

Report 15.640
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Committee Environment Committee
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Report on Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga River Floodplain Management Plan Subcommittee meeting 15 December 2015

1. Purpose

To inform the Environment Committee of Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga River Floodplain Management Plan Subcommittee (the Subcommittee) meeting of 15 December 2015.

2. Public Participation

Rob Irwin gave a PowerPoint presentation on behalf of Trails Wairarapa Trust. Mr Irwin gave the presentation on a proposed pedestrian/cycling bridge over the Waipoua River. The Subcommittee indicated its support for the project and noted that it is unlikely to conflict with the Floodplain Management Plan. Officers will work with the group on the options for location and the required length of the bridge so that estimated costs can be calculated. Mr Irwin will raise this proposal with Masterton District Council (MDC) at their next Council meeting.

3. Reports

3.1 Rural Options Development Report

The Subcommittee was updated on Rural Options Development for the Te Kauru Upper Ruamahanga Floodplain Management Plan.

The development of options has been carried out on a reach by reach basis. This has meant that reach specific issues have been addressed, but also that common ways to address issues across a wide range of reaches has been rolled up into options common across all reaches.

The Subcommittee noted that a code of practice is being developed, to operate under and in conjunction with the Floodplain Management Plan. The code of practice is intended to provide guidance at a reach level and will be implemented by the river schemes. The Subcommittee noted that it is important

to correctly balance the level of information included in the Floodplain Management Plan and the code of practice. Consultation on the code will take place with the river schemes before it is finalised and an update on progress will be provided to the next subcommittee meeting.

3.2 Project Manager's Report- December 2015

The Subcommittee was updated regarding the Te Kauru Upper Ruamahanga Floodplain Management Plan.

The Subcommittee noted that there have been ongoing discussions between GWRC and MDC on MDC's concerns about the hydrological modelling underpinning GWRC's flood mapping of the urban reach of the Waipoua river. The refined hydrology is currently undergoing review by external consultants MWH Global. The outcomes of the review are expected by April-May 2016. The Subcommittee emphasised that they are committed to working collaboratively with MDC on this matter and that continuing development of the urban Waipoua options, without their approval is not considered viable. Triennial local government elections are scheduled for October 2016 and this could push out the date that the FMP is approved.

The Subcommittee discussed the erosion that has occurred on Dakins Road, where a portion of the bank has collapsed into the Ruamahanga River. A temporary fix has been put in place to address risk over the summer. Long term solutions to this problem could include pushing back the road away from the river and extending existing groyne protections upstream. It was noted that provisions could be included in the FMP to ensure that similar erosion events are limited in future.

The Subcommittee was informed of the Wairarapa River scheme chairs meeting which took place on 4 September 2015. This meeting included a presentation on updated climate change predictions for the Wairarapa Valley, an update on the regional resource consents project and discussion of future governance models for the Wairarapa Valley.

4. Communication

No external communication is required.

5. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

5.1 Engagement

Engagement on this matter is unnecessary.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

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

Report prepared by:

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Report approved by:

Cr Donaldson
Chair, Environment
Committee