



**Report**                **04.317**  
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**Committee**        **Hutt River Advisory**  
**Author**             **Daya Atapattu, Project Engineer**

## **Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan: Project Manager's report**

### **1. Purpose**

To update the Advisory Committee on progress made with implementing the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan

### **2. Project status summary**

We made good progress in implementing the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan during the 2003/04 financial year. The highlight of the year was the substantial completion of the Belmont improvement works on time and within budget. However at present, all the good work at Belmont is overshadowed by community concerns over remaining flooding and erosion risks following completion of the works.

Progress on key projects includes:

- Construction of the viewing platform at the Ewen Bridge is well advanced and rock delivery to Strand Park has commenced.
- Good progress with the Whirinaki Crescent stopbank preliminary design.
- Completion of the Opahu Stream pump station concept design and resource consents obtained.
- Completion of the Hutt River bed level survey field works.
- Substantial completion of the Belmont edge protection works.
- Completion of the Norfolk Street stopbank (subject to any further changes that may be appropriate).

### **3. Ava to Ewen project**

#### **3.1 Strand Park river realignment**

Cashmore Contracting Ltd is on track to complete the Strand Park viewing platform by 30 June 2004. Concreting is complete and paving is underway. Landscaping and sign installation will follow.

The river diversion is planned for the period September 2004 to May 2005. Rock delivery to site started in June 2004. Cashmore Contracting could not start rock delivery to site in March 2004, as originally planned, due to delays caused by February floods. At this stage we do not expect any delay in completing the river diversion by May 2005.

#### **3.2 Opahu Stream outlet improvements**

Good progress has been made with the Opahu Stream outlet improvements design. Hutt City Council (HCC) approved the Opahu Stream Outlet agreement at its May 2004 Council meeting. This agreement, jointly prepared by GWRC and HCC officers, sets out the programme and responsibilities for improving the Opahu Stream outlet. GWRC approved this agreement in September 2003.

Resource consents have been granted for the pump station. GWRC and HCC officers will meet in June 2004 to agree on the process for the detailed design and construction for the pump station and associated culvert extension and outlet channel works. Construction of the pump station and associated works is programmed for the 2005/06 financial year.

### **4. Belmont improvements**

Construction of the Belmont capital works is substantially complete. Landscape works are progressing. Report 04.314 in this Order Paper provides further information on the Belmont improvements.

### **5. Whirinaki Crescent stopbank upgrade**

Report 04.318 in this Order Paper provides details on the Whirinaki Crescent stopbank upgrade design.

### **6. Hutt River bed level survey**

Connell Wagner Ltd has completed the fieldwork for the Hutt River bed level survey. Completion of fieldwork got delayed by more than one month because of the February rains. Susan Borrer, Flood Protection Engineer, has started analysing the survey data. This analysis will enable us to update our Hutt River gravel management policies for the next 5 years. We expect to report the outcomes of the gravel analysis to the September 2004 Advisory Committee.

## **7. Harvey Norman driveway**

On 4 May 2004, the Landcare Committee approved the granting of a car parking lease to Harvey Norman Pty Ltd (HN) for a period not less than 25 years. GWRC, HCC and HN officers are currently developing this agreement. The HN Board of Directors rejected a previous agreement, negotiated by GWRC, HCC and HN officers in February 2004, because of an early termination clause.

## **8. Implementing non-structural measures**

### **8.1 Progress on district plan measures**

#### **Upper Hutt City Council**

Upper Hutt City is now very close to having an operative district plan. A verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

#### **Hutt City Council**

Since the last HRAC meeting our Section 32 report, which helps support the proposed plan change, has been forwarded to Hutt City Council.

Hutt City Council has now sent out initial information on the proposed plan change to residents and property owners in the areas affected by the plan change. This information included both the erosion hazard line and flood extent information and asked for comments from the community by the 14 June.

Officers from Hutt City Council and GW attended a Belmont Ratepayers Association meeting on the 26 May to discuss the proposed plan change in more detail. Approximately 20 residents attended the meeting including Belmont Ratepayer's officials.

