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Report to the Hutt River Floodplain Management Advisory Committee
from Alistair Cross, Resource Planner, Flood Protection

Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan : Revising the Structural Works Priority List

1. Purpose

- To seek endorsement from the Advisory Committee to include a revised priority schedule for structural works in the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan: Consultation Draft.
- To provide background on the reasons for revising the priority list, and the method and process followed.
- To highlight any significant changes in priorities.

2. Background

2.1 Revised Priority Schedule for Structural Works

The priority schedule for structural works is a key part of the Plan because it provides a basis and guide to developing the works programme.

A revised priority schedule has been developed, and is now ready to be included in the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan: Consultation Draft.

The revised schedule replaces the original list of individual works, finalised in September 1999, which was based only on economic benefit-cost and the protection level of existing flood defences. The justification for revising the list, what it contains, and the method used to develop the schedule is discussed briefly in Section 3 of this report. A more detailed discussion of the revised schedule will follow at the Advisory Committee meeting on 8 March.

Attachments 1 and 2 respectively provide the revised schedule and the method used to rate the works against economic, environmental and social criteria. **Attachment 3** is the original priority list. **Attachment 4** is an excerpt from Regional Council's 10 year plan – *Towards a Greater Wellington*, outlining the agreed structural works programme until 2010.

3. Revising the Priority List

3.1 Why the List was Revised

The priority list was revised to better reflect a broader base of criteria. The new criteria include social and environmental components, as well as the affected population and area.

The revised schedule is based on similar schedules developed for the Kapiti floodplain management plans. Revising the list enables the Hutt Plan to be consistent with established floodplain management planning approaches.

3.2 What the Revised Schedule Contains

The revised schedule groups individual structural works into common reaches, and rates works against:

- Economic benefits
- Existing reach protection standard
- Area and population affected
- Social benefits
- Environmental benefits.

The revised criteria and weightings are nearly identical to those used for the Otaki Plan.

Attachment 1 provides the revised priority schedule.

3.3 Method Used is Simple and Rigorous, but with Limitations

The approach used to revise the priority list has the following main features:

- The floodplain was divided into 13 reaches representing groups of works with common areas of benefit. Basing the assessment on reaches represents a move away from rating priorities on individual works.
- Simple, certain, reasonably objective and understandable indicators were selected to measure potential benefits.
- Ratings represent a comparison between today's situation and the potential benefits provided by the upgraded system for each reach area.

The approach is reasonably simple yet it represents a reliable way to gauge a range of potential benefits to the floodplain. A highlight of this simple approach is that the method can be easily replicated to reassess priorities during Plan reviews.

Attachment 2 discusses the full methodology, including the scoring used for rating works.

4. Priority Schedule Changes or Differences

4.1 Key Differences

The most notable changes are that:

- Belmont and Bridge Road move up the order in response to strong social benefits. Other than this, the general order of works under the revised schedule is similar to that provided by the original list.
- Kennedy Good Bridge to Pomare also moves up the order due to a combination of social and environmental criteria, and the population and area affected.

The level of environmental benefit is generally linked to the size of affected areas and associated river reaches.

4.2 Does it Change the Agreed Work Programme?

The revised priority schedule matches well with the works programme contained in the Regional Council's Long-term Financial Strategy (LTFS) (see **Attachment 4**).

That structural works programme, up to 2010, has already been endorsed by the Advisory Committee. The revised schedule will act as a basis and guide to decision-making under future LTFS rounds.

5. Communication

The public will have the opportunity to consider the revised schedule in the Consultation Draft, once it is released.

6. Recommendations

- (1) *That the report be received and the contents noted.*
- (2) *That the Advisory Committee endorse the revised priority schedule of structural works for inclusion in the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan: Consultation Draft.*

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Attachment 1 : HRFMP Revised Priority Schedule

Attachment 2 : HRFMP : Revised Priority Schedule for Structural Works – Basis and Methodology

Attachment 3 : The original Priority List for Structural Works

Attachment 4 : Excerpt from *Towards a Greater Wellington Region* – the Regional Council's Long-term Financial Strategy