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Committee Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga FMP Subcommittee
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Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga FMP Project Manager's Report

1. Purpose

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

2. Te Kāuru URFMP development updates

2.1 Early working drafts of Volumes 1 and 2

A series of workshops have been held with the Subcommittee to present and receive feedback on the early working drafts of the TKURFMP Volumes 1 and 2. A summary of these workshops and information provided to the Subcommittee is included below.

December 2016 – Presentation of early working drafts of Volumes 1 and 2

At the 6 December 2016 workshop we welcomed two new Subcommittee members: Councillor Adrienne Staples (GWRC), and Councillor Brian Deller (CDC).

Working drafts of Volumes 1 and 2 of the TKURFMP were presented to the Subcommittee. These were accompanied by a presentation and explanation of the documents, including what to expect within each volume and notable sections still under development.

A workshop briefing note that accompanied the early working drafts of Volumes 1 and 2 is included as **Attachment 1**.

The final item of the workshop was a presentation from Mark Hooker regarding the Waiohine FMP. This included highlighting the risks and learnings for the TKURFMP from the current status of the Waiohine FMP.

February 2017 – Receiving Subcommittee feedback on early working drafts of Volumes 1 and 2

The 7 February 2017 workshop was an opportunity for the Subcommittee to provide feedback on early drafts of Volumes 1 and 2. Written or oral feedback was sought prior to the workshop for discussion, and received from several Subcommittee members. The feedback was grouped into nine categories to structure discussions at the workshop.

Significantly more feedback was received during the workshop. The feedback was subsequently summarised for presentation and discussion of the outcomes resulting from the feedback at the March 2017 workshop.

March 2017 – Discussion of feedback received and proposed outcomes and changes to the draft FMP

Engagement updates

In early 2017 TKURFMP project team members presented the early working drafts of Volumes 1 and 2 to CDC and MDC at respective council workshops. Hard copies of the documents were distributed to councillors and feedback on the drafts was received. The general sentiment from CDC was that they are supportive of the project in general and would like to be involved further in the development, particularly in areas that are relevant to their ratepayers. MDC provided a list of questions and areas of concern that they would like addressed, included more information regarding funding of the proposed options.

Mark Hooker and George Harley met with Horipo Rimene and Siobhan Garlick from Rangitāne o Wairarapa and Rawiri Smith from Kahungunu ki Wairarapa on separate occasions to discuss the content of the TKURFMP. Valuable discussions and input was received regarding values of the catchment and specific areas of concerns. This feedback was incorporated into a summary document which is included as **Attachment 2**.

Landowners focus group

The concepts within the early working drafts of Volumes 1 and 2 were discussed in a pre-engagement format with nine members of the various schemes within the Te Kāuru area. These landowners then formed a focus group and participated in a workshop with GWRC officers.

Combined feedback and outcomes

Approximately 40 pages of feedback and notes were recorded from the meetings with the TKURFMP Subcommittee, the Landowners Focus Group, Rangitāne o Wairarapa, Kahungunu ki Wairarapa, MDC, and CDC. These have been summarised into the following categories:

- Design lines and vegetative buffer implementation
- Why change?

- Describe the evidence of benefits
- Key infrastructure protection
- Major project responses (other than common tools)
- Operations and maintenance (common tool methods)
- Conflicting values
- Scheme funding
- Scheme governance

At the 7 March 2017 Subcommittee workshop, this feedback was presented for discussion. This feedback was incorporated into the summary document (**Attachment 2**).

Each of the issues raised are being considered and addressed by the project team made up of GWRC officers and consultants. Work is underway to produce updated versions of Volumes 1 and 2 to be endorsed by the TKURFMP Subcommittee, MDC and CDC prior to public consultation. Engagement with the Land Owner Focus Group will continue during this phase of work.

Work within the project team will continue on Volumes 1 and 2 for the rural areas, and also on the Masterton urban area programme. The timing for endorsed versions of Volumes 1 and 2 that are ready for public consultation is outlined in the Updated Project Programme Report (17.187), included in this order paper.

2.2 Governance

At the workshop on 7 April 2017, Graeme Campbell provided an update on the river scheme governance topic and presented a paper for consideration by the Subcommittee (**Attachment 3**). This was positively received by the Subcommittee and members indicated their support for the document and proposal.

