



Report 07.365
Date 5 June 2007
File E/06/16/03

Committee Landcare
Author Graeme Campbell, Manager Flood Manager

Divisional Manager's Report - Catchment Management

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about Western Flood Protection activities, and progress of matters since the last meeting.

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. Managers report

The Flood Protection Manager's report is attached. The report has covered the activities since last report in good detail. A summary and my over view from a Divisional perspective are covered in section 4 below.

4. Comment

Activity Summary

With the financial year drawing to a close the regular maintenance work for all of the schemes across the Region has progressed well and we are well placed to complete the works within budget. This is particularly pleasing for the Wairarapa area as there have been a number of significant floods, with the most recent being in July and August 2006, which have hindered progress. The western side has had a good year with only a few minor floods which has given us a chance to catch up on some deferred maintenance and start to rebuild reserves.

The major capital works are progressing more slowly than anticipated primarily due to delays in securing land access. These issues have been resolved and we now anticipate being able to progress the construction. However there is now a major works programme to complete next financial

year and I will continue to monitor progress and advise if any re phasing of the works is necessary.

Specific Issues

The manager's report highlights two projects that may have budget implications next financial year, firstly the tenders for the Whirinaki flood wall being much higher than estimated and secondly the request for erosion protection works on the Ruamahanga River for Carterton District Council. I have requested a report on these projects to ascertain what the full impacts are and will report to the committee once this has been completed.

Flood protection staff have prepared a response to the Ministry for the Environments (MfE) request for comments on the proposed National Policy Statement (NPS). A paper on this matter was presented to the Policy and Finance Committee on 12 June 2007. The report was necessarily brief for that Committee and we could spend more time covering the issues in a workshop session with Landcare if desired. Any feedback from the Committee on this option would be appreciated.

Staffing

We have been unable to find a suitable replacement for the Strategy and Technical Support role since Phil Purves left in March 2007. Sharyn Westlake is filling the position in an acting role at this stage. Urgent work is being redistributed within the department. The role is a very senior role and I am considering whether to re-advertise or to upskill personnel in house and advertise for a more junior engineer. The shortage of specialist skilled people is a situation not uncommon throughout the country at this time.

Job Evaluations

All staff have answered questionnaires as part of a council-wide job evaluation. I have been impressed by the diligence and timeliness of all staff.

5. Communication

No communication is required.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

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

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Graeme Campbell
Manager, Flood Protection

Ian Gunn
Acting Divisional Manager, Catchment Management

Attachment 1: Flood Protection Manager's report for the period ending
1 June 2007