

Report 15.394
Date 22 September 2015
File CCAB-10-55

Committee Environment
Author James Flanagan, Senior Engineer

Waiohine Floodplain Management Plan – Preferred Option

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is fourfold:

- To inform the Committee of progress in the Waiohine Floodplain Management Plan (FMP); specifically how officers have solved outstanding matters raised in the 11 February Strategy and Policy Committee workshop.
- To convey the views of the two affected Wairarapa councils for the preferred option.
- To seek to finalise the Phase 3 Summary Report and preferred option.
- To seek approval to commence work on the Draft FMP.

2. Background

At the 11 February 2015 Council Committee workshop officers updated Councillors on progress in relation to the Waiohine FMP.

Officers noted that two matters required further consideration. The first of these was the location (alignment) of a new stopbank on the True Right Bank of the Waiohine River protecting Greytown. The second was the management of an existing stopbank on the True Left Bank and the need to retreat the stopbank away from the river edge.

Councillors requested that officers work to solve these two points and also to approach officers and councillors from South Wairarapa District and Carterton District Councils to seek their views.

3. Items Raised

We have been able to address the key concerns that were identified in the 11 February 2015 Council Committee workshop, as follows:

3.1 Stopbank 1 (Greytown Stopbank)

The construction of the new stopbank on the True Right bank of the river is generally as was originally planned in 2007. The difference with what is currently being proposed is in the levels of protection provided. The Waiohine FMP Advisory Committee (WRFMPAC) has recognised the impacts on the Carterton side of the river. As such they have recommended that protection be provided in a 1 in 100 year flood to the bulk of the Greytown township area and then to lower to the stopbank to 50 year standard until it joins into an existing stopbank which then runs to the State Highway 2 Bridge. **(Attachment 1)**

The exact location of this stopbank has also been the subject of considerable debate. Much of the discussion had become bogged down in issues that were either too detailed or too landowner-specific for this stage of an FMP (where the overall approach to managing flood risk needs to first be agreed). In the interest of progressing the FMP, the stopbank alignment in the Preferred Option will run along or close to an existing designation (put in the District Plan in 2007). This is broadly consistent with Option 7 recommended by the WRFMPAC and is considered by GWRC to meet sustainability requirements as well as being in line with our Council's FMP Principles. Importantly, it is also consistent with the river management option selected by the WRFMPAC as part of their preferred option combination. In this way the stopbank can be confirmed along the already designated alignment. Officers can then work with the individual owners to make small modifications if needed, at the design stage.

3.2 Stopbank 2 (Swamp Road rural stopbank)

The existing stopbank on the true left bank of the river raises a difficult management problem for the operation of the scheme. The current stopbank is poorly constructed, in poor condition and is located too close to the river. It is vulnerable to overtopping damage and to scour from the river. The ongoing management of this bank will require key decisions to be made in the future about whether to rebuild on a retreated alignment or not. The decision if and when it is made to retreat the stopbank has significant implications both cost wise but also when considering the impact on productive land.

The solution is to establish a set of criteria that will trigger the decision to rebuild this stopbank on a retreated alignment. These criteria and triggers will be included in the FMP **(Attachment 2)** and they will be developed in the Draft FMP.

4. Council Feedback

We have presented to both officers and Councillors at South Wairarapa and Carterton District Council (SWDC and CDC). Both Councils met separately to consider the preferred option and give us an indication of their support for the work and how they would like the work funded. The result of this is that SWDC have given their support in general for the FMP to proceed with the proposed option through to Draft FMP **(Attachment 3)**. SWDC consider that funding for the works should be targeted over the Greytown area.

CDC have indicated that they wish to remain neutral so have not supported the preferred option at this time (**Attachment 4**). Due to most of the negative effects being concentrated on the Carterton side of the river they are not willing to endorse the preferred option at the present time. While not considered a desirable situation, officers do not consider it should stop us proceeding with developing and consulting on a Draft FMP and we expect support from both councils in consulting on the Draft FMP. The Draft FMP consultation process gives CDC ample opportunity to discuss their concerns about the effects of what is being considered. CDC would like the works to be funded along the same lines as SWDC with costs apportioned to those that benefit, by targeted rate.

5. Communication

We will be updating the WRFMPAC on Council's decision in October. In this meeting we will discuss the feedback from both CDC and SWDC. We will also detail the next steps in the process including the development of a Draft FMP for consultation in early 2016.

6. The decision-making process and significance

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).

6.1 Significance of the decision

The subject matter of this report is part of a decision-making process that will lead to the Council making a decision of medium significance within the meaning of the Local Government Act 2002.

6.2 Engagement

In accordance with the significance and engagement policy, officers have determined that the appropriate level of engagement is to inform and consult. Consultation on a draft FMP will take place in early 2016.

7. Recommendations

That the Committee:

- 1. **Receives** the report.*
- 2. **Notes** the issues involved in developing a draft FMP, including the current views of the two affected local authorities.*
- 3. **Endorses** officers proceeding with developing a draft FMP for the final round of consultation.*

Report prepared by:

James Flanagan
Senior Engineer

Report approved by:

Mark Hooker
Team Leader ISP

Report approved by:

Graeme Campbell
Manager
Flood Protection

Report approved by:

Wayne O'Donnell
General Manager
Catchment Management

Attachment 1: Stopbank 1 – New TRB stopbank location and affected parties

Attachment 2: Stopbank 2 – Existing TLB stopbank

Attachment 3: South Wairarapa District Council, Waiohine FMP resolution

Attachment 4: Carterton District Council, Waiohine FMP resolution