

Report 15.326  
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Committee Environment Committee  
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## **Report on the Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga River Floodplain Management Plan Subcommittee meeting 23 June 2015**

### **1. Purpose**

To inform the Environment Committee of Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga River Floodplain Management Plan Subcommittee (the Subcommittee) meeting of 23 June 2015.

### **2. Reports**

#### **2.1 Te Kauru Upper Ruamahanga River Floodplain Management Plan-Options Development**

The Subcommittee discussed the outcomes of a workshop held to discuss the development of Flood risk management options for the reaches of the Ruamahanga River that had not been dealt with at previous meetings.

The Subcommittee noted the key themes that had been developed at the workshop. The importance of informing affected parties of flood and erosion risks to areas surrounding the reaches was emphasised. The Subcommittee further noted that the possibility of creating an erosion hazard map, similar to the flood hazard map already in existence, had been raised at the workshop. There had been a general consensus at the workshops that the existing levels of service should be maintained (with a small number of exceptions for areas that required greater protection).

The Subcommittee noted that the Waipoua and Waingawa workshops raised a number of other issues. Further effort was required in order to determine the specific risk to infrastructure around the Waingawa. This would entail working with the Carterton District Council, Masterton District Council and private landowners when required. The importance of ensuring that all infrastructure is protected, whether it be owned by local authorities or central government, was emphasised.

The Subcommittee noted that the next steps were that a set of options combinations would be drafted, before entering into the next stage of community engagement. An officers' workshop on the urban reach of the Masterton River would be held in July with a Subcommittee workshop held soon after. Further hydrology investigation will be undertaken on the urban Waipoua.

## **2.2 Project Manager's Report- June 2015**

The Subcommittee noted that Masterton District Council (MDC) had recently commissioned an analysis by NIWA into aspects of the Waipoua River flood hydrology that were done by Pattle Delamore on behalf of Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC). It was noted that small differences in flow estimations had led to much larger differences in estimating return periods. Further work will be undertaken with MDC staff to carry out further hydrology investigations and changes will be reflected at the preferred options combination stage. Both MDC and GWRC share a commitment to developing 1 in 100 year protection.

The Subcommittee noted the concerns that have been raised by a number of Homebush residents relating to river management practises. These concerns had been raised at the previous subcommittee meeting and at a meeting with the residents held on 21 April. The residents have been concerned about the impact of gravel extraction on bed levels and groundwater levels. The Subcommittee noted that gravel extraction was only one potential cause of groundwater levels which may be caused by a range of different factors. The Subcommittee noted that Homebush residents have been made aware that extraction levels will be reduced, and extraction in the Te Ore Ore reach will cease until river changes make further extraction necessary. The residents wished to include consideration of gravel extraction in the Flood Management Plan so this may need to be considered.

The Subcommittee noted that River Management Scheme meetings were held at the start of June and the project team had presented an update to the committees on the progress of the Subcommittee.

The Subcommittee noted the excellent engagement meetings held by the Whaitua groups around the Wairarapa region. The possibility of getting an archaeologist to explore significant sites was raised. These sites could include Rathkeale College and the Hidden Lakes site.

The Subcommittee noted the recent completion of pre-feasibility investigations into irrigation and water storage by Wairarapa Water Use Project (WWUP). It emphasised the importance of effective communication between WWUP and the Subcommittee and respective Whaitua groups, given the possible impacts that the Black Creek site would have on the rivers.

**3. Communication**

No external communication is required.

**4. The decision-making process and significance**

No decision is being sought in this report.

**4.1 Engagement**

Engagement on this matter is unnecessary.

**5. Recommendations**

*That the Committee:*

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

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Report approved by:

**Cr Donaldson**  
Chair, Environment  
Committee