2.3 Phase 2 option development and summary

At the workshop on 7 April 2017, Rhys Girvan (Boffa Miskell) presented the MCA process and outcomes that have been assessed by the Subcommittee for the major project responses detailed in Volume 2 of the TKURFMP. A summary of each of the options and information on the preferred option was presented (**Attachment 4**). Details regarding final preferred options are being developed following this workshop for eventual inclusion in the Phase 2 Summary report.

This was followed by a discussion around the options for the common methods on a reach-by-reach basis, and how this combination of methods was determined (**Attachment 5**).

Phase 2 Summary report update

Following the April 2017 workshop, a report has been drafted summarising development of the preferred floodplain management options during Phase 2 of the TKURFMP. This report accompanies “*Phase 2: Vision and Aims Report*”

(October, 2015) which sets out understanding of the values and issues across the rivers within the Te Kāuru area.

There are several major project responses that require further development prior to final agreement on the preferred option, in particular the Rathkeale College stopbank design, Waingawa South Masterton Stopbank, and the River Road properties. These options, along with the other major project responses are currently being finalised with stakeholders for inclusion in the Phase 2 Summary report and draft FMP.

2.4 Next key activities and decisions

The next key activities for the TKURFMP development are outlined in a separate report being presented at this meeting ‘TKURFMP Updated Project Programme Report’ (2017.187).

3. Wairarapa River Scheme meetings update

All of the eight existing river schemes within the Te Kāuru area held their annual scheme meetings in May.

The key messages communicated to the schemes included:

- The buffer management approach is likely going to change. The drivers for this are ecological, natural river process values. And, in the past scheme actions (not particularly relevant to Eastern Hills schemes) have allowed landowners who do not proactively develop river buffers to receive the highest level of benefit from the schemes in terms of reactive erosion control works. Buffer establishment is river management best practice for numerous reasons. It is the intent of the TKURFMP to promote a scheme maintenance focus on vegetative buffer establishment and to discourage short-term, reactive erosion control works.
- Much of the river works that occurs now will continue to occur under the FMP proposed methods. With exception to areas where productive land is encroaching significantly into the river buffer areas, in which the FMP is likely going to say that this land is needed for river management, not agricultural production.
- GWRC is committed to maintaining and enhancing local input into river management. To achieve this, some form of scheme governance reform is needed. Options will be presented in the Draft FMP.
- Ongoing consultation with the existing scheme committees will be part of FMP development.

A summary of feedback received from the scheme committees is below.

- Clear descriptions of the proposed river management changes need to be in the Draft FMP. What, if any, level of service changes are being proposed must be very clear.

- There is a mixed range of understanding, support, or disagreement in regards to the governance reform topic. All agree that the local input from landowners is essential to successful river management, however there is a wide range of views about what type of governance reform will best achieve the desired result.
- Funding options must be clearly described in the Draft FMP.

4. Operations and maintenance update

Scheme operations have undertaken significant channel, berm and buffer maintenance works in the Waipoua, Gladstone, Te Ore Ore and Waingawa schemes within the past two months. Members of the TKURFMP Subcommittee or any members of the public interested in the TKURFMP river operations matters are openly invited to arrange a river inspection with GWRC Flood Protection Operations staff.

Two significant operational matters have recently arisen that have implications for the TKURFMP project. These are, emergency repair works to sewerage pipes underneath the Waipoua stopbanks near Colombo Road, and public interest in the Kopuaranga scheme expansion topic.

Sewerage pipes within Masterton stopbank assets

In May 2017, repair works were required to the MDC sewerage network near Colombo Road Bridge. Access to these pipes required excavation of the Waipoua River stopbank. In this case there was some reduction to the stopbank asset's performance capability, however that damage is being remedied. There is a significant matter for consideration in the fact that many metres (if not kilometres) of sewerage pipes are underneath, or in close proximity to the existing stopbanks. This issue is significant when considering upgrade options for urban stopbanks and the river erosion control structures that will accompany any significant stopbank upgrades.

Kopuaranga scheme expansion survey

In April 2017, there was significant rainfall that caused flooding in the Eastern Hills catchments. Some landowners upstream of Mauriceville criticised GWRC for failing to facilitate any progress on flood risk management in the Kopuaranga catchment upstream of Mauriceville.

