

Producing the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan

Scope, Structure and Content

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1. Introduction

This document considers producing the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan (the Plan) during this financial year. Key matters covered include the purpose of the plan and coverage.

The issues covered by this document have been developed following several workshops and discussion sessions, with input from Flood Protection staff, and Tracy Berghan of Opus International Consultants.

2. Forming an Approach to THE PLAN

The workshop sessions provided an approach to the Plan regarding its:

- purpose.
- key audience.
- plan framework.

2.1 The Plan's Purpose

The purpose of the plan is to provide a policy and operational framework for managing the flood hazard in the Hutt River, including its environment, catchment and flood prone areas.

2.2 Intended Audience

2.2.1 *Who is Targeted ?*

The target audience is:

- The Hutt Valley community.
- Tangata whenua.
- Council politicians and officers.
- Agencies, businesses, individuals and interest groups who are directly affected by the Plan or will need to use and refer to the Plan in a work capacity.

While the Plan cannot be expected to be all things to all people, useful compromises can be made to ensure that all people get something from the document. The Plan's executive summary and introduction must clearly outline what is in the remaining document, set the flood hazard scene, and explain why floodplain management planning is needed in the Hutt Valley. Above all, this front end needs to be snappy, interesting and informative to encourage people to read on.

The bulk of the Plan will detail the selected and recommended measures, backing policy, implementation and monitoring and review arrangements. This information must be presented in a manner that is appropriate for all end users, without including unnecessary background detail.

2.2.2 *Enhancing Access for the Wider Public*

The Plan must be totally accessible to the wider Hutt Valley public. Naturally, the public will be interested in some parts of the Plan, but probably not all of it. A series of brochures should be published following the release of THE PLAN to accommodate public interest. Their intended purpose would be to provide a snappy, yet informative, helpful and relevant coverage of floodplain management matters that affect local areas. The brochures will cover localised areas:

- within the river corridor itself.
- in unprotected parts of the floodplain adjacent to the river corridor such as Belmont and Birchville.
- in protected areas of the floodplain, like Moera or Moonshine.

The brochures will describe:

- information on the flood risk that affects the area.
- structural and non-structural measures that apply to each local area.
- potential improvements to the local river environment under the Environmental Strategy.
- how and when the measures and the Environmental Strategy will be implemented.

The brochures would not be designed to provide extensive information, but they will give a general insight into local floodplain management matters. The brochures would refer and link to relevant Plan chapters as the base for information provided. These links would need to be sufficiently clear to encourage people to go to the Plan.

2.3 **A Model for Plan Content**

2.3.1 *Basis for the Model*

The model recommended for the Plan content retains a statutory plan focus, but is more strongly influenced by a floodplain management planning approach. This model builds on the comprehensive approach used for the Otaki Floodplain Management Plan, but does not focus so much on the issues-objectives-policy framework used in that Plan.

The result is that the *Plan will retain*:

- a core policy backdrop¹ to support selected measures and the Environmental Strategy
- implementation and funding
- anticipated outcomes
- monitoring and review

¹ Core policy backdrop provides the policy backing to selected and recommended measures, and the preferred Environmental Strategy vision for the river corridor. Policy backing covers:

- the key reasons for selecting measures (including the preferred environmental strategy option)
- the general outcomes that the measures require
- responsibilities for implementing measures
- the recommended time-frames for implementing measures including monitoring and review
- how measures are broadly funded

The *Plan will build on*:

- the process for developing measures including considering alternatives, costs and benefits, and appropriateness.
- incorporating tangata whenua values into the implementation framework.
- policy to support activities on WRC land including managing utility services and other works.

The *Plan will also cover* additional floodplain management planning elements including:

- matters considered when selecting measures.
- backgrounding the flood hazard problem.
- a stronger focus on integrating tangata whenua river management issues.

2.3.2 Plan Design and Format

Plan design, formatting and editing arrangements will be determined following the release of the Consultation Draft.

Potential approaches to Plan design include using.

- *Living with the River* as a basic guide to format, design, and illustrations, if appropriate. This maintains continuity in published material, and builds on familiarity already developed for the Hutt community.
- the *Otaki Floodplain Management Plan* as a basic guide, maintaining continuity with floodplain management plans already published.
- a combination of the two above – using design basis of *Living with the River*, with approach to diagram and table information from the *Otaki Floodplain Management Plan*.
- alternative design strategies which digress from those above.

Selected professional typesetters will be invited to submit quotes for design and typesetting during April-May 2001. Mock-up pages and a table of would support quotes.

Quotes should be gained from typesetters who produced both the *Otaki Floodplain Management Plan* and *Living with the River Documents*. Other appropriate typesetters will need to be considered, including those used to produce other WRC documents such as the regional plans.

