



Report **06.56**
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Committee **Hutt River Advisory**
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Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan: Project Manager's Report

1. Purpose

To update the Advisory Committee on progress made with implementing the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan (HRFMP).

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision 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.

3. Project status summary

Substantial progress continues to be made with implementing the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan (HRFMP). The Ava to Ewen project is progressing well and is on programme. Stage 2, the Alicetown stopbank reconstruction, is substantially complete. Construction works on the Opahu Stream pumping station, a joint GWRC Hutt City Council project, commenced in January 2006 and are progressing well. The Opahu Stream pumping station is the first part of the Ava Rail stopbank upgrade, Stage 3 of the Ava to Ewen project.

The 'hearing' on the proposed Hutt City Council district plan change No. 6 was held on Monday, 12 December 2005. Upper Hutt City Council officers have commenced preparing the draft plan change document for the proposed UHCC plan change.

The Boulcott/Hutt stopbank project is underway with the aim of completing the design and obtaining resource consents by June 2008. Professional services tenders for the feasibility study closed on 1 March 2006.

The 'hearing', on the proposed rezoning of the 'Wineglass' land, has been indefinitely adjourned. Wellington Golf Club will now not pursue the

construction of the floodwall. The detailed design and preparation of the consent application for upgrading the main stopbank is progressing.

4. Ava to Ewen project

The Ava to Ewen project is progressing well and is on track for completion before the scheduled completion date of June 2010. Report 06.39 in this Order Paper provides details of the progress made to date.

The next major contract in the Ava to Ewen project is the Ava Rail stopbank reconstruction. Opus International Consultants are currently progressing with the detailed design for this contract. We expect the tender documents to be ready by June 2006.

5. Belmont improvements

Installation of the new floodgate at Norfolk Street is now complete. Minor landscaping works between the stopbank and the property at 37 Norfolk Street will be completed in April/May 2006. This will complete all the additional structural works agreed with Belmont residents as part of the HCC district plan change consultation.

6. Whirinaki Crescent stopbank upgrade design

The 'hearing' on the proposed rezoning of the 'Wineglass' land of the Royal Wellington Golf Club (RWGC), scheduled for the end of February 2006, has been indefinitely adjourned. The Golf Club will now not pursue the construction of the floodwall because of objections from the Department of Conservation (DoC).

We will now start negotiating with RWGC to purchase the land required to upgrade the existing stopbank along the 'Wineglass' land boundary. Additional land required will be determined in consultation with DoC.

James Flanagan, Flood Protection Engineer, is progressing the design and the preparation of the consent application for the main stopbank. Design and consent application will now be revised to include the section of stopbank on the 'Wineglass' land boundary. Land negotiations with Silverstream College are progressing well and we expect to purchase the required land before June 2006.

A newsletter providing details of the proposed project was distributed in December 2005 to the local community and other interested parties. UHCC, Department of Conservation, Fish & Game, Iwi, Wellington Golf Club and Forest and Bird were briefed on the project. We expect to meet with adjacent property owners during early March followed by a public meeting at the end of March 2006.

7. Boulcott/Hutt stopbank project

Report 06.57 of this Order Paper provides an update on the Boulcott/Hutt stopbank feasibility study, and details of the proposed consultation process.

8. Gravel Extraction

The contractors are making good progress with extracting gravel from the lower reaches of the Hutt River. About 58,400 m³ of gravel was extracted in 2005 and a further 15,000 m³ was extracted in January 2006. A recent cross section survey (Feb 05) shows that the river bed immediately below Kennedy Good Bridge is now below the 1998 bed levels.

We have made significant progress in preparing the resource consent application for extracting in water. However, the process is taking more time than originally expected because of some issues raised by stakeholders. The consent application will now be lodged by the end of March 2006.

As part of pre-notification consultation, we have been working closely with our key stakeholders, specifically Fish and Game New Zealand, the Department of Conservation and Iwi. A key issue, which has arisen through the consultation process, is that the proposed extraction operation will create a shallow uniform channel and result in the loss of habitat diversity.

To address this concern, we have now developed a methodology that will maintain the meander pattern and consequently habitat diversity through the extraction reach.

9. Implementing non-structural measures

The Hutt City Council plan change (No. 6) 'hearing' was held on 12 December 2006. Nine submissions were received on the proposed plan change of which one was subsequently withdrawn. Two submitters made presentations at the 'hearing'. We expect the 'hearing' decision by mid March 2006.

Upper Hutt City Council officers are currently progressing with the preparation of the proposed plan change document. Consultation with affected landowners is scheduled for April/May 2006.

10. Programme and Budget

The approved budget for 2005/06 is \$3.5 million. Our forecast for 2005/06 is \$4 million. This forecast includes extra budget for the early commencement of the Boulcott/Hutt stopbank feasibility study and the funding required to meet the GWRC cost share commitment for the Opahu Stream pumping station. **Attachment 1** shows details of total costs, budget and expenditure.

Greater Wellington is currently going through the process of preparing the draft 2006-2016, ten year plan for public consultation. At the 16 March 2006 meeting, we expect to present the Hutt River capital expenditure programme included in GWRC's 2006-2016 ten year plan.

11. Communication

A joint GWRC/HCC newsletter was distributed in January 2006 to residents in Woburn and Moera providing details of the Opahu Stream pumping station. A separate meeting was held on 24 January 2006 with some of the Montague Street residents in Alicetown to discuss construction issues. Adjacent property owners were also consulted regarding boundary fences.

Community consultation on the Whirinaki Crescent and Boulcott/Hutt stopbank projects will commence in March and April 2006 respectively.

12. Recommendations

That the Committee:

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

Report prepared by:

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Attachment 1: Hutt River Capital Works: Budget and Expenditure