

Report 2017.9
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Committee Environment
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Jim Cooke Park Stopbank Upgrade

1. Purpose

To update the Committee regarding the Jim Cooke Park Stopbank contract award and programmed works.

2. Background

The reconstruction of the 1.2km long Jim Cooke Park (JCP) stopbank is one of the agreed outcomes of the Waikanae Floodplain Management Plan (WFMP). The project commenced in early 2014 with a feasibility study and consultation with the community on two options, one for a standard earth stopbank and one incorporating two sections of concrete retaining walls aimed at reducing impacts on a Kapiti Coast District Council (KCDC) sports area and another minimising impact on a large stand of trees. The feedback from extensive community consultation was a preference for a standard earth stopbank set back from the residential boundary in order to retain a narrow strip of vegetation. Outcomes of the feasibility study, consultation and selection of the preferred stopbank were discussed at GWRC workshops on 17 June 2014, 28 October 2014 and 11 February 2015.

During mid-2015 the scope of project was extended to include channel widening and gravel extraction in order to provide extra capacity in the river channel (as identified in the WFMP) and allow these materials to be used in the new stopbank. Resource consent applications for the stopbank and river channel widening were notified in June 2016 and six submissions were received. These submissions were resolved without the need to proceed to a hearing. In October 2016, resource consents for the construction of the JCP stopbank and related river works were granted. At the same time the requiring authority (GWRC) accepted in whole the recommendation of KCDC to confirm the Jim Cooke Park Stopbank Notice of Requirement with conditions.

Agreement has been reached with KCDC to construct the stopbank on the Jim Cooke Park Reserve and for an easement to be granted for the stopbank.

Agreement was also reached with KCDC for the upgrading of stormwater pipes through the stopbank.

Negotiations for a land entry agreement and land purchase of the Kapiti Equestrian Centre and Vaulting Club (KEVC) were reported to Council in September 2016 and the agreement was completed in November 2016.

3. Contract award

Contract 1304 for the Jim Cooke Park Stopbank Reconstruction and River Channel Improvements was advertised in September 2016. A total of 11 prospective tenderers requested a copy of the Tender Documents and 9 arranged site visits with the GWRC management team. Tenders were received from two contracting firms.

The tender evaluation team recommended that the Preferred Tenderer be Goodmans.

The tender includes an allowance for stormwater upgrades through the stopbank, funded by KCDC.

Other works included in the project are relocating the sports field facilities, KEVC land purchase and mitigation, boundary fencing, tree planting, construction management and consent monitoring.

4. Key works stages

The programme for the construction works has been confirmed by the contractor and the key works stages are:

- Management plans
- Site establishment
- Area A – East end of the stopbank working towards the Jim Cooke Park entrance
- Area B – West end of the stopbank (Chillingworth stopbank)
- Areas C to G – From Chillingworth stopbank working towards the Jim Cooke Park entrance.

For each area the works will mostly cover:

- Fence off the works site and relocate the shared path where relevant
- Install erosion and sediment controls
- Clear trees
- Install stormwater upgrades
- Strip topsoil

- Construct new stopbank using core materials from river channel widening and gravel extraction in compacted layers - Shape with GPS control
- Construct new stopbank using imported material up to new level - Shape with GPS control
- Install drainage swale
- Topsoil and hydroseed
- Test materials and compaction.

5. Environmental management

Environmental management is regulated by the resource consent conditions which include consideration of the following matters:

- Construction and environmental management, including procedures for site establishment and storage, dust suppression, dealing with hazardous substances and environmental incidents, flood warning, public safety/access and a public complaints procedure
- Erosion and sediment control
- River water take controls
- Progressive stabilisation of exposed surfaces
- Site auditing
- Hours of operation
- Access tracks and river crossing
- Reducing the effects on water quality, fish and birds
- Cyanobacteria monitoring
- Natural character index assessment
- Mitigation planting
- Archaeological findings
- Monitoring and review.

6. Enhancement plans

The ecological assessment prepared as part of the resource consent application recommended that the following areas of mitigation native replanting be undertaken.

- 1.71 ha at seven identified sites along the Waikanae River corridor as agreed with Friends of the Waikanae River. This was to compensate for 1.18 ha of vegetation to be removed for the stopbank upgrade.
- 0.28 ha of riparian planting as mitigation for tree removal associated with the river channel widening.
- 0.10 ha (1000 trees) of riparian planting as mitigation for the effects of the river crossing.

Planting plans are currently being prepared and planting will be undertaken over the next three planting seasons.

7. Works progress

Works have commenced to move one of the sports fields in the Jim Cooke Park Reserve using specialist contractors. This includes moving the floodlights and the practice field to provide space for the stopbank and enable use of the field before the winter season.

The following works have been completed to meet the conditions of the consents:

- Natural character index “before” assessment by Massey University. The intention of the survey is to quantify habitat change and human modification as a result of the river works
- Inanga “before” survey by Te Atiawa ki Whakarongotai
- Sediment and cyanobacteria monitoring plan for the river crossing and channel improvements
- Long tailed bat survey to enable tree felling to commence
- Contactor’s construction and environmental management plan
- Contactor’s programme
- Contactor’s erosion and sediment control plan
- Contactor’s pedestrian management plan
- Contactor’s contract management plan
- Portions of the mitigation planting plan.

Works have started on site for construction of the site compound. Completion of the river works is programmed for the end of May and completion of the stopbank for end of June 2017.

8. Communication

Over the past three years there have been six newsletters sent to the floodplain community explaining the planned improvements to the stopbank and the benefits. The latest newsletter sent in December (Attachment 1) outlined the site preparation that was about to begin and that construction would start in January. The same information was sent to media and was printed in local newspapers and online.

GWRC staff met with all residents adjoining the stopbank in December 2016. Site notices will be located at all entrances to the site (Attachment 2). Information requests and complaints will be logged and tracked by the GWRC contact centre. Discussions and meetings with affected people will be arranged by Flood Protection staff as and when necessary. Community updates will be provided via web and social media advising progress milestones.

9. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

9.1 Engagement

Engagement on the matters contained in this report aligns with the level of significance assessed in accordance with the significance and engagement policy.

Engagement has been undertaken with stakeholders including land owners, KCDC, Iwi and Friends of the Waikanae River. No further engagement on the matters for decision is required.

10. Recommendations

That the Committee:

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

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Attachment 1
Attachment 2

Jim Cook Park Stopbank Reconstruction Newsletter
Site notices