

Report 03.484
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File N/03/20/03

Committee Landcare
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Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan: Opahu Stream outlet improvements agreement

1. Purpose

To seek Council approval of an agreement between Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) and Hutt City Council (HCC) for:

- the design, construction and administration of a new Opahu Stream pump station and outlet works.
- future asset ownership.
- future stream management.

2. Background

The proposed waterway improvements at Ava Railway Bridge include the removal of the Opahu Stream training bank and construction of a new outlet channel and pump station. Report 03.92 to the March 2003 Landcare Committee meeting outlined the following:

- current HCC and GWRC responsibilities for operation and maintenance of the Opahu Stream, outlet structure and outlet channel.
- options for improving the Hutt River waterway area at the Ava Railway Bridge and the preferred option.
- guiding principles for a proposed cost share agreement for an Opahu Stream pump station.

At the March 2003 meeting, the Landcare Committee approved in principle a cost sharing arrangement between GWRC and HCC to fund the proposed Opahu Stream pumping improvements. The Opahu Stream pumping improvements are a significant component of the selected option for upgrading the waterway at the Ava Railway Bridge.

The Committee's resolution included:

...That the Committee:...

8. ***request** that officers prepare a formal agreement (GWRC and HCC) for the proposed Opahu Stream pumping capital improvements, their subsequent operation, and for the future management of the Opahu Stream based on the Guiding Principles contained in Attachment 1. Such Agreement to be approved by GWRC before being formally offered to the HCC.*

3. Agreement

Attachment 1 contains the proposed agreement, jointly prepared by HCC and GWRC officers. This agreement conforms to the guiding principles attached to Report 03.92.

The agreement sets out the responsibilities of GWRC and HCC for the design, construction and funding of the proposed Opahu pumping improvements, as well as their subsequent operation and ownership. The agreement also sets out responsibility for the future management of the Opahu Stream.

The key features of the agreement are:

- a construction programme which requires the Opahu pump station to be completed and commissioned by 30 June 2006. This enables the stopbank improvements to commence immediately after.
- GWRC will own the culvert, culvert extension and outlet channel and will be responsible for all costs associated with design, construction and maintenance. The estimated cost of these capital improvements is \$227,000.
- HCC will own the pump station and will be responsible for all costs associated with the design, construction, operation and maintenance of the pump station. GWRC will make a contribution of up to \$495,000 for these capital improvements.
- HCC will be responsible for all costs associated with the administration, and maintenance of Opahu Stream upstream of the culvert from July 2006.

The agreement further strengthens the current co-operative approach between the two Council's to implement the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan (HRFMP) and associated improvements.

4. Programme and budget

The Flood Protection 2003-2013 ten-year Operating Plan includes a total provision of \$5,545,000 for the Ava Railway Bridge waterway improvements including the GWRC contribution to the pump station. The project budget has been cash flowed to meet the various components of the project in accordance with the proposed agreement with HCC.

The table below shows the works programme and the GWRC budget.

Financial year	Work programmed	GWRC budget
2003/04	GWRC prepare outline stopbank design at pump station and tender for professional services. HCC to prepare concept design for the pump station	
2004/05	Design of Opahu Stream pumping and Ava stopbank strengthening works (GWRC and HCC)	\$232,000
2005/06	Construction of Opahu Stream pumping works. GWRC contribution of \$495,000 for the pump station (GWRC and HCC) made	\$776,000
2006/07	Commence construction of Ava Bridge stopbank improvements (GWRC)	\$2,779,000
2007/08	Complete construction of Ava Bridge stopbank improvements (GWRC)	\$1,758,000
	TOTAL	\$5,545,000

5. Communication

Completion of this agreement is another significant step forward in the upgrade of the Ava to Ewen reach of the river and hence further progress on delivering the flood risk reduction benefits set out in the HRFMP. The agreement has also assisted HCC to bring forward construction of the Opahu Stream pump station, which will reduce the flood hazard from the Opahu Stream. We will recommend to HCC that a joint press release be made once HCC approves the agreement.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. *receive the report.*
2. *note the contents of the report.*
3. *note that the approved Flood Protection 2003-2010 ten-year Operating Plan includes provision for the Ava stopbank strengthening works including GWRC's proposed contribution to the Oahu Stream outlet improvements.*
4. *recommend to Council that the proposed agreement between GWRC and the HCC for the Oahu Stream outlet improvements be approved.*

Report prepared by:

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Attachment 1: Proposed agreement between GWRC and HCC for Oahu Stream outlet improvements