A number of concerns were raised which related to the erosion hazard lines and Norfolk Street flood hazard. The issues raised by residents at the meeting are summarised below:

#### ***Erosion hazard line***

- Residents believed that there should be no erosion hazard on their properties once the edge protection works are completed.
- Residents requested that further erosion protection works are undertaken, if necessary, to shift the hazard line outside their private property.

### ***Norfolk Street flood hazard***

- Residents had the understanding that there would be no flood hazard once the partial stopbank was completed.
- Some residents considered that sand bagging could be done effectively to prevent river flooding. Others had doubts over whether the gap can be effectively closed every time.
- Residents now prefer a permanent stopbank if the flood hazard cannot be removed.

### ***Other floodable properties in Belmont and Stokes Valley***

- Residents do not want any hazard lines on Belmont properties.
- Residents consider that structural measures should have removed the flood hazard from all properties.

HCC subsequently sent a letter to GW confirming these concerns.

We have received the minutes from a second meeting (held on 3 June 2004) attended by over 50 residents and HCC officers. At this meeting residents strongly expressed the view that they were not fully informed of the flooding and erosion risks remaining after completion of the works.

### **Our response**

We are disappointed at the strength of the residents reaction to the proposed District Plan change, given the individual contact GW staff had with residents, and the meetings and newsletters we sent to affected residents. However, we take these concerns seriously, and acknowledge that this reaction is not unexpected given the sensitivity of introducing hazard information into the district plan.

In response to the feedback received to date we suggest GW and HCC undertake the following actions:

- Officers meet to agree a way forward, particularly in terms of further consultation with residents and GW/HCC responsibilities.
- GW to initiate further investigations into the;

#### **Erosion Hazard line**

- Review the erosion hazard line in light of the finished works and the 5 potentially affected properties.
- Investigate works required to shift the erosion hazard line from the house at 11 Charles Street, and the other properties where it may be appropriate.

## Norfolk Street

- Review the work required to permanently close the gap in the existing stopbank and prevent internal stormwater flooding.
- GW/HCC to report back on outcomes from the consultation and further investigations, and the implications for the proposed Plan Change process, to the September Advisory Committee meeting.

Belmont is the first major project in the HRFMP, so difficulties are not unexpected. The other side of the coin is that we are learning valuable lessons which should help us for future projects (such as Ava to Ewen and Whirinaki Crescent stopbank).

## 8.2 Emergency management measures

Opus International Consultants are progressing a desk study to identify sites of potential landslides that may partly or fully block the Hutt River and cause flooding in the residential areas. This study will be completed by 30 June 2004. Outcomes of this study will be reported to the September Advisory Committee.

## 9. Project budget

The table below shows the expenditure to May 2004 against the current budget for the various HRFMP projects.

Project package	When constructed	Project budget as at June 2003	Cumulative expenditure to May 2004
Channel realignment	March 2004 to August 2005	\$4.86 M	\$849,700
Alicetown stopbank	July 2005 to December 2006	\$2.75 M	\$131,400
Ava bridge stopbank	2005/06 to 2007/08	\$5.77 M	\$237,700
Strand Park stopbank	2008/09 to 2009/10	\$2.95 M	\$12,800
<b>Total Ava to Ewen</b>		<b>\$16.3 M</b>	<b>\$1,231,600</b>
Non-structural implementation	2001/02 to 2003/04	\$0.25 M	\$156,800
Belmont edge protection	2003/04	\$0.81 M	\$502,600
Norfolk Street stopbank	2003/04	\$0.115 M	\$45,800
Whirinaki Crescent	2006/07	\$0.544 M	\$34,800
<b>Total HRFMP</b>		<b>\$17.5 M</b>	<b>\$1,971,600</b>

## 10. **Communications**

Communication initiatives, including press releases, newsletters and meetings with residents are in place for all the HRFMP projects.

We will continue to assist HCC and UHCC to consult with residents on the proposed district plan changes. We will meet with residents affected by the proposed plan changes in July/August 2004 after completing further investigations.

## 11. **Recommendations**

*That the Committee:*

1. *receive the report.*
2. *note the contents of the report.*

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Report approved by:

**Daya Atapattu**  
Project Engineer

**Geoff Dick**  
Manager, Flood Protection

**Rob Forlong**  
Divisional Manager, Landcare