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Report to the Hutt River Floodplain Management Advisory Committee
from Alison Newell, Resource Planner, Flood Protection (Strategy and Assets)

Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan : Environmental Strategy

1. Purpose

- To present the draft Hutt River Environmental Strategy to the Advisory Committee for endorsement; and
- To refer the Strategy to the Hutt and Upper Hutt City Councils for their consideration and endorsement.

for subsequent consideration and adoption by the Landcare Committee.

2. Background

A presentation on the draft Hutt River Environmental Strategy was made to the Advisory Committee, at its 25 May 2000 meeting. The document is tabled at this 29 June 2000 meeting.

The Draft Environmental Strategy was developed jointly by Te Ati Awa, Upper Hutt City Council, Hutt City Council and the Regional Council. It describes the long term vision for the river, and identifies key objectives and proposals for the various areas in Upper and Lower Hutt.

It is a strategic document, presenting concepts and visions; the recommendations and proposals in the Environmental Strategy place no additional obligations upon any of the parties involved. Instead they are actions which can be adopted if funding is available. The Strategy contains proposals involving significant changes in the river environment and which can be implemented incrementally, as funds and opportunities become available. It is conceded that the strategy process will inevitably raise community expectations.

Further investigations as to feasibility, landowner aspirations, costs and benefits will have to be considered carefully as opportunities or issues arise, before any steps are taken towards implementing these ideas.

3. **Distribution**

Once the Draft Environmental Strategy has been endorsed by the Upper Hutt and Hutt City Councils and the Regional Council, the document will be printed and distributed. It is anticipated that this will be completed by December 2000. The framework to consider implementation of the strategy will then be put in place.

4. **Communication Opportunities**

The recently completed Long-term Financial Strategy (LTFS) process, through the Regional Council's newspaper "Elements" Issue No.3, provided an opportunity for agency and community input on funding some aspects of the Hutt River Environmental Strategy. The LTFS process was widely commented on, with several submissions relating directly to the Environmental Strategy.

5. **Recommendations**

That the Hutt River Floodplain Management Advisory Committee:

- (1) *Endorse and support the vision and principles set down in the draft Hutt River Environmental Strategy.*
- (2) *Refer the draft Hutt River Environmental Strategy to the Upper Hutt City Council and the Hutt City Council for their consideration and endorsement.*

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