

Report 14.490
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Committee Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga River Floodplain Management
Subcommittee
Author Alistair J N Allan, Senior Projects Engineer

Te Kāuru Upper Ruamāhanga Floodplain Management Plan: Approval of Phase 1 Outcomes

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the Phase 1 Summary Report as final. This report was received by the Subcommittee at its meeting on 23 July 2014.

2. Background

At the 23 July meeting of this Subcommittee, the Subcommittee received the Te Kāuru Upper Ruamāhanga Floodplain Management Phase 1 summary report, and approved its release to the wider community. At the meeting the Subcommittee recommended changes to the document, which would be reviewed and approved by the Subcommittee chair prior to the public release.

A workshop was held by the Subcommittee on morning of 12 August 2014. This workshop summarised in greater detail the issues identified during phase 1 of the project, and preparation for the release of flood hazard information.

A second meeting was held in the afternoon of 12 August 2014 which included councillors and officers from Masterton District council. This workshop discussed the methods used to develop flood models, and preparation for the release of flood hazard information.

The flood hazard information and issues were released to the community by targeted mail on 22 August 2014. No additional issues outside of those already identified within the scope of issues contained in the Phase 1 summary report have been raised by the community subsequent to that date.

3. Phase 1 Investigation Outcomes

The investigations completed during the first phase of the floodplain management planning process have created a clear picture of the values of the rivers and the adjacent floodplain. The work identified the risks that exist, the relationships between flood hazards, people and communities, the values and the way in which the interactions between these are managed. An updated summary report for Phase 1 is contained in **Attachment 1** to this report.

3.1.1 Key Outcomes

The main outcomes of the Phase 1 investigations, which will need to be addressed through Phase 2, can be summarised as:

- Flood risk affecting homes, businesses and critical infrastructure in both rural and urban areas of the catchment;
- Erosion risk affecting productive land and critical infrastructure situated near the river corridor;
- Conflicts between current river management techniques and cultural, environmental and social values;
- Relationships between communities, groups and individuals involved with the management of rivers;
- The current funding, rating and governance methods used to pay for flood, erosion and river management.

Following the release of flood hazard information to the community, no additional issues have been raised by the community which sit outside of the scope of these five categories, or outside those issues identified within the Phase 1 investigation technical reports.

4. Flood hazard information release

Flood hazard information was sent on 22 August 2014 to property owners or rate payers for approximately 3000 flood hazard affected properties in the Upper Wairarapa Valley.

Following this release Greater Wellington Regional Council has received 155 enquiries for individual properties (up to 12 September 2014). The information has been well received by the community and the project team has worked to resolve individual issues related to the flood hazard information face-to-face, by phone and by email with enquirers. The project team continues to respond to enquiries as they arrive.

In some areas which are affected by greater flood depths, the project team has actioned individual property visits and will meet individually with those property owners to better understand their personal circumstances, survey the floor levels of their houses, and obtain more detail about the property onsite.

The flood hazard information release involved the following stages:

- Mail out to flood hazard affected landowners on 22 August
- Open and information day held at the Frank Cody Lounge, Masterton Town Hall, on 30 August.
- Call centre and enquiry management related to flood hazard information release that to date has received 155 enquiries.

5. Public information day 30 August 2014

A flood hazard information day was held at the Frank Cody lounge on Saturday 30 August. The event focused on the flood spread to assist attendees with understanding the impacts of the information on their property. The event also included a history of flooding and other significant events in the Wairarapa, details about how flood modelling is carried out, a summary of floodplain and catchment values, and examples of previous floodplain management plans completed in the Wellington region.

An estimated 200 people attended, and approximately 90 feedback forms were received with contact details and other comments. Media coverage and feedback received to date has been very positive.

6. Communications

No further communication regarding Phase 1 is proposed. The next communication with the community will be around the commencement of Phase 2 and this is covered in Report No. 14.491.

7. 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 matters requiring decision in this report have 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.

7.1 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.

8. Recommendations

That the Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga River Floodplain Management Plan Subcommittee:

- 1. **Receives** the report.*
- 2. **Notes** the content of the report.*
- 3. **Approves** the “Te Kāuru Upper Ruamāhanga Floodplain Management Phase 1 Summary Report” as final, and in particular **notes** the key outcomes noted in section 3.1.1 of this report.*

Report prepared by:

Alistair J N Allan
Senior Projects Engineer

Report approved by:

Graeme Campbell
Manager Flood Protection

Report approved by:

Wayne O'Donnell
General Manager, Catchment
Management

Attachment: Te Kāuru Upper Ruamāhanga Floodplain Management Plan for the Upper Ruamāhanga Valley Phase 1 Summary Report