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Committee       Rural Services and Wairarapa  
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## Targeted Scheme Rates and Balances

### 1. Purpose

To provide information on the proposed 2006/07 Targeted Scheme Rates to be collected for the operation and maintenance of Wairarapa Schemes, and to inform of current and projected scheme balances.

### 2. Background

Meetings are under way for seventeen river and catchment management schemes, to review progress, expenditure, and flood damage schedules, and to confirm proposed activities, including flood damage and funding. The catchment scheme advisory committee meetings are concluded and the river scheme advisory committee meetings will be completed in May 2006.

For each of the sixteen drainage schemes papers were circulated to ratepayers, and programmes/funding levels were subsequently confirmed with each scheme advisory committee chairperson. Note that none of the drainage schemes receive any funding from Greater Wellington Regional Council. These schemes, administered by Greater Wellington staff, are funded 100% by the beneficiaries in accordance with Council's funding policies.

A summary of current and recommended rates, as well as current and projected scheme balances, are given in the attachment to this report.

### 3. Discussion

The meetings have been positive and constructive reflecting a good co-operative understanding between ratepayers, councillors and staff. This is reinforced by the committees in general endorsing significant rate increases. Particular matters for comment are:

#### 3.1 Flood Events

Thankfully there have been no major floods so far this financial year.

### **3.2 Producer Price Index**

This index moved by 5.8% between December 2004 and December 2005.

### **3.3 Kopuaranga River Enhancement Project**

Good progress has been made with the development of a new rating scheme. A meeting is proposed for 24 May to endorse the new scheme.

### **3.4 Reclassification of River Schemes**

It is expected that the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme Review will be completed this financial year (see attached Report 06.187 attached).

### **3.5 Waiohine – Mangatarere Scheme**

This scheme continues to be a success. The scheme reserve balance is projected to be \$201,336. A new bridge on State Highway 2 is on target for completion this year. Once completed, planning to upgrade the stopbanks upstream of the bridge will commence.

### **3.6 Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme**

The total works programme for this financial year totals nearly \$1 million. Significant works completed included completion of the flood damage carried over from the previous year, upgrading of the Mahaki culvert, and the shifting of stopbank on the Biss property. Works carried forward to next year totalling \$185,000 include the upgrade of the Barrage Gates electrics, shifting the stopbank sill on the Vollebregt property, completion of the Scadden stopbank upgrade, and the placement of boulder groynes at Scaddens bend.

The ordinary scheme reserve is projected to total \$1.335m (c/f \$1.2m this time last year) and the Major Flood Damage Fund for this scheme is projected to total \$387,000.

The Advisory Committee has approved a rates increase of 11.5% based on the old rating classification. This is to ensure that the Scheme has funding for the next financial year if the new rating classification is not adopted by the end of June.

### **3.7 Waingawa Scheme**

This scheme is overdue for a review. It is proposed that this will occur on completion of the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme review. The scheme committee is keen to see the gravel moratorium in the vicinity of the State Highway and the railway bridge partially lifted. Staff have explained that this will be researched at the time of the review. The projected scheme reserves at the end of the financial year are \$28,600 which is up slightly on last year.

### **3.8 Waipoua Scheme**

The flood damage works carried over from 2004/05 have been completed. Adjacent landowners, including Masterton District Council, contributed \$35,500 to complete these works and to allow the placement of Tinui rock protection works as appropriate. At the time the scheme was reviewed it was not envisaged that such works would be needed. The scheme will have a projected deficit of \$17,650 at the end of the next financial year. It is expected the scheme will have a small surplus at the end of 2006/07 assuming there are no major floods.

### **3.9 Upper Ruamahanga Scheme – Mt Bruce Section**

There has been a focus on channel, beach, and edge protection work over this past year. There has also been extensive pole planting and lopping.

This scheme has a projected reserve of \$21,328 for the end of this financial year. Flood damage repairs have been restricted to the upper part of the scheme.

### **3.10 Upper Ruamahanga Scheme – Te Ore Ore Section**

Rock groynes have been placed at the Percy property and for the second year beach lowering using a bulldozer has been completed throughout the scheme.

This section will have a modest scheme reserve of \$12,000 at year end.

### **3.11 Upper Ruamahanga Scheme – Gladstone Section**

Again, channel alignment works and debris clearance have been completed over the length of the scheme. This has resulted in a number of locations showing signs of more stability than was previously the case.

The scheme reserve is projected to be \$15,600 at the end of this financial year.

### **3.12 River Clearing Schemes**

The Taueru River Scheme need to decide if they wish to collect a rate for this coming year.

The scheme deficit on the lower Whangaehu River is projected to be less than \$1,000 at the end of the 2006/07 year. Therefore the loan will be paid off ahead of the scheduled timeframe of 2010.

### **3.13 Catchment Management Schemes**

Rating reviews have been completed on the Awhea-Opouawe, Mataikona-Whakataki and Kaiwhata schemes. New rating classifications have been developed for the Awhea-Opouawe and Mataikona-Whakataki Catchment Schemes.

Flood damage repairs following March 2005 continue. Given the scale of this flood event the limited flood damage reinforces the value of the Catchment Schemes and Farm Plans. Continuing to invest annually significantly increases the resilience of the land.

All the schemes apart from the Whareama had projected credits at the time of their annual scheme meetings. These scheme reserves cover any additional flood damage. The reserves and the ongoing works programmes reinforce that Greater Wellington is making progress in these catchment schemes.

### **3.14 Drainage Schemes**

The wet season last year put pressure on all Pump Drainage Schemes due to the increased use of power. All Pump Drainage Schemes are projected to be in credit by the end of the 2006/07 financial year.

The Ahikouka gravity drainage scheme is on track to pay off its deficit within the planned 3 year period.

The Manaia gravity drainage scheme is to have a rate holiday, as their reserves have increased to a point which will cover estimated annual works programmes until 2007/2008.

The Taumata and Battersea drainage schemes will incur rates following periods of rates holiday.

### **3.15 Sub-Committee**

Given that not all schemes have held their meetings, it is recommended that a sub-committee comprising Councillors Long and Buchanan be given authority to approve the final recommendation for targeted rates and reserve balances prior to their submission to Greater Wellington's budget setting meeting on 29 June.

## **4. Acknowledgement**

This year the river scheme meetings combined with flood damage issues and annual works programmes were completed in a tight timeframe in May. The efforts of the scheme Advisory Committees members, Councillors Long and Buchanan, and staff in ensuring the success of these meetings are gratefully acknowledged.

## **5. Communication**

The proposed schemes rates, as scheduled in Attachment 1 to this report, have already been agreed to by the respective advisory committees.

## **6. Recommendation**

*That the Committee:*

- (1) *Note the information in this report.*
  
- (2) *Approve Councillors Buchanan and Long forming a sub-committee to approve the final scheme rates schedule to be submitted to the formal Council meeting at its meeting on 1 June 2006.*

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