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## **Report 02.503**

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Report to the Landcare Committee  
from Alistair Cross, Senior Resource Planner, Flood Protection

### **Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan : Removing the Ewen Floodway Designation**

#### **1. Purpose**

To seek approval from the Landcare Committee to request that Hutt City Council remove the Ewen Floodway designation from their district plan.

#### **2. Background**

This report concerns the WRC designation<sup>1</sup> for flood mitigation works in the Ewen Floodway area of Hutt River (Ewen Floodway designation). The designation is no longer required by the Regional Council, and this report explains why the designation should now be removed.

The designation sits over a 400-metre length of the Hutt River about Ewen Bridge, with the majority being within the Hutt River Corridor. **Attachment 1** shows the approximate location of the designation.

#### **3. Designation History – Why it was Sought**

In November 1991, the Regional Council applied for resource consents and a designation (notice of requirement) in order to commence work on the Ewen Floodway Project. The designation<sup>2</sup> was approved in November 1992.

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<sup>1</sup> A designation is a provision made in a district plan to give effect to a requirement for works (in this case, flood mitigation) made by a requiring authority (such as the Regional Council). Designations are made under section 168 of the Resource Management Act 1991, for the purposes of undertaking public works, or in relation to a particular area for the safe or efficient functioning or operation of a public work.

<sup>2</sup> The land involved in the designation application included 47, mostly commercially-zoned, land titles.

A designation was sought because additional land was required for the proposed widening of the river floodway and construction of stopbanks under the Ewen Project. The designation signalled an intention by the Regional Council to acquire privately owned commercial zoned land for flood mitigation works. The Regional Council subsequently acquired all land under the designation.

#### 4. **Why Remove the Designation**

The designation is no longer needed because the Ewen Floodway work is completed. Furthermore, the designation is not required to implement the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan (HRFMP). There are no plans under the HRFMP to extend the floodway in the designated area and proposed stopbank raising in this reach will occur on land now owned by the Regional Council.

Hutt City Council are now close to achieving an operative district plan, and removing the designation enables them to update their planning maps at this opportune time.

#### 5. **Process for Removing Designations**

Notice would be served on the Hutt City Council, and be processed immediately.

#### 6. **Recommendations**

That the Landcare Committee:

- (1) *Receive the report.*
- (2) *Note the contents of the report.*
- (3) *Acting under delegated authority from the Wellington Regional Council, request the Hutt City Council remove the Regional Council designation over the Ewen Floodway land as shown on Attachment 1.*

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**Attachment 1** : Location of Ewen Floodway Designation