

Report 13.813
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Committee Hutt Valley Flood Management Subcommittee
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Hutt Valley Flood Management - Project Manager's Report

1. Purpose

To update the Subcommittee on progress made with various Hutt Valley flood management projects.

2. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report. This report provides an update on implementing the current floodplain management projects, and is for information only.

3. Background

Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) is currently implementing a number of flood protection projects in the Hutt Valley. There are separate reports to the Subcommittee providing updates on major projects. This report keeps track of progress on all projects, and also provides references to the major project reports.

4. Boulcott/Hutt Project

The Boulcott/Hutt stopbank is now completed, one year ahead of schedule. The contractor's defects liability period will end in March 2014. A surveyor has been selected to complete the boundary surveys required for the land transfers between the Boulcott's Farm Golf Club, GWRC and HCC. Negotiations with Safeway are continuing regarding the security fence and other issues raised by Safeway.

A community planting day was held at Ariki Street on 3 August 2013 to acknowledge the end of this part of the project. We are working with the Golf Club on an event to mark the completion of the stopbank and course redevelopments later in the year.

5. City Centre Project

The project scoping for the City Centre Upgrade Project is now complete. Staff have now completed a work plan to complete the next phase of the project. Report 13.812 of this Order Paper provides more details.

6. Waiwhetu Stream Flood Management Plan

Further work is being done to develop the two options preferred by the Subcommittee and refine cost estimates, with the aim of having a preferred option to present to the Subcommittee towards the end of this financial year.

A summary options report has been prepared and is currently being internally reviewed.

Site visits were carried out at Waiwhetu and Pinehaven with Sinclair Knight Mertz and Christchurch City Council engineers to explain the Floodplain Management Planning process practised in the Wellington Region.

7. Upper Hutt Plan Change 15

The hearing on the proposed Plan Change 15 to introduce flood and erosion hazard information for the Mangaroa River, and to update the flood and erosion hazard information for the Hutt River within the Upper Hutt District Plan, has been completed and a decision is expected shortly.

8. Pinehaven Floodplain Management

Sinclair Knight Mertz has developed a draft FMP and this is now being reviewed by GWRC and UHCC. A meeting has been scheduled with UHCC and Capacity to receive feedback on the draft FMP. Work is also being done with our Operations team to identify further opportunities to reduce the cost of implementation of the preferred option.

Additional consultation has been carried out with individual residents at their request.

9. River Management Resource Consent Project

Good progress continues to be made on the River Management Resource Consent Project. Resource consent applications have been lodged for the Hutt River, the Waikanae and Otaki Rivers, with the Wainuiomata River to follow in September. The focus is now on the Code of Practice, with workshops to be held with the 'Science Group' and wider stakeholders in September. Discussions have continued with GWRC Environmental Regulation staff about the applications, and a peer review of the ecological components of the Hutt application has been undertaken by external consultants. Further information has been provided to Environmental Regulation staff in response to matters raised by the peer review.

The additional information requested resulted in staff submitting a draft region wide monitoring report and a standalone effects report for the Hutt River.

Engagement more recently has focused on meetings with both Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust and Ngati Toa. They are currently preparing cultural

values reports for the consent process. We have also met with the Hutt River Friends Group. The next phase of engagement will be focused on the region wide Code of Practice.

10. Maintenance and Recreation activities

All maintenance work is running to programme. The clean-up of fallen trees after the 21 June storm event is now complete, and interim repair works to edge protection alongside Port Road have also been completed. Further work will be required in this area to properly secure the alignment.

Sites for willow planting have been prepared, and willow and native planting is underway along the Hutt River berms. The clearing of sight lines for the five yearly cross section survey is also underway.

The winter weather did not stop people using the river berms over the last period, with running and cycle events and numerous community planting days carried out. Graffiti continues to be a problem in the lower river, and both contractors and Periodic Detention workers have been enlisted to help clean these areas up.

The River Ranger's position has been re-advertised, and some very good applications for the position have been received. The vacancy should be filled this month.

11. Communication

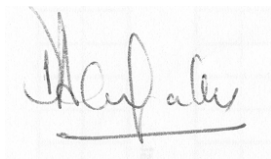
Communication initiatives, including newsletters, meetings with residents and other stakeholders, are in place for all projects. Most of the major projects are receiving wide publicity through the local press.

12. Recommendations

That the Subcommittee:

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

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