



Report **06.557**
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Committee **Environment**
Author **Tracy Berghan, Consultant**

Waitohu Stream Study – summary report and recommendations

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present to the Environment Committee the final summary report for the Waitohu Stream Study; and to outline how we intend to implement the recommendations contained within the summary report.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

In March 2006 the Landcare and Environment Committee approved the draft summary report and agreed that it should be distributed to previously consulted parties (refer to Report 06.87). It was also agreed that we would present a proposed work programme in order to implement the recommendations contained within the summary report.

4. Results from further consultation

The report was circulated to those individuals and organisations that had previously been consulted with. Additional letters were sent to interested parties. A further 15 copies of the report were sent out to interested parties who requested a copy of the summary report.

No changes were requested to the summary report from this consultation round. The Department of Conservation sent us a very complimentary letter which supports the direction taken in the summary report.

The summary report has now been finalised, subject to formal approval from the Landcare and Environment committees. Copies of the summary report are available from the Flood Protection Department.

5. Implementing the summary report recommendations

The summary report contains a number of recommendations. These recommendations have been identified as follows:

- Measures that can be implemented now: Recommendations 5.1 – 5.11
- Further investigations: Recommendations 5.12 – 5.16
- Reporting: Recommendation 5.17

Attachment 1 contains these recommendations and how we propose to implement them. The main focus is on those recommendations (5.1-5.11) that can be implemented now by altering or reprioritising the Flood Protection Department's existing Waitohu work programme and budget. To facilitate, this staff from Catchment Management have undertaken a stream walkover and prepared a work programme for the stream taking into account the fundings of the study.

Further reporting of these recommendations will be undertaken as part of the normal reporting procedures for the Flood Protection Department i.e. via the Managers report to the Committee.

However, the proposed further investigations (recommendations 5.12-5.16) around the Convent, Bennett's Road and Mangapouri stream areas are more significant and have greater financial and staffing implications for the Catchment Management and Environment Divisions. A separate report will be prepared later in the current financial year to consider options to advance this work.

The existing operations and maintenance resource consent is also due for renewal in 2007. As a result of the finalising of the summary report, we intend to apply to increase the term of our current consent from 3 years to 15 years. We anticipate that the work we have put into the summary report will help facilitate a successful outcome for the renewal of the consent and for this longer term.

6. Communication

A press release will be prepared to report the Waitohu Stream Study findings and recommendations to the wider community.

7. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. **Receives** the report.
2. **Notes** the contents of the report including Attachment 1.
3. **Approves** the final summary report.

4. *Notes that implementation of the recommendations contained in the Waitohu Stream Study report (as per Attachment 1) is underway where they can be fitted into the existing work programme and budgets.*

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Report approved by:

Tracy Berghan
Consultant

Murray McLea
Acting Manager,
Environmental Policy

Nigel Corry
Divisional Manager,
Environment Management

Attachment 1: Waitohu Stream Study - Implementation of Recommendations