

Report 13.765
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Committee Environmental Wellbeing
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Waiohine Floodplain Management Plan - Project Update on Phase 3

1. Purpose

To provide information on progress with the Waiohine Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) and seek endorsement of the Project Plan for the remaining work to be completed by May 2014.

2. The decision-making process and significance

Officers recognise that the matters referenced in this report may have a high degree of importance to affected or interested parties.

The matter requiring decision in this report has been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act). Part 6 sets out the obligations of local authorities in relation to the making of decisions.

2.1 Significance of the decision

Part 6 requires Greater Wellington Regional Council to consider the significance of the decision. The term 'significance' has a statutory definition set out in the Act.

Officers have considered the significance of the matter, taking the Council's significance policy and decision-making guidelines into account. Officers recommend that the matter be considered to have low significance.

Officers do not consider that a formal record outlining consideration of the decision-making process is required in this instance.

3. Background

The Waiohine FMP process has been investigating how best to mitigate the flood hazard from the Waiohine River and the Mangatarere Stream.

The Waiohine FMP involves five phases. These five phases are:

Phase 1, Establish the Context was completed with the publishing of the Phase 1 summary report in March 2012.

Phase 2, Identify the Mitigation Options was completed with the selection of two preferred combinations of options for further investigation in October 2012. Options were consulted on at the beginning of this process and again in both January/February and March 2012.

Phase 3, Select the Mitigation Options is currently underway and is intended to conclude with a recommendation on a preferred option to the Environmental Wellbeing Committee in May 2014.

Phase 4, Prepare and Document the Plan is the finalisation of the FMP document.

Phase 5, Treat the Flood Problem is the implementation of the Floodplain Management Plan outcomes.

4. Detail of Phase 3 – Project Plan Summary

The Waiohine Floodplain Management Plan Advisory Committee (WFMPAC) recommended Option 7 as its preferred option. The Environmental Wellbeing Committee, at its meeting on 21st May 2013, noted this recommendation and endorsed Council Officers carrying out further investigations to develop Option 7 in more detail and ensure it is a sustainable option.

The remaining work for **Phase 3** is to investigate further how the conceptual Option 7 could be implemented and how the uncertainties and sustainability issues should be addressed.

These remaining work components of **Phase 3** are:

4.1.1 River channel Management

The assessment will further develop the Option C river channel management approach to a level of detail suitable for a resource consent application and to have confidence that it is flexible enough to manage long-term uncertainties in river behaviour. This will include narrowing down the approaches at pinch point locations such as Fullers Bend to specific, costed proposals.

The investigations will include an assessment of potential long-term river behaviour (especially in relation to sediment transport) and the amount of room that is needed to provide flexibility in future river management. It will also consider what effects new or upgraded stopbanks close to the river may have on gravel transport and river morphology.

Staging and priority of the river management capital works will be considered as well.

4.1.2 Stopbanks

The constraints on where it is sustainable to build stopbanks will be assessed. This will include the room needed to minimise the influence on river

management, the risk to the stopbanks from river erosion and to minimise the impacts on river channel morphology. It is important that the selected stopbank location doesn't lock us into a particular river management approach and that some flexibility is maintained to allow changes in the future, e.g. for environmental needs or to respond to changes in river behaviour.

The possible need for staging and prioritising the works will also be considered.

4.1.3 Planning Controls

This will involve further detailed consultation with the three Territorial Authorities in the Combined District Plan (CDP) and will focus on managing residual risk. This will be mainly based around ensuring compatibility of land use with the remaining flood risks once any structural measures such as stopbanks have been built.

4.1.4 Emergency Management

This aspect of the investigation will look at the remaining component of risk that is not managed by river management, structural or non-structural methods. It will consider where the current flood warning, planning and procedures can be improved and how these will be incorporated into the FMP.

4.1.5 Environmental Opportunities

Opportunities for environmental enhancement will be developed during the consultation carried out in this phase of the investigation. This will feed into the development of an Environmental Strategy in later phases of the FMP process.

4.1.6 Consultation with those affected by the proposed works

This will take the form of identifying those parties directly affected and then discussing details of any proposed works that would affect them. Consultation with the wider community will focus around project updates and communication of the existing flood risk, as well as environmental enhancement opportunities.

5. Timeframe and progress to date

Phase 3 of the process has been underway since May 2012. A Project Plan has now been written for the completion of Phase 3 as summarised in this report. Individual portions of the work to be completed have been defined and offers of service have been requested from consultants, with more work briefs being developed at present. A draft Phase 2/3 Summary Report has been prepared to summarise the work carried out to date and this is currently being reviewed internally.

The work has been delayed by the recent disruption caused by the earthquakes. Currently, the project is approximately three weeks behind programme. At this stage it is unclear if this will affect our ability to meet the May 2014 target.

6. Communication

An update of this information has been sent to all of the WFMPAC members. The Phase 2/3 Summary Report will be sent out to WFMPAC members once it has been reviewed and approved internally.

As part of the project plan, separate consultation and communication strategies are to be developed. We intend to engage specialist assistance with the consultation given the sensitivity of this project in some quarters.

As part of this consultation process, initial conversations will be had with directly affected landowners about the impacts on them and terms for access and construction agreements. This is critical to the process as almost exclusively all the land required is in private ownership.

7. Recommendations

That the Environmental Wellbeing Committee:

1. **Receives** the report.
2. **Notes** the content of the report.
3. **Endorses** the Project Plan for Phase 3 of the Waiohine Floodplain Management Plan.

Report prepared by:



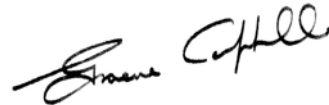
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