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Report 00.325

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8 May 2000

Report to the Hutt River Floodplain Management Advisory Committee
from Daya Atapattu, Project Leader, Flood Protection

Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan : Project Leader's Report

1. Purpose

To update the Advisory Committee on the status of investigations for the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan (HRFMP).

2. Background

At the 13 March 2000 meeting, the Advisory Committee considered:

- The Regional Council's Long-term Financial Strategy (LTFS) proposals for Design Standard implementation.
- Outcomes from the additional "Local Area" Design Standard recommendations.
- An update on the Environmental Strategy.
- Non-structural measures update, and workshop preparations and objectives.

At the 25 May meeting, the Committee will receive reports on:

- Non-structural measures workshop outcomes, progress and programme.
- Non-structural measures public involvement outcomes (a verbal report).
- An update on the Draft Environmental strategy.

3. Design Standard Implementation

The cost estimate for the Hutt River Design Standard capital works implementation is \$78 million. The Regional Council's preferred LTFS \$2 million per annum capital spend, over the Western Region, provides an average \$1.7 million per annum expenditure for the Hutt, or \$17 million for the ten year period 2000-2010. The Advisory Committee recommendation for a 20-25 year project completion corresponds to a \$3.4 million per annum spend for the Hutt, or \$34 million for the ten year period 2000-10.

The WRC publication "Elements" contains information for both options including indicative rating impacts, and an opportunity for ratepayers and territorial authorities to consider the benefits, costs and impacts of project acceleration. "Elements" also sets out the opportunities the public will have to make submissions on the LTFS. The Advisory Committee members were recently sent copies of:

- "Elements"
- Living with the River Newsletter No. 5
- Detailed capital expenditure programmes for both options for 2000-2010.

4. **Non-structural Measures**

The Advisory Committee workshop, held on 10 April 2000, marked a milestone for the non-structural measures investigations. Advisory Committee members and officers of the three councils contributed to healthy discussions which will help refine the proposed methods, before public involvement commences. To recap, non-structural measures are the planning tools that deal with the residual or "left over" risk of flooding.

The target date for recommending a suite of non-structural measures to the Advisory Committee is the end of June. With the support of Hutt and Upper Hutt cities, Regional Council officers are currently refining the proposed methods, which will be ready for discussion at public meetings in the second half of May. The public will receive information on the proposed non-structural measures through:

- Newspaper inserts in the 'Hutt News' and the 'Upper Hutt Leader'
- Living with the River Newsletter No. 5
- Public meetings

WRC officers explained the proposed measures to the Upper Hutt City Councillors at a meeting held on 10 May 2000. A similar meeting is proposed for Hutt City Councillors.

Report 00.328 outlines the workshop outcomes and the programme up to June 2000.

5. **Environmental Strategy**

The Environmental Strategy will set a long term vision for environmental development and enhancement of the Hutt River and its margins. Flood Protection and working group officers are currently reviewing the first draft of the Strategy. Newsletter No. 5 contains an update on, and examples of, concept designs. Environmental Strategy report preparation is on programme and the Advisory Committee will receive the draft at the June 2000 meeting. Report 00.326 contains the concepts and recommendations of the Environmental Strategy.

6. HRFMP Plan Expenditure

The December 1998 budget for the accelerated HRFMP project was \$1.305 million. HRFMP investigations are on programme and expenditure up to the end of March 2000 is \$827,000. This expenditure includes \$107,000 from additional investigations and increased costs, e.g. further local area investigations. About \$72,000 of the additional costs have been met from savings within the project. The forecast total cost at April 2000 is \$1.34 million. Approval to the extra budget has been sought through Business Plan changes.

7. 2000/01 Work Plan

The first of July will signal the start of preliminary design and preparation of consent applications for the Hutt River capital works implementation. This work will be subject to the Regional Council accepting the proposed Design Standard implementation works in June. Work proposed for the next financial year includes:

- Completing Floodplain Management Plan drafting, including consultation.
- Progressing the Ava Railway Bridge investigations for completion by June 2002.
- Progressing preliminary designs and preparing resource consents for the Ava to Ewen reach; construction to start in the year 2001/02.

8. Community Connection

The HRFMP public consultation programme ensures community involvement in all stages of the decision making process. A public information programme for non-structural options started at the end of April 2000. This round of community involvement will be completed by the end of May 2000. Report 00.328 contains further details.

Public response to the HRFMP proposals is generally good, although several ratepayers have raised particular issues. Their concerns were considered and responses given individually in letters, meetings, e-mails and telephone calls. Several e-mails were exchanged with a resident representing Bridge Road ratepayers. **Attachment 1** contains the residents' concerns and Derek Wilshire's reply.

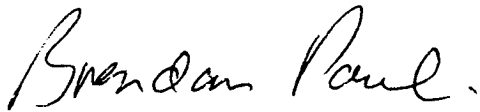
9. Recommendation

That the report be received and the contents noted.

Report prepared by:

Approved for submission:


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 Project Leader


 BRENDAN PAUL
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Approved for submission:



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Attachment 1 : E-mail from Bridge Road ratepayers and Derek Wilshere's reply