



Report 08.729
Date 22 August 2008
File WO/02/02/01

Committee Catchment Management Committee
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Waiohine Floodplain Management Plan Project - Scope and programme

1. Purpose

To seek endorsement from the Committee for the project plan for the Waiohine Floodplain Management Plan Project (WFMP) in the Wairarapa.

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. Background

Greytown is located to the south of the Waiohine River. The town and populated surrounding areas have a history of flooding from the river. Numerous works have been completed in the past, including river management and stopbanking. Most recently a section of stopbank at Saywells was upgraded and the State Highway 2 bridge replaced. There is now an expectation that a new section of stopbank between Saywells and the State Highway 2 bridge be constructed. The 2006/16 LTCCP made a provision of \$5.5M for this work.

In embarking on a process to upgrade the stopbank it is considered important to take an overall view of the options for flood risk management to ensure the ongoing sustainability of any measures. In particular it is important that the river management issues and the potential for over design events be considered. The most appropriate method of taking all of these elements into consideration is through a process similar to the floodplain management planning process. In this instance is proposed to use a similar process, but truncated in some areas to reflect the considerable work already undertaken, to that used for the Waikanae, Otaki and Hutt Rivers. The programme proposed for this work is set out below.

4. Scope

In the Waiohine Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) project we will be including the preliminary design, consenting and consultation in tandem with Phases 1, 2 and 3 of the FMP. This approach is being taken as it is relatively certain that a new stopbank will be selected as one of the preferred options in Phase 3 and we will then be ready to proceed straight into the construction of the stopbank. The FMP process that will be followed is set out below.

- Establish the current flood risk (phase 1)
- Assess the available mitigation options (phase 2)
- Select the preferred options with the affected community (phase 3)
- Write the FMP (phase 4)
- Implement the outcomes, both planning and flood mitigation (phase 5)

This process has been effectively used in FMP work for the Hutt, Waikanae and Otaki Rivers over the last 10 years. Since some of the background and investigation work has already been undertaken we will be able to shorten the whole process hence the term of a truncated FMP. We will also be able to take the time through the Phase 3 work to confirm that stopbanking option is still desired and affordable, prior to proceeding with construction.

An essential element to note is the area that is to be covered by this FMP work. The area runs from the river gauging point at the Waiohine Gorge through to the Waiohine confluence with the Ruamahanga River. The FMP work also includes the lower section of the Mangatarere River, a tributary that joins the Waiohine just downstream of the State Highway 2 Bridge. In understanding the FMP process it is acknowledged that some of structural flood protection works have already been identified and implemented. Using the FMP process allows the previous work to be considered alongside other structural works, river management, planning measures, emergency management, climate change and residual risk to ensure a robust and future proofed set of outcomes.

5. Programme and Budget

The financial programme shows the completion of all structural works by June 2014 as set out in the 2006/16 LTCCP. The overall cash flows have however been modified in two areas. Firstly the five year project was due to start in the 2009/10 financial year. To ensure prompt delivery of the outcomes, the budget was brought forward to the 2008/09 financial year and work has begun.

Table 1 shows the programmed phasing of the project and cashflow

Table 1 - Programmed process for the floodplain management plan process

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------|---------|------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Financial year | 2008/09 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13 | 2013/14 |
| Projected works | Phase 1 | Phases 1/2 | Phase 3 | Phase 4 | Phase 5 | Phase 5 |
| Budget (\$000s) | 150 | 115 | 115 | 120 | 2,500 | 2,500 |

Secondly the original cash flow showed an even expenditure of \$1.0 million over five years. This has now been modified to show the majority of the construction expenditure occurring in the last two years of the project. This offsets the financial costs of bringing forward of monies to this financial year and the early start of the process.

It is proposed the project will run year by year as follows:

- 2008/09** This year will see the majority of the investigation work that forms phase 1 of the FMP process being completed. In particular the modelling of flood flows will be confirmed and the potential alignment and height of any stopbanks determined.
- 2009/10** The phase 1 investigation works will be completed and phase 2, which involves identifying the mitigation options commenced. Preliminary design of the stopbanks and consultation with landowners will also be undertaken during this phase.
- 2010/11** Phase 3, the selection of the preferred mitigation options identified in phase 2 (including costs estimates on what type of works might be suitable), will then be refined. If the stopbanks are confirmed as one of the selected flood mitigation measures then statutory approval applications will be lodged for the work.
- 2011/12** Phase 4, will document the outcome of the project into one document. After the consultation process has been completed the FMP will become the guide for flood risk management on the Waiohine floodplain.
- 2012/13** Phase 5 will begin, which will involve detailed design of flood protection works, preparation of tender documentation, tendering, appointment of contractors and finally construction of any structural flood protection works required. Depending on the outcome of the consenting process it may be possible to begin implementation of the stopbank works in tandem with the Phase 4 work.
- 2013/14** Phase 5, construction, will continue with a practical completion date for construction works being 30 June 2014.

6. Establishment of a Waiohine Floodplain Management Plan Advisory Committee

Consultation with the community will be a key part of preparing and implementing the WFMP. An advisory committee is proposed to be established as part of the project to enable feedback and recommendations from the community to be provided to Council. The advisory committee will be set up along similar lines to the existing Waiohine Floodplain Committee set up when an earlier section of the stopbanks were upgraded in 1997. Representation will be sought from:

Greater Wellington

South Wairarapa District Council

Carterton District Council

Greytown Community Board

Iwi

Department of Conservation

Fish and Game New Zealand

Rural Landowners

Urban Landowners

The first meeting to establish the committee is proposed for the end of October 2008 and the committee will remain in place until the project is complete, at which time the make up of the committee to oversee the management of the scheme will be reviewed.

7. The Project Team

James Flanagan will be the Project Manger for the project reporting to Graham Reidy, the Central Area Engineer based in Masterton and then on through the normal channels to Council. Working directly with James will be Tracy Berghan who will provide planning expertise for the process and Jim Flack from Corporate Communications who will assist with the consultation.

Other technical experts will be engaged as and when required.

8. Communications

Communication is central to the FMP concept and process. The community we will be engaging with has taken a keen interest in the progress of the FMP work to date. Jim Flack of the Corporate Communications team based in the Wairarapa will manage this element of the project.

A key role of the communication process is to manage the expectations of the community with regard to possible physical works. The community is likely to be enthusiastic about progress of any physical works as soon as possible. We must emphasise patience to ensure the process is carried out comprehensively and following best practice.

We will make it clear to the community that FMP is a process to give the community a strategy to cope with the flood risk from the Waiohine River and is not solely about constructing physical flood protection along the banks of the river.

9. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. ***Receives*** the report.
2. ***Notes*** the content of the report.
3. ***Endorses*** the proposed process and timeframe for the completion of the Waiohine Floodplain Management Plan project and the setting up of an Advisory Committee for the project.

Report prepared by: Report approved by: Report approved by: Report approved by:

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