



**-Report**                    **04.619**  
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**Committee**            **Landcare**  
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## **Isolated Works Contribution**

### **1. Purpose of the Report**

To:

- advise the Committee of the updated estimate for isolated works contributions in the current 2004/05 financial year end.
- seek the Committee's endorsement to overspend the 2004/05 budget for isolated works contributions.

### **2. Significance of decision**

The matters in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

The decision to increase the isolated works contributions budget was made at Landcare Committee meeting on 23 March 2004. This report provides an updated estimate so that contribution to landowners repair costs can be provided in accord with existing policy and seeks the Committee's continued endorsement of this approach.

### **3. Background**

The Flood Protection Operating Plan normally includes a provision of \$6,000 per annum for the Greater Wellington Regional Council's (GWRC) contribution to river works that fit within the Isolated Works policy. Isolated works are privately owned flood or erosion protection works that are constructed outside areas where GWRC manages community flood protection schemes. The intent of the contributions is to provide a level of service to areas which are not eligible for rate funded community flood protection schemes.

The maximum contribution is set at 30% of the actual cost of an eligible isolated work, and has traditionally been provided on a first in first served basis. This system has worked reasonably well in the past, and most years the

budgeted funds have remained partly unspent. The current guidelines for assessing eligibility for Isolated works funding requests are provided as **Attachment 1**.

There are benefits in providing a small contribution to landowners as it encourages landowners to permanently repair eroding bank edges, and provides Flood Protection staff with an opportunity to have some influence over the way the works are carried out.

The floods in February this year resulted in numerous requests for erosion repair advice from rural area property owners over a wide area of the western region. Some of these landowners indicated that they would also be seeking financial help from Greater Wellington. Most of the smaller repairs were dealt with quickly, but the larger ones have taken time to plan and several have run over into the current 2004/05 year.

#### **4. Updated Estimate for isolated works contributions 2004/05**

The February flood damage report (04.149), presented to the March 2004 Landcare Committee, recommended that provision for \$35,000 be made for assisting with isolated works to 30 June 2005. This was to be split over the two financial years as follows:

- 2003/04 - \$20,000 made up of an increase of \$14,000 to the existing \$6,000 budget.
- 2004/05 - \$15,000, an increase of \$9,000 to the existing \$6,000 budget.

Several large claims, and in particular the claim from Te Marua Golf Club, have either arisen during the year or are still outstanding. This means that the cost of providing a 30% contribution on all eligible, isolated works claims in 2004/05 is currently estimated at \$62,350.

**Attachment 2** details the repair works and associated costs being completed in 2004/05.

#### **5. Te Marua Golf Course**

During the February storms a large section of steep hillside opposite the Te Marua Golf Course collapsed into the Hutt River, completely blocking it and diverting the flow across the club's developed fairways, causing considerable damage.

The club engaged an engineering consultant to assess the options for repair, prepare estimates and evaluate any tenders they received. Work to return the Hutt River to its original course and strengthen the bank edge at the slip site is complete and is accordingly eligible for an isolated works contribution.

The total cost of work eligible for subsidy done by the golf club is estimated at \$152,300 and therefore eligible for a Greater Wellington contribution of up to

\$45,690. Under the delegated authority of the Divisional Manager Landcare, \$22,930 has already been paid to the golf club, made up of interim contributions of \$7,915 in 2003/04 and \$15,000 in 2004/05. This latter contribution of \$15,000 has consumed the isolated works budget for 2004/05. The golf club naturally would like favourable consideration for a contribution up to the full 30% subsidy.

## 6. Other flood damage repairs

Other notable flood damage repairs that are likely to result in calls on the isolated works contribution budget in 2004/05 are listed below:

- Wainuiomata River Property  
Loss of willow edge protection and threat to bridge abutment.  
Estimated cost is \$14,000  
30% subsidy = \$4,200
- Pakuratahi River Property  
Growing erosion threatening several properties. Numerous works planned.  
Estimated cost is \$35,000  
30% subsidy = \$10,500
- Wainuiomata Golf Course, Wainuiomata River  
The Wainuiomata Golf Club has developed a staged programme of repair works to be carried out over several years. Spots where the river comes up against a fairway or green will be tackled first.  
Estimated cost this year is \$25,000  
30% subsidy = \$7500

## 7. Funding

This year's increased budget of \$15,000 for isolated works contributions has already been allocated. Other applicants meeting the *guidelines for eligibility* for their claims will be expecting some, if not all, of the 30% contribution to assist their efforts to protect their land.

Accordingly we are requesting that the Division be authorised to spend a further \$50,000 on Isolated Works contributions following the February floods, a total of up to \$65,000 in 2004/05. The additional expenditure will not require additional funding as it will be met from Departmental savings.

The first in first served system has worked well in most years, but when we get a storm of the magnitude of February 2004, there will always be a greater demand for funds than can be met at that time. The current year's budget is not sufficient largely because the permanent works at Te Marua Golf Club, following the clearing of the slip, had not been allowed for in the original flood damage estimates.

## 8. Recommendations

*That the Committee:*

1. **agree** to the full 30% contribution being made to the Te Marua Golf Club for construction of the permanent repair works adjacent to the slip site, upon supply of supporting documentation verifying their expenses.
2. **recommend** to Council that the Landcare Division be authorised to spend up to a further \$50,000 on Isolated works contributions in the 2004/05 year.
3. **note** that the additional funding of \$50,000 required in 2004/05, can, be met from departmental surpluses, including the financial savings from the sale of the Mabey Road Depot.

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**Attachment 1:** Guidelines to Eligibility

**Attachment 2:** Isolated works subsidy estimated spend for 2004/05