

Original Message -----

From: Fred MacDonald

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Sent: Tuesday, August 03, 2010 12:32 AM

Subject: Otaki River and Envoirons

Cr.Ian Buchanan,
Chair,G.W.R.C.
Catchment Committee.

Dear Ian,I make the following submissions for the Committee's consideration and action.

1.Otaki River Mouth-The constant action of the Tasman Ocean combined with the lack of large Flood Events has seen the Opening considerably narrowed in recent months which causes backflow build up and Flooding potential for nearby Residents.This narrowing also lessens the chances of migrating Fish Species navigating the Entrance to The River and completing thier travel upstream to thier natural Habitat.

The solution is better managment of The River Mouth and this does not mean waiting for the flow to reach defined "Trigger Points" before action is taken to redirect the flow.

Where the failing is,is not maintaining the width of The River Mouth and making The River work for Itself to do so by effective Management Processes.As well ,regular Inspections need to be undertaken and Local input obtained and decisions made in Otaki-not from The Office in Wellington. The Otaki Community Board Chairman has suggested the setting up of a local River Management Group to address the presently unsatisfactory situation and return control to the Local Community.

2.The Estuary, which is part of the old River Course ;is in a very unhealthy state.It receives all material carried of the Sreets and Roads of Otaki as this is where all Stormwater goes via the Rangiuru and Nga toko Streams.

There is also the leaching from the former Rubbish Dump located on the eastern side of The Estuary.This Dump was unlined and was never capped upon closure allowing water to pass through and carry contamiments freely into The Estuary.Farm runoff into both the above Streams is another factor in Sediment build up here as well.The Million tons of waste dumped into The Manawatu River every Year and carried by The Tides along The Kapiti Horowhenua Coastline also becomes a factor in the Pollution of The Estuary.

There are a number of Options avialible to clean out The Estuary listed as follows:

1.Dredging and removal of contaminated Sediment from The Estuary.

2.Treatment of stormwater in The Streams by use of Wiers and plantings to cleanse the Waters as well as recreating Wetlands nearby to filter the Water through.

3.Mining and removal of all material from the old Rubbish Dump Site.

4.Reducing Waste being dumped into The Manawatu River by use of Land based Treatment Options.

5.Reducing Farm run off by introducing better on site Management Processes.

6.Introducing flow from The River into the recently cleaned out Channels that connect to The Estuary-this can be done by either constructing an Inverter to siphon Water from the main River Course,buiding a Groyne to redirect flow into The Estuary or drilling a bore to get water flowing into these Channels.Fresh flowing water over a period of time would provide a flushing effect rather than the disruptive process of dredging.

3.Riverbank Protection measures are required along the length from where The Estuary meets The River for about 500 Metres approximately.The Groyne is not acting as effective Protection as promised previosly by Graeme Campbell.A recent event saw the Main Course swing round behind the Groyne and carry away a considerable amount of material-and that can never be returned once it has gone down The River!The large Concrete Blocks that are presently visually polluting Otaki Beach could be placed along the Northern Bank and tied together to support each other to prevent damage from The River.Vegetation could be encouraged to grow over the Blocks to disguise thier existance.

The build up of material and Vegetation on the Southern side of The River must be left(nearby Maori Owners dont want this Material removed at all).These measures will have the combined effect of confining The River at this Location and increase the Power of the flow at The Mouth and help to keep it open and operating more effectively.

4.All Tanalized Posts and Concrete Blocks must be removed from the Area to reduce Pollution effects both visually and from leaching.

5. Proposed viewing platform-there is an attempt to have this constructed without going through the proper Processes. It has been suggested that a concrete structure be created surrounded by Tanalized Posts with a lead up ramp with a 1 in 8 gradient. K.C.D.C. Regulations clearly show a 1 in 12 gradient is what is required for wheelchair access. Rather than Posts, Natural features could be utilized as a Barrier such as rocks, large logs and mature plantings. Also crushed rock can be used instead of Concrete to retain the Natural status of the Area.

6. There is still no progress on the Otaki Flood Plain Review despite promises made quite a few Years ago that Flood Defences need reviewing in The Rangiuuru Area.

7. Management and Staff performance needs to be reviewed and be subject to scrutiny by appropriate Personnel from outside the G.W.R.C. Structure.

I look forward to receiving a positive response to the above and look forward to obtaining a better level of performance and support from G.W.R.C. Management and Staff in the future.

Yours Sincerely

Fred. Macdonald.

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C.C. Nathan Guy M.P.