

Report 16.140
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Committee Pinehaven Floodplain Management Plan Hearing Panel
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Proposed Pinehaven Stream Floodplain Management Plan

1. Purpose

To provide an overview of the submissions received on the Proposed Pinehaven Floodplain Management Plan (Proposed Plan) and to seek the Panel's recommendations on the Plan for consideration by the Hutt Valley Flood Management Subcommittee (Subcommittee) on 14 June 2016.

2. Background

At its meeting on 22 July 2015, the Subcommittee resolved to release the Proposed Plan for a second round of public consultation including publication of maps amended to differentiate freeboard.

The Proposed Plan incorporated amendments recommended by the audit, which was completed after the 2014 consultation on the initial Proposed Pinehaven Floodplain Management Plan (Initial Proposed Plan).

On 26 November 2015, the Subcommittee resolved to establish a hearing panel to consider written and oral feedback on both the Proposed Plan and Initial Proposed Plan. The Subcommittee also adopted terms of reference for the Panel.

3. Consultation undertaken

3.1 Consultation on the Proposed Plan

Consultation events occurred with the community on 9 and 16 September 2015. On these dates GWRC and Upper Hutt City Council hosted open days at Pinehaven School to present the:

- Pinehaven Stream Floodplain Management Plan
- UHCC Urban Growth Strategy
- UHCC Protected Trees Plan Change.

The open days were advertised by public notice in the Upper Hutt Leader. In addition, all parties who had submitted on the Initial Proposed Plan in 2014 were invited to attend the open days.

Following the first open day, a flyer was distributed on the weekend of 12-13 September 2015 to 450 properties within the flood hazard area primarily around the properties adjacent to the stream and beyond this. We also understand the Save Our Hills Group distributed a flyer encouraging people to attend the open day.

3.2 Attendance

Approximately 50 people attended the open days in total.

Attendees represented a broad area of the catchment, drawing residents and owners from the lower, middle and upper catchment, and including both those who suffer potential significant flooding, and those who were outside the identified flood prone area.

3.3 Initial Proposed Plan (2014)

The Initial Proposed Plan was released for public consultation on 16 October 2014. Submissions from this round of consultation closed on 20 November 2014. An open day format was used to present the information and a public meeting held to discuss the flood maps.

An independent audit was completed subsequent to this round of consultation.

3.4 Submissions on the Proposed Plan and Initial Proposed Plan

Submissions were invited on both the Initial Proposed Plan and Proposed Plan. Submissions were received online (by online form), email and mail.

Submitters who made a submission on the Initial Proposed Plan were contacted in 2015 to advise them of the Proposed Plan and their opportunity to update or amend their submission on the Initial Proposed Plan.

A table summarising submissions received on the Initial Proposed Plan and Proposed Plan is included as Attachment 1 to this report.

4. Consultation outcomes - Summary of issues raised by the community

Below provides a summary of the key issues raised by the community across all forms of consultation undertaken.

Key issues raised are:

- There is support across the community for structural works to continue as outlined in the FMP. However, the community now wants design certainty around what the works will look like and how they will function, particularly for directly affected landowners. Overall land owners want the design certainty so they can continue to plan their lives on their properties.

- The community wanted clearer guidance on definitions in the Flood Management Plan and for all of the maps recommended through the Beca Carter Ferner Independent Audit to be included.
- The stormwater runoff assumptions used for the hydraulic model were asked to be included in the Flood Management Plan.
- Some submitters also found the formatting and quality of the maps used not good enough to provide clarity to the reader about what the flood hazard is and how it may affect their individual property.
- The Pinehaven Progressive Association asked for a review in the approach to the district plan rules to be undertaken as they considered the approach to be inappropriate.
- Finally, the Save our Hills submission asked for an additional Independent Audit to be undertaken in 2016.

5. Officers comments in response to submissions

5.1 Submissions in support

Twelve submissions were received supporting the provision of structural works to address the flood risk in the catchment. Two of these submissions are from groups that represent the views of members in Pinehaven and Silverstream and wider Upper Hutt community.

5.2 Submissions opposing in part

The majority of the submissions cover similar issues around:

1. Accuracy of flood maps being provided;
2. Inclusion of catchment hydrology; and
3. Additional independent audit.

5.2.1 Accuracy of flood maps provided

In relation to point 1, GWRC technical staff and consultants consider that after reviewing the information against the findings of the independent audit the maps are considered accurate. As acknowledged at the open days, the 10 year flood event could have been added into the FMP. This has now been included in the final version of the plan.

While not a primary concern of the Save our Hills group submission, another submitter and the Pinehaven Progressive Association considered the formatting and presentation of the maps could be significantly better and easier to understand. We acknowledge that by providing the document in a reduced file size electronically and printing the information at this reduced file size the quality of the imagery became less readable. This has now been rectified in the final version of the FMP.

