



Report 09.549
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Committee Council
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Report on the Catchment Management Committee meeting held on 1 September 2009

1. Purpose

To inform Council about the meeting of the Catchment Management Committee meeting that took place on 1 September 2009.

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. Reports

3.1 Hutt River – Preferred Alignment of Mills Street Stopbank

This report was seeking a recommendation from the Committee concerning a preferred alignment for the proposed Mills Street stopbank. The Committee noted that this matter had previously been considered by the Hutt River Advisory Subcommittee and that Subcommittee had recommended the yellow stopbank alignment.

The Committee heard the views of a number of Mills Street residents and the Mayor and one Councillor from Hutt City Council.

The Committee considered the technical information provided, including hydraulic modelling, channel widening and design levels for the proposed stopbank. It was noted that the investigative work had been completed by three independent engineering consultants. Alternative upgrade options were provided but all had serious disadvantages, compared to a realigned stopbank.

Two stopbank alignment options, yellow and blue, were investigated. Both involve land purchase, causing disruption to residents of Mills Street. The yellow alignment has a smaller impact, resulting in the need to purchase a

minimum of four properties, compared to the blue alignment which affects a minimum of eleven properties.

The engineering investigations indicated that there were minimal benefits to flood hydraulics if the more expensive blue alignment was selected.

The Committee endorsed selection of the yellow stopbank alignment option. This matter will be considered by the full Council at the meeting on 29 September 2009.

3.2 Tawaha Floodway Drainage – Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme (LWVDS)

This report considered some residual drainage issues in the Tawaha Floodway, west of Martinborough. The floodway, constructed in 1982/83, channels and controls floodwaters that spill onto the floodplain at Tawaha, cross SH53 (Featherston to Martinborough) at Jenkins Dip before entering the floodway proper and spilling back into the Ruamahanga River.

The floodway has worked very well, providing significant flood protection benefits to adjacent and downstream landowners. However, downstream landowners have raised concerns about drainage issues when low flow drainage water from the Tawaha catchment was diverted permanently into the adjacent Whakawiriwiri Stream. This flow appears to have compounded drainage issues in low lying areas downstream.

A number of drainage improvement options were considered in the 1990's and some improvement works were completed. However, an option to totally regrade parts of the Whakawiriwiri Stream was not supported by all affected landowners. Recent investigations indicate that alternative drainage improvement options should be considered, with a view to finding an option acceptable to all landowners.

The Committee endorsed the recommendation to undertake further investigations and report back with options for further consideration.

3.3 Regional Pest Management Strategy – 2009/10 Operational Plan

This report presented the first Operational Plan under the newly reviewed RPMS. The review has added to, expanded and updated the original species and corresponding aims and objectives of the Strategy.

In 2009/10 resources will continue to be focused on regional surveillance and total control / eradication species. These pests are all capable of becoming significant regional pests if left unmanaged. Other focus areas include maintaining containment zones, undertaking control trials on difficult species, and continuing to implement the site-led Key Native Ecosystem and local authority reserves programmes.

A report on performance against the objectives in the Plan will be reported to the Committee in November 2010.

3.4 Hutt River Advisory Subcommittee

This report presented the minutes of the Subcommittee meeting on 16 July 2009.

The Committee was updated on the Hutt/Boulcott river channel improvements and progress on the detailed design for the stopbank, land entry agreements and designation / consent applications. The Subcommittee were advised that the two golf clubs had developed a working party to consider the potential merging of golfing interests.

3.5 Wairarapa Hill Country Advisory Committee

This report presented the minutes of two Committee meetings held on 8 June and 6 August 2009.

Matters considered by the Committee included an update on securing land at the MDC Homebush wastewater treatment plant for an expansion of the Akura nursery; an update on the Afforestation Grant Scheme; progressing discussions with the Animal Health Board regarding regional funding; consideration of the draft supercatchment paper covering the Eastern Wairarapa catchments, and draft guidelines for stock access to waterways.

3.6 Divisional Managers Report

The Committee was provided with an overview of the major Divisional achievements in the 2008/09 year.

Updates were provided on implementation of the 2009/10 Bovine TB vector control programme, including excellent results achieved for the recently completed northern Haurangi Range aerial 1080 operation.

The Committee was advised that investigations for the Mills Street stopbank alignment had been completed and recommendations prepared for review by the HRAS. Excellent progress was being achieved on the Waiwhetu Stream cleanup and flood improvement measures, and Waiohine River flood hazard mapping.

Soil conservation plantings were progressing well following a lengthy period of fine weather in August. The bulk of the winter programme was expected to be completed by the end of August.

A series of maps highlighting key information strands were presented as part of the catchment inventory work being undertaken.

4. Unconfirmed minutes

Unconfirmed minutes of the Committee meeting are in Attachment 1.

5. Recommendations

That the Council:

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

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:



Cr Ian Buchanan
Chair,
Catchment Management Committee

Wayne O'Donnell
Divisional Manager, Catchment Management

**Attachment 1: Unconfirmed minutes of the Catchment Management Committee
held on 1 September 2009**