Similarly a professional editor will be used to edit the final draft document, and quotes for that work also will be sought around April-May 2001.

2.3.3 Source Material

Source material was used to help build more detail into the approach this Plan. That material included:

- Implementing Floodplain Management Plans: Discussion Document (February 1994).
- Living with the River: HRFMP Phase One Summary Report (November 1996).
- Otaki Floodplain Management Plan (June 1998).

3. Plan Coverage

The Plan will include the following.

1. **Executive Summary** – which briefly discusses:
 - what the Plan covers
 - a round-up of all measures
 - the floodplain management planning process.

2. **Introduction : Preparing the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan** – covering:
 - why floodplain management planning is necessary
 - the physical and cultural features of the Hutt Valley
 - the Hutt Valley’s flooding problem: past and present
 - what the Plan covers
 - the Regional Council’s floodplain management planning approach
 - THE PLAN objectives
 - mandate and responsibilities for managing the flood hazard and producing floodplain management plans
 - who is responsible for making the Plan happen.

3. **The Outcomes: Flood Mitigation Measures and Environmental Opportunities** – including:
 - floodplain management planning measures² selected for the Hutt Valley:
 - the main components
 - a risk-based approach
 - what they are
 - what they mean
 - for structural measures: this includes types, formations and dimensions *presented in reach plans*
 - for non-structural measures: hazard categories are summarised and outcomes *presented as outcomes tables*
 - who is responsible for implementing measures
 - when they will be implemented (including priorities, costs and timing)
 - matters considered in selecting measures including:
 - measuring acceptable risk
 - costs and benefits
 - implementing the Environmental Strategy including:
 - the area covered
 - priority projects
 - how implementation will provide for tangata whenua values.

² Floodplain management planning measures include structural and non-structural measures and the preferred environmental strategy option.

- 4. Nga Tikanga Maori – Tangata Whenua Aspirations for the River³**
– including:
- cultural values associated with the Hutt River, its floodplain and catchment
 - identifying waahi tapu and other sites
 - relating to cultural values, tangata whenua perspectives and aspirations for managing the river under
 - developing and maintaining a partnership with tangata whenua for ongoing floodplain management planning
 - Tangata whenua’s vision for the river environment
 - Considerations for involving tangata whenua in Plan implementation, restoring native species and protecting key sites.
- 5. Policy Backing for Selected Measures and the Environmental Strategy⁴:**
- Policy backing development of the Plan and the floodplain management planning process
 - including legislation and existing regional council policy (also covered in the introduction)
 - Policy supporting:
 - selected Structural and Non-structural measures, and the preferred Environmental Strategy option
 - anticipated outcomes and responsibilities for implementing the Plan
 - funding and time-frames
 - broad fundamental policy intentions for using WRC land in the River Corridor⁵ including:
 - managing utility services and other works
 - linking to wider land management bottom lines implied by the Environmental Strategy
 - linking in with the by-law review
 - maintaining existing assets
 - managing private land in the River Corridor
 - broad intentions for public ownership
 - policy for procuring private land marked for structural measures.
- 6. Implementing and Funding the Plan** – including:
- how it will be funded and resourced – the LTFS, business and annual plans
 - programme and priorities
 - processes required to implement the Plan

³ This chapter would cover needs for developing partnerships with tangata whenua, and incorporating their values into managing the river and it’s environment. These needs may be better addressed as a Plan implementation project because they are potentially considerable. Their development would require investing considerable time in scoping, gathering information, reconciling tangata whenua views, and reaching a satisfactory position following consultation, and forming subsequent policy and guidance.

⁴ Phase 2/3 summary reports will discuss selected measures in detail, as well as the process for selecting measures.

⁵ Land management policy covers what is fundamentally required to manage land. More detailed policy will be formed from those fundamentals as a Plan implementation project. Brendan Paul, Daya Atapattu, Geoff Dick and Phil Purves will all provide input to guiding land management policy.

- matters considered in prioritising measures including:
 - measuring acceptable risk
 - costs and benefits
 - environmental effects
 - affordability
 - community involvement and their preference
 - appropriateness
 - developing priorities.

7. Anticipated Results - Measuring Plan Outcomes:

- general results anticipated
- results for each component
 - general
 - Structural
 - Non-structural
 - Environmental Strategy.

8. Monitoring and Reviewing the Plan:

- why monitor and review
- the Plan's monitoring strategy
- what is monitored and who does it
- indicators
- what is reviewed and when does it occur.

9. Appendices

- flood emergency management procedures
- legislative framework for floodplain management planing
- river corridor reach plans
- private land affected by river corridor boundaries and proposed works.

Summary Sections

Use summary sections for each Chapter, as in *Living with the River*.