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**Committee** Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga FMP subcommittee  
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## **Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga FMP Project Managers Report**

### **1. Purpose**

To update the Subcommittee regarding general items that influence or are part of the Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga Floodplain Management Plan, as well as outlining other flood protection activities that are being undertaken within the catchment area by Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC).

### **2. Wairarapa River Scheme chairs meeting update**

The annual Wairarapa River scheme chairs' meeting is being held on 8 September 2016. The agenda for the scheme chairs includes:

- Scheme updates from each chair
- FMP updates
  - Waiohine
  - Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga
  - Implementing the Proposed Natural Resources Plan
  - Update regarding the River Management Consents and Flood Protection Code of Practice for working in rivers
- Scheme governance

A verbal update about the meeting will be provided to the Subcommittee.

### **3. Establishment of a Waipoua (Masterton urban area) working group**

It is proposed that a working group is established to assess and consider design options for the Waipoua urban area. This will enable input and approvals from both GWRC and Masterton District Council (MDC). The working group would bring back recommendations to the Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga River Floodplain Management Plan Subcommittee.

Members of this working group are yet to be confirmed and may be influenced by the upcoming local body elections. The proposed membership is:

- The chair of the Te Kāuru, Upper Ruamahanga River Floodplain Management Plan Subcommittee
- One councillor from GWRC
- Two councillors from MDC
- One officer from the GRWC Project Team
- One officer from MDC

#### **4. Operations and maintenance update**

River maintenance operations focus mainly on buffer planting during winter months. This year has been consistent with the past five to ten years in continuing to establish the river buffer areas. As there has been little to no flooding this year we have planted about 10,000 willows into the buffers within the Te Kāuru area.

Willow layering and cabling work will be carried out after the bulk of planting is complete.

Opportunities for native planting are continuing to be supported by the schemes, however landowner interest in planting and maintaining natives is key to achieving good outcomes with native plantings

Bulldozer work has begun for the year in the Waingawa scheme where vegetation has been removed from the river channel on dry river bed areas, the result of this work can be seen from State Highway 2. Our resource consents do not allow any work to occur in the wetted channel from 1 May to 30 June due to trout spawning.

Gravel extraction operations are continuing with consistently high demands from the aggregate industry. The upper river reaches with their large gravel material is in high demand for supplying the forestry industry the necessary aggregates for harvest-based road developments in eastern Wairarapa. These upper reaches are showing river bed degrade and extraction is being discouraged in these reaches unless there is a clear benefit to river alignment objectives. Recent meetings and discussions with forestry managers indicate that the river source of gravels will supply less than 50% of the aggregate needs for the developing forestry industry, therefore significant land based gravel supply will be likely in the coming years and will need to be managed in coordination with river supply capabilities to ensure gravel extraction is maintained as a possible river management tool.

#### **5. Office of Treaty Settlement Update**

The upper Ruamahanga, Te Kāuru is referred to through the following statements about the Wairarapa Moana statutory board.

*The Wairarapa Moana statutory board will be the administering body of Wairarapa Moana reserves as if it were appointed to control and manage the*

*reserves under section 30(1) of the Reserves Act 1977 for the purposes set out in the Reserves Act 1977.*

*The other functions of the statutory board are to prepare and approve a publicly notified Wairarapa Moana Board document and to engage with, seek advice from, and provide advice to local authorities and other relevant agencies regarding the sustainable integrated management of Wairarapa Moana and the Ruamahanga River catchment; to engage with third parties and interest groups, including producing and disseminating information and awareness of Wairarapa Moana and the Ruamahanga River catchment.*

A verbal update about the meeting will be provided to the Subcommittee.

## **6. Waiohine Floodplain Management Plan update**

The Waiohine Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) proceeded through its six week consultation in June/July 2016. The feedback from the consultation period was summarised and a hearing Sub-committee was established, the hearing was prepared for 22 and 23 August 2016. This hearing was to provide recommendations to Greater Wellington Regional Council's Environment Committee.

The hearing was cancelled due to the inability to achieve a quorum of the hearing panel for both days of the hearing. Submissions on the Waiohine FMP highlighted considerable concerns over aspects of the plan and officers are now considering the best way forward. We do not expect any hearings to occur until after the elections.

## **7. Ruamāhanga Whaitua update**

The Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee has held nine community meetings through July and August 2016 listening to the community about their solutions for land and water management locally. There were also postal and online options to join the conversation. Three key questions were asked:

- What's the fairest way of restricting water use during the summer?
- What do we need to make our rivers swimmable and how long should it take to get there?
- How should we manage rivers to improve natural character while safeguarding community assets, income and households?

Direct notes from the engagement are available on the website <http://www.gw.govt.nz/community-discussions/> and more summary information is being prepared. The project team will review this information to see if there is anything that should be fed into the TKURFMP process.

The Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee will be using the community's ideas to help them design scenarios (possible futures) over the next two months. These scenarios will then be tested through the computer models to predict the impact of different options.

## **8. Water Wairarapa update**

Geotechnical drilling investigations into the two proposed dam sites at Black Creek and Tividale found there were no fatal flaws. Based on this information, each of the scheme costs were revised and applied to the financial model which tests how different factors (including farmer and community demand for water, rates of uptake, cost ranges for water and different investor mixes) affect the financial viability of the proposed schemes. In parallel with this work, future land use scenarios have been determined as they might appear under a managed water regime within the project command area. The project is monitoring the flows down the Taueru River to establish whether it is feasible to convey water down the river from the Tividale water storage dam site. New monitoring equipment required to monitor these flows was purchased and installed. Since 30 June 2016 Water Wairarapa (and other regional scale projects) is co-funded by Crown Irrigation Investments Limited (CIIL) instead of the Ministry of Primary Industries.

Water Wairarapa is appreciative of the support through the annual planning process from the three Wairarapa Councils to assist fund a programme of work identified as important to Councils that are not already funded. The funding will assist investigations into the scheme's social impacts and of the benefits of community infrastructure. Subject to results of the feasibility work programme it is planned that a new entity will be formed during 2017 to complete investigations, raise capital and apply for resource consent.

## **9. Clareville A&P show**

The Clareville A&P show is on 29-30 October 2016. GWRC will have a stand. This will cover several aspects of GWRC activities. There will be two flood protection staff at the stall; one from operations and one from the Investigations Strategy and Planning team.

Materials about the Te Kāuru Upper Ruamāhanga FMP will be available for the visitors – Phase 1 Summary report and Phase 2 Visions and Aims report. Visitors will be also invited to fill in a feedback form and leave their contact details for further updates on the project.

## **10. Giant willow aphid**

Concerns were raised by Poplar and Willow Research Trust regarding giant willow aphid numbers remaining high into winter. The mild start to winter allowed the giant willow aphids to extend its active period by around two months with potentially harmful effects on willows. A series of frosts would help to reduce the number of giant willow aphids. A media release from 19 July 2016 is included as **Attachment 1** of this report.

## **11. The decision-making process and significance**

No decision is being sought in this report.

### **11.1 Engagement**

Engagement on this matter is unnecessary.

## 12. Recommendations

*That the Subcommittee:*

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

Report prepared by:

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**Attachment 1:** Giant Willow Aphid – July 2016