In August 2015 GWRC officers consulted the Kopuaranga community with a TKURFMP agenda at a town hall meeting where two particular feedback items were received. Existing scheme members were generally satisfied with the existing level of service. And existing scheme members and landowners upstream of Mauriceville were generally agreeable to GWRC investigating a possible scheme expansion upstream of Mauriceville as an outcome item in the TKFMP implementation phase. In April 2017, some landowners expressed a greater urgency to begin such an investigation. GWRC officers now intend to conduct a survey of all landowners upstream of Mauriceville about how urgent the scheme expansion investigation may be and will report back the TKURFMP Subcommittee in the near future.

5. Waiohine Floodplain Management Plan update

An audit of the Waiohine FMP flood modelling and mapping has been undertaken. This audit was undertaken by Beca Ltd and is available for viewing at <http://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/floodprotection/Waiohine-FMP/WaiFMPModelMapAudit2017.pdf>.

The audit has indicated that matters of concern are limited to needing to further explore the sensitivity of the results to changing some parameters such as channel roughness, gravel build up, etc. The opportunity will also be taken to further refine the model in the Greytown urban area to more readily provide a more detailed assessment of flood levels to an urban section scale.

6. Ruamāhanga Whaitua update

In late 2016 the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee agreed a set of ‘scenarios’ to test through scientific models. These scenarios test the potential impacts of a range of management options on economic, environmental, social and cultural values, and were deliberately chosen to provide the most amount of information. The results of this modelling are expected later this year.

In 2017 the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee has been focused on developing their draft policy packages around managing discharges and water allocation to test with the community.

All papers and workshop notes are available on the website: <http://www.gw.govt.nz/ruamahanga-whaitua/>. It is expected the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee will present their Whaitua Implementation Programme (WIP) to Council in late 2017.

7. Water Wairarapa update

Since December 2016, the Wairarapa Water project’s focus has transferred from two schemes to just one, namely the Black Creek storage in the Kaituna area west of Masterton. The other scheme, Tividale north-east of Masterton, is currently on hold while the project’s resources are concentrated on Black Creek.

The prime driver for this was Crown Irrigation Investments Ltd’s (a GWRC co-funder for the project investigations) interest in the commercial viability as determined by farmer demand. As a result, the funding contract has been renegotiated with the amended work programme extending from May 2017 through to June 2018.

Ostensibly, this involves formulating a Product Disclosure Statement (PDS), formerly known as a prospectus. This requires a mix of commercial and legal advice to ensure the offer is robust for both the project itself and potential investors. Once that is achieved and the Council’s future involvement with the project determined, then funds will be raised to help finance further investigations.

8. Consideration of Climate Change

No decision is being sought in this report.

The matters addressed in this report have been considered by officers in accordance with the process set out in the GWRC Climate Change Consideration Guide.

8.1 Mitigation assessment

Mitigation assessments are concerned with the effect of the matter on the climate (i.e. the greenhouse gas emissions generated or removed from the atmosphere as a consequence of the matter) and the actions taken to reduce, neutralise or enhance that effect.

The effect on the climate of the FMP works being developed are not considered significant, and will be addressed through GWRCs procurement process which is undergoing review in 2017 and will encourage suppliers and contractors to minimise emissions.

8.2 Adaptation assessment

Adaptation assessments relate to the impacts of climate change (e.g. sea level rise or an increase in extreme weather events), and the actions taken to address or avoid those impacts.

GWRC plans for climate change in assessing the degree of future flood hazard and in determining an appropriate response. There are only specific, limited situations in which climate change is not relevant (for example, planning for present-day emergency management).

In assessing flood hazard and determining appropriate structural and/or non-structural responses in areas subject to flood risk, GWRC is applying a rainfall increase of 20% to the flood hydrology in the FMP to account for climate change over the next 100 years.

Guidance from the Ministry for the Environment will be updated from time to time and our approach will be revised in line with any updates.

9. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

9.1 Engagement

Engagement on this matter is unnecessary.

10. Recommendations

That the Subcommittee:

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

Report prepared by: Report approved by: Report approved by:

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Attachment 1: Report to support Working Draft Volumes 1 and 2 of the Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga Floodplain Management Plan

Attachment 2: TKURFMP Volume 1 and 2 feedback summary and outcomes

Attachment 3: Wairarapa Scheme Governance Document

Attachment 4: Te Kāuru Upper Ruamāhanga April Workshop

Attachment 5: Updated Common Methods