



caring about you & your environment

Report 00.681

29 August 2000

File: N/3/13/25

Report to the Hutt River Floodplain Management advisory Committee
From Daya Atapattu, Project Leader, Flood Protection Group

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 29 June meeting, the Advisory Committee considered the:

- Draft Hutt River Environmental Strategy, and endorsed and supported its vision and principles. They recommended to the Landcare Committee that the Environmental Strategy be referred to Hutt City and Upper Hutt City Councils for their consideration and endorsement.
- Non-structural measures principles, and adopted them for inclusion in the Floodplain Management Plan subject to flexibility for further refinement.

At the 21 September meeting, the Advisory Committee will receive information and reports on the:

- status of investigations and plan writing
- programme to HRFMP completion
- Environmental Strategy presentation outcomes

3. HRFMP Project Status

Work is on track to complete the draft HRFMP by June 2001. The Phase 2/3 investigations are now substantially complete. The three main plan components (the structural measures, the non-structural measures and the environmental strategy), went through an extensive consultation process before being endorsed by the Advisory Committee. The investigation and policy outcomes for each of the three components are being drafted for inclusion in the plan.

The target for completing the draft plan and presenting it to the Advisory Committee is June 2001. The plan launch, originally scheduled for December 2001, has been brought forward to October 2001, to ensure it is completed within this Local Government triennium. Report 00.671 contains programme details.

4. Non-structural Measures

Flood Protection Group officers are refining the non-structural measures developed for the Hutt Valley, based on our internal review and suggestions from Hutt City and Upper Hutt City Council officers. This refinement will be completed by the end of December 2000. The Non-structural Options Working Group will meet before the end of January 2001 to agree the proposed principles and outcomes.

Officers will present the modified principles and outcomes to Hutt City and Upper Hutt City Councils in February 2001 for their endorsement, and to the Advisory Committee in March 2001 for inclusion in the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan. Prior to these presentations, officers will arrange informal presentations to Hutt City and Upper Hutt City Councils if requested. Report 00.671 contains programme details.

The public will have further opportunities to comment on the proposed non-structural measures during public consultation for the draft plan in March/April 2001, and subsequently through any District Plan change processes.

The continuing development and refinement of the non-structural measures reflect the flexibility recommended by the Advisory Committee in June 2000.

5. Environmental Strategy

Flood Protection Group officers, assisted by consultants Clive Anstey and Rose Armstrong, presented the Environmental Strategy to the:

- Landcare Committee on 24 August 2000
- Hutt City Council on 5 September 2000.
- Upper Hutt City Council on 6 September 2000

Presentations will be made to specific interest groups if requested.

The final draft of the Environmental Strategy will be recommended to the Landcare Committee on 21 November after integrating comment from HCC and UHCC, and after final editing and review. The target date for publishing the Hutt River Environmental Strategy is December 2000.

5.1 Presentation Outcomes

Hutt City Councillors were invited to a presentation of the Strategy prior to their 5 September Council meeting. The Mayor and four Councillors attended. At the meeting following the presentation, the Hutt City Council endorsed and supported the vision and guiding principles set out in the Draft Environmental Strategy. In doing so, the Council noted that the strategy was a long-term one and would be implemented through the Annual Plan process of the three Councils. This would involve consultation between the Councils and with the public.

At Upper Hutt City Council, the presentation was made to the Works and Services Committee. The plan was received enthusiastically with the Committee endorsing and supporting the vision and guiding principles set out in the Draft Strategy.

Each Council was particularly interested in funding for the strategy. They also acknowledged the concept of a representative steering group to guide its implementation.

6. Design Standard Implementation

The Regional Council's 2000/01 Business Plan budget provides for:

- progressing the Ava Railway Bridge investigations in conjunction with Tranz Rail.
- preparing the Ava to Ewen reach resource consent applications, including preliminary design.
- progressing the Ava to Ewen river channel realignment detailed design.
- completing Boulcott property purchase.
- completing Owen Street flood damage repairs.

Attachment 1 shows the timeline and milestones for key tasks.

The Divisional Manager, Landcare, and project staff, held meetings in August with Tranz Rail to agree a strategy for the Ava Railway Bridge investigations. Tranz Rail staff have been invited to join in the project scoping. The project scope will be drafted by mid October 2000.

Scoping for the Ava to Ewen Resource consent investigations and detailed river channel realignment design will start in October 2000.

Boulcott land purchase negotiations are proceeding with the intention of completing the purchase during the year 2000/01. This project includes strategic purchase of land required for stopbank construction in 2008/09.

Rock supply difficulties have delayed the Owen Street flood damage repairs. Flood Protection Operations are currently assessing alternate rock sources. The repairs will be completed by June 2001.

7. Recommendation

That the report be received and the contents noted.

Report prepared by:

Approved for submission:

DAYA ATAPATTU
Project Leader

BRENDAN PAUL
Manager, Flood Protection (Strategy and Assets)

ANDREW ANNAKIN
Divisional Manager, Landcare

Attachment 1 : Milestones for Key Tasks