

Report 16.442
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Committee Environment Committee
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Report on Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga River Floodplain Management Plan Subcommittee meeting, 13 September 2016

1. Purpose

To inform the Environment Committee of the Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga River Floodplain Management Plan Subcommittee (the Subcommittee) meeting of 13 September 2016.

2. Reports

2.1 Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga FMP summary of options combinations June, July and August 2016 workshops report

The Subcommittee was updated on the progress with the development of flood risk management for the Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga Floodplain Management Plan, specifically issues that were discussed at the June, July and August 2016 workshops.

Subcommittee workshops have focussed on the individual reaches of the Ruamahanga, Waingawa and Waipoua Rivers and the floodplain reaches of the Kopuaranga, Whangaehu and Taueru Rivers. The workshops have discussed the issues facing these reaches and the management approaches that may be appropriate.

2.2 Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga FMP updated project programme and deliverables report

The Subcommittee received an update on the project programme, timeline and deliverables of the Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga Floodplain Management Plan.

It is proposed to have two separate but concurrent programmes moving forward: a rural programme and an urban programme. The proposed process is to produce three volumes of the Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) in draft format for consultation, and to combine the three volumes into a single

document as a ‘Proposed FMP’ prior to the commencement of the final round of consultation. The Subcommittee discussed the key stages and timeframes of the development and consultation of the draft FMP.

2.3 Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga FMP Waipoua Hydrology Update

The Subcommittee was updated with the progress on agreement of the recommended design flood flows for the Waipoua River.

Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) and Masterton District Council (MDC) agreed to a joint review of the hydrology of the Waipoua River to ensure the accuracy of information being used in the development of flood hazard mapping for Masterton and the communities adjacent to the Waipoua River. The table below shows the differences.

Table 1: Design flood flows (m³/s)

Location	1998 Flood Event	50 ARI Design Flood	100 ARI Design Flood	Original 50 ARI Design Flood	Original 100 ARI Design Flood
Mikimiki	356	363	406	372	404
Colombo Road	445	454	508	454	533

The results of the hydrology will be used to re-map the flood hazard for the Waipoua River. The hydrology report and interpretation document will be presented to MDC in a council report in September 2016.

2.4 Project managers report

The Subcommittee was updated on the Wairarapa River Scheme chairs’ meeting that was held on 8 September; that meeting covered floodplain management updates and scheme governance.

The project managers propose that a working group for the Waipoua (Masterton urban area) is established to assess and consider design options. This group will be made up of councillors and officers from both GWRC and MDC, and the chair of the TKURFMP subcommittee. The group will make recommendations to the Subcommittee.

River maintenance operations focus mainly on buffer planting during winter months. As there has been little to no flooding this year GWRC has planted about 10,000 willows into the buffers within the Te Kāuru area.

3. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

3.1 Engagement

Engagement on this matter is unnecessary.

4. 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