By providing the additional 10 year flood event information and then providing definitions of flood sensitive area and minimum flood extent in the FMP this has addressed the audit recommendations. It is acknowledged that showing the 10 year flood event can assist the public in understanding a flood hazard in their area, especially if some people had not experienced a larger flood event in the past.¹

An updated stormwater neutrality scenario model run has been completed. This was not required for the FMP itself as it did not change the overall presentation and outcomes of the document as the FMP was considered to be fit for purpose. However, it was required for the draft plan change being prepared by Upper Hutt City Council, as Council acknowledged that this was still an issue of concern to the community.²

5.2.2 Catchment hydrology

As outlined at the open day an insert outlining the current land use stormwater runoff numbers was included in the FMP in the paper copies handed out. The final version of the FMP has this insert included electronically. These were included to address the submission points raised above.

5.2.3 Additional Independent Audit

Both councils have considered the request for a further independent audit. However, officers consider that this would not be a valuable use of ratepayer money considering the following:

The Beca Carter Ferner Limited audit of the Initial Proposed Plan in 2015 confirmed overall that the flood model and maps are fit for purpose. The Proposed Plan responded to the recommendations specifically related to the audit. The only remaining issue, around the hydrology inputs for assessing stormwater neutrality, has also been addressed as part of the proposed plan change for Pinehaven. Please note though, that this did not affect the decision of the auditor to recommend that overall the FMP is fit for purpose.

After taking on board feedback from the open days, providing the 10 year flood map and updating the definitions section of the FMP itself instead of referring out to the independent audit report as an appendix, there are no issues that need to be assessed further. As such, a further independent audit would not provide value for money in managing the flood hazard in Pinehaven.

Prior to the independent audit a peer review was undertaken by DHI NZ Ltd as well as internal review processes undertaken by Jacobs (formerly SKM).

6. Delivery of the final Flood Management Plan

The Panel's recommendations on the Proposed Plan will be presented to the Subcommittee for consideration. The Subcommittee's recommendations will

¹ Note this has not changed the outcomes of the hazard assessment, but has provided a clearer understanding of the flood hazard and management of this to the public.

² This rerun of the model has not changed the Council officers' opinion that the model and identification of flood hazards as shown in the FMP is correct.

be presented to the Environment Committee before being presented to the Council.

7. Amendments

7.1 Minor amendments to the Initial Proposed Plan and Proposed Plan

The document enclosed separately includes minor amendments to both the Initial Proposed Plan and Proposed Plan. These amendments do not alter the methods set out in the Initial Proposed Plan or Proposed Plan.

These format or content changes were carried out to provide better clarity requested by submitters; these changes include:

- Addition of a table to the report detailing catchment hydrology
- Addition of maps showing 10 year return period flood events
- Changes to the colour and presentation style of the flood modelling information and maps
- Recognition that an independent audit of the flood modelling was completed and found the work fit for purpose
- Text addition describing the 2015 consultation process
- Text addition describing additional environmental data that has become available
- Text clarification regarding stormwater neutrality controls recommended by the FMP
- Minor report errors regarding grammar, formatting and page references.

Concerns around the plan change text is being addressed by Upper Hutt City Council and further amendments are not considered necessary for the Flood Management Plan.

7.2 Matters raised in submissions that affect methods proposed

The Panel must consider submissions that request changes to the methods proposed by the floodplain management plan and make recommendations on any changes to the Proposed Plan after the consideration of the submissions and technical advice from officers. These matters include:

- Specific concerns relating to design of works on private property
- Additional stormwater improvement suggestions
- Impacts of works on the green corridor provided by the stream
- Impacts of works on ecology
- Impacts of works on property security
- Community group contributions to construction and enhancements
- Work programme to implement and time to implement

7.3 Other matters

There are a number of issues raised by submitters that do not relate to the Pinehaven Stream Floodplain management plan. These include:

- UHCC and Guildford land swap
- UHCC District Plan Changes

- UHCC Long Term Plan
- UHCC Urban Growth Strategy
- UHCC Land Use Strategy.

8. 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.

8.1 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 and engagement 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.

8.2 Engagement

In accordance with the significance and engagement policy, officers determined that the appropriate level of engagement is informing and consulting. The consultation and engagement activities undertaken are identified in section 3 of this report.

9. Recommendations

That the Panel:

1. **Receives** the report.
2. **Notes** the content of the report.
3. **Notes** the linkages to other, separate planning and statutory processes being completed by Upper Hutt City Council.
4. **Considers** the submissions received on the Initial Proposed Plan and Proposed Plan.
5. **Reports** its findings and recommendations on the Pinehaven Floodplain Management Plan to the Hutt Valley Flood Management Subcommittee.

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Attachment 1: Summary of submissions