise and consider the interconnectedness of natural systems.

##### **4.2.4 To recognise community needs and build resilient communities**

13. Make communities aware of their flood and erosion risk.
14. Recognise opportunities to support the sustainable aspirations of the community and landowners.
15. Identify and support opportunities for improved public access to and along rivers.
16. Maintain and improve level of safety for recreation users of the rivers.

##### **4.2.5 To protect and enhance our natural spaces**

17. Improve awareness and understanding of the natural values and character of the river environment.

18. Improve recognition of impacts of flood and flood hazard management on environmental and ecological values.
19. Create more space for the rivers and their natural processes.
20. Improve the water quality and habitat diversity along the rivers.
21. Make the use or extraction of natural resources including gravel management sustainable and compliant with relevant policies.

## 5. **Victoria University of Wellington Project**

The Victoria University of Wellington landscape architecture students have carried out some assessments of the character of the Waipoua, how Masterton interacts with the river, and how the public space around the river is used and perceived. This work has looked at the connection between the town and river, perceptions of safety and how people are using the spaces.

A short presentation will be made by two of the student teams at the workshop prior to the Subcommittee meeting on the 21 April.

## 6. **Regional Plan**

Work is progressing on amendments to the draft plan following initial public consultation in November 2014, with a view to issuing a proposed plan in June 2015.

## 7. **Te Kāuru area River Scheme Operations**

### 7.1 **Scheme Committee Annual Meetings**

The annual scheme committee meetings are being held in June. The dates and times of these meetings are included below.

| <b>River Scheme</b> | <b>Date</b> | <b>Meeting time and venue</b> |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Mt Bruce</b>     | 4/6/2015    | 9.00 am Choice Room           |
| <b>Te Ore Ore</b>   | 4/6/2015    | 9.00 am Choice Room           |
| <b>Gladstone</b>    | 4/6/2015    | 9.00 am Choice Room           |
| <b>Kopuaranga</b>   | 4/6/2015    | 1.00 pm Choice Room           |
| <b>Taueru</b>       | 4/6/2015    | 1.00 pm Choice Room           |
| <b>Whangaehu</b>    | 4/6/2015    | 1.00 pm Choice Room           |
| <b>Waipoua</b>      | 5/6/2015    | 9.00 am Choice Room           |
| <b>Waingawa</b>     | 5/6/2015    | 11.00 am Choice Room          |
| <b>Waiohine</b>     | 10/6/2015   | 10.00 am Greytown Town Centre |

|             |           |                                    |
|-------------|-----------|------------------------------------|
| <b>LWVD</b> | 12/6/2015 | 10.00 am at SWDC,<br>Martinborough |
|-------------|-----------|------------------------------------|

## **7.2 Ruamahanga**

Recent erosion has been identified near River Road, Masterton. It is planned to install some rock groyne edge protection within the next few weeks, subject to meeting the necessary consent conditions for working during low river flows.

## **7.3 Waingawa**

Scheme operations are mainly complete for this financial year. Managing gravel extraction for river alignment purposes near Hood Aerodrome is the priority at present.

## **7.4 Waipoua**

Channel maintenance work is mainly complete this financial year. Remaining work consists of vegetation control (spraying) on scheme stopbanks, some Old Man's Beard control, and channel accretion control.

## **7.5 Kopuaranga**

This year the Kopuaranga scheme is spending about twice the recent annual maintenance budget in order to complete some of the scheme development work that was started in 2007. This work was nearly completed in December 2014. It was decided to hold off on completing the work until later in the financial year, with the risk of flood debris blockages needing to be managed if they occur. If no expenditure has been required to remove flood debris towards the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the year, we hope to complete the planned crack willow removal.

## **7.6 Taueru and Whangaehu**

Annual willow regrowth spray maintenance has been completed.

## **7.7 Rock supply**

The delivery of rock for edge protection structures is proving to be a challenge this year. This is due to an ownership change of the preferred quarry. The Ore Ore scheme, in particular, has had the work programme delayed. Staff are working with the new owners to resolve the issues.

## **7.8 Resource consents**

All gravel extraction in the Ruamahanga catchment is controlled by the Flood Protection Department under a single resource consent. This consent, granted in 2001, had specific restrictions for extracting gravel from the Waingawa River in the Bridges reach due to significant bed degrade in the early 1990s. The latest bed level survey data has been reviewed, and it was determined that these restrictions could be relaxed in order to allow extraction at the Hood Aerodrome area. There are significant channel alignment issues opposite Hughes Line where river erosion is progressing towards the Aerodrome grounds. A variation to the gravel consent was granted in January 2015, and

extraction has begun near Hughes Line for the purpose of channel alignment and control risk to the Aerodrome.

## **8. Communication**

Two Subcommittee workshops were held on the 30 March and the 2 April. These workshops explored flood risk management options for the Gladstone to Kokotau reach of the Ruamahanga River, and the Eastern Rivers respectively.

No further public communication has been carried out

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

No decision is being sought in this report.

### **9.1 Engagement**

Engagement on this matter is unnecessary.

## **10. Recommendations**

*That the Subcommittee:*

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

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