

Report 2017.214  
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Committee Hutt Valley Flood Management Subcommittee  
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## RiverLink Project Manager's report

### 1. Purpose

To update the Subcommittee on progress made with the RiverLink Project (formerly named the Hutt River City Centre Upgrade Project - HRCCUP).

### 2. Background

RiverLink extends from Kennedy Good Bridge to Ewen Bridge, and aims to provide better flood protection, transport and lifestyle for central Hutt. The Project, now in the Preliminary Design phase, is progressing well and has completed technical aspects of the Preliminary Design.

Officers aim to seek Subcommittee recommendations to proceed to the next phase in early 2018, following extensive Subcommittee workshop sessions scheduled to be held in the second half of 2017. The next phase of the project will be to prepare design plans and applications for statutory approvals to carry out the physical work. The preliminary design phase addresses issues raised by stakeholders, landowners adjacent to the project area and wider community, and keeps them informed of progress.

### 3. Financial summary

	Spent \$M	Current Budget Estimate \$M	Comment								
Flood Protection Works	\$1	\$35	Preliminary design and trial expenditure only, project implementation has not commenced. Project cost estimate being refined by this phase								
GWRC property requirements	\$12	\$43 (net figure Dec 2015)	<table> <tr> <td>Purchased</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>In negotiation</td> <td>35</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Sub Total</u></td> <td><u>46</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b><u>Total Required</u></b></td> <td><b><u>117</u></b></td> </tr> </table>	Purchased	11	In negotiation	35	<u>Sub Total</u>	<u>46</u>	<b><u>Total Required</u></b>	<b><u>117</u></b>
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Melling Intersection Investigations	TBC	TBC \$28	NZTA indicative business delivery in June 2017. Estimate form Melling Bridge component of Intersection included in original cost figures
Making Places	\$0	\$32	Total cost estimate being refined by this phase
HCC property	\$0	\$7	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13</b>	<b>\$143</b>	

#### 4. Subcommittee design workshops

Preliminary design information and development workshops were held with the Subcommittee on 29 March 2017, 7 April 2017, and 10 May 2017. These workshops included;

- an overview of all aspects of preliminary design
- updates from officer teams at GWRC, HCC and NZTA
- opportunities that may be realised from three agencies working together
- opportunities to deliver on broader council initiatives
- opportunities to increase value of the project to the community
- high level consideration of programming and funding challenges to be addressed
- issues identified during preliminary design process.

These workshops provided valuable insight to support design direction for the project and have assisted with delivery of the technical reports for the Preliminary Design.

Overall programme, cost estimate and value delivery will be covered in the next series of workshops.

#### 5. Community engagement update

This phase of community engagement commenced with Preliminary Design open days at the Dowse. These were well attended over a period of three days and showed continued support for design direction and completion of the project.

This engagement has continued through use of the RiverLink information container which will spend 10 days each month at different key locations around Hutt City and close to the project area. These include Avalon Park, Andrews Ave, Melling Station, and Dowse Square. Information in the container is being tailored to respond to communities who focus activities in these areas and cover recreation, transport, and urban living topics.

## **6. Trial wetland update**

A wetland trial design is being developed for a site adjacent to Belmont School on the State Highway 2 side of the river. This wetland will have a combination of storm-water treatment and habitat functions and we aim to include the school in its development, monitoring and management.

Design progress will be reported to the Subcommittee through workshops and future meetings.

## **7. Forward work programme**

A further series of workshops with Subcommittee members has been programmed to develop an outline implementation programme, costs and funding strategies for the project to enable officers to proceed to recommending a preliminary design to take through to the next stage. These additional workshops will postpone officer recommendation of the Preliminary Design until early 2018.

NZTA is expected to proceed from its Indicative Business Case (IBC) stage into its Detailed Business Case (DBC) stage for the Melling Intersection Investigations. GWRC anticipate the DBC to finish early in 2018. Delivery of the DBC would allow inclusion of NZTA's equivalent of preliminary design stage at the decision point to proceed to detailed design stage for RiverLink.

It is forecast that recommendation to proceed to detail design will now be in March 2018.

## **8. Consideration of climate change**

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 GWRC components of the RiverLink project are subject to GWRC's initiatives designed to minimise greenhouse gas emissions and enhance sequestration capacity. We will work with our project partners to develop a joint procurement approach that supports GWRC's mitigation objectives once we have entered that stage of the design process. The current basis that will be referred to for this includes the proposed Code of Practice (which guides all river management activities undertaken by GWRC for the purposes of flood and erosion protection across the Wellington Region), the GWRC corporate sustainability programme and GWRC's 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.*

The design development for RiverLink acknowledges the need to adapt to a changing climate and aims to address these predicted impacts. GWRC has included allowances for climate change impacts and these are being finalised for the purposes of completing RiverLink preliminary design.

## **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.*

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