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Report to the Hutt River Floodplain Management Advisory Committee
from Derek Wilshere, Consultant, Landcare

**Hutt River Floodplain Management Advisory Committee
Future Role and Revised Terms of Reference**

1. Purpose

To consider whether there is an ongoing role for the Hutt River Floodplain Management Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) in implementing the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan (the Plan), including the Environmental Strategy, and to discuss possible amendments to the current Terms of Reference.

2. Background

The Advisory Committee was established in 1998 and its Terms of Reference formally adopted in 1999.

With the anticipated adoption of the Draft Plan by the Wellington Regional Council in August the Committee's primary function will have been achieved. However, as the components of the Plan have been developed and approved by the Regional Council, an ongoing role for the Committee has emerged.

3. An ongoing role for the Advisory Committee

The Plan lays the foundation for the next 40 years of flood protection in the Hutt Valley. This includes implementing the Structural and Non-structural measures, the Environmental Strategy and Plan Monitoring.

Activities included in the Regional Council's current 10 year Long-term Financial Strategy include:

Non-structural Measures

- Proposing changes to Hutt and Upper Hutt Cities district plans, and supporting agreed changes through to adoption
- Providing support for voluntary individual and community actions
- Developing and implementing enhanced Emergency Management programmes and procedures.

Structural Measures

- Ongoing maintenance programme
- Ava to Ewen upgrade
- Belmont edge protection
- Belmont house raising
- Gemstone Drive flood protection and edge protection
- Bridge Road edge protection
- Bridge Road house raising
- Ava, Melling and Moonshine Bridge investigations
- Commencing the Ewen to Kennedy-Good upgrade (includes Hutt and Boulcott Golf clubs and Hathaway Avenue flood protection).

Environmental Strategy

- Commence implementation via the capital projects
- Other projects proposed by the community or the councils
- Establishing the River Ranger.

Monitoring

- Reporting on achievement
- Evaluating the Plan's performance.

Council will, through the Landcare Committee, need sound advice to resolve issues which will arise as these programmes are implemented.

In particular, Council will want to have confidence that:

- community expectations of the Plan have been satisfied through sound consultation and community involvement.
- the Long-term Financial Strategies and annual programmes of the Regional Council and Hutt and Upper Hutt City Councils are co-ordinated to achieve the desired Plan outcomes.

During Plan development, the Landcare Committee has been well advised on Plan related issues by the Advisory Committee. It is proposed that this model should continue into the Implementation Phase.

Both the Hutt and Upper Hutt City Councils have recommended that the Advisory Committee should have an ongoing role, particularly in implementation of the Environmental Strategy.

As the Plan is implemented, it is envisaged that there would be opportunities for the community to be involved in the development and management of the River Corridor. Given the geography, size and social structure of the Hutt Valley, it is unlikely that an overall 'Friends' group would work. Rather, a number of local groups would likely form the basis of an ongoing community programme. The Advisory Committee would provide the umbrella over these groups in recommending policy, operation and reporting to the Regional Council.

A Liaison Group will be appointed. This group comprising council staff and others as necessary will ensure that the Advisory Committee, its members and their constituent authorities are adequately informed on critical issues and other matters relevant to the achievement of the Plan.

4. **Terms of Reference**

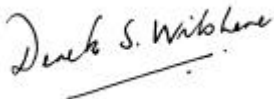
Changes to the Terms of Reference that reflect the role of the Advisory Committee described above are shown in italics in **Attachment 1** ('Draft Terms of Reference' : August 2001). Deleted text is 'struck out'.

5. **Recommendations**

That the Advisory Committee:

- (1) *Receive the report and note the contents.*
- (2) *Recommend to the Landcare Committee that the Hutt River Floodplain Management Advisory Committee continue operating under a revised Terms of Reference, as proposed in Attachment 1 to this report.*

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Attachment 1 : Hutt River Floodplain Management Advisory Committee – Draft Terms of Reference : August 2001.