

Report 00.118

14 February 2000

Files: N/3/13/25

N/3/13/16

Report to the Hutt River Floodplain Management Advisory Committee
from Alison Newell, Resource Planner, Flood Protection Group

Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan : Environmental Strategy Update

1. Purpose

To update the Advisory Committee on progress to develop the Environmental Strategy for the Hutt River.

2. Background

The Advisory Committee, at its 6 December 1999 meeting, endorsed development of the Environmental Strategy based on the Linear Park concept, subject to further response from the public. This endorsement was given ahead of the 10 December deadline for feedback (on the three options) as the majority of responses received strongly supported the Linear Park option. A schedule, summarizing all submissions received on the Environmental Strategy options, is **Attachment 1**.

3. Confirmation of Public Consultation Outcome

Thirty-nine members of the public commented on the Environmental Strategy with approximately 75 percent either directly supporting or aligning with the Linear Park concept. Table 1 gives a breakdown of the preference for options and responses received.

Table 1 : Environmental Strategy Options and Preferences

Stated Preferred Option	No.
No preference	1
No preference – comments align with Floodway	1
No preference – comments align with Linear Park	14
No preference – comments align with Recreational Park	0
Floodway	4
Linear Park	15
Recreational Park	1
Combination	3

4. **Concept Designs**

Drafting the environmental strategy has proceeded based on the Linear Park as the overwhelming majority of the responses received support that concept; endorsement also given by the Advisory Committee. Landscape architects were employed to prepare concept designs for the Hutt River and its margins. Their work included extensive review of existing information, several site visits and meetings with officers from the Regional Council and Hutt City Council (HCC) and Upper Hutt City Council (UHCC). Kelly Crandle and Mike Nichols (HCC) and Brett Latimer (UHCC) have been particularly helpful in this regard.

5. **Implementation and Management**

Work is also proceeding on how the Linear Park might be realised. This includes the roles and responsibilities of the various agencies and the wider community, funding and subsequent management.

6. **Programme**

Work on the Environmental Strategy is to programme, and an update and presentation of the draft will be given at the May Advisory Committee meeting. The programme is presented in **Attachment 2**, with completion dates of each phase indicated.

7. **Communication Opportunities**

The final analysis of the feedback received on the options proposed, and the development of the Environmental Strategy in accordance with the Linear Park vision, will be reported back to the community through the next newsletter and a press release.

In addition, the public process for developing the Regional Council's Long-term Financial Strategy provides an opportunity for agency and community input on funding some aspects of the Hutt River Environmental Strategy.

8. **Recommendation**

That the report be received and the contents noted.

Report prepared by:

Approved for submission:

ALISON NEWELL
Resource Planner

BRENDAN PAUL
Manager, Flood Protection (Strategy and Assets)

DAYA ATAPATTU
Project Engineer

ANDREW ANNAKIN
Divisional Manager, Landcare

Attachment 1 : Final Summary of Responses Received

Attachment 2 : Environmental Strategy Programme