



Report **06.662**
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Committee **Hutt River Advisory Committee**
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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 (HRFMP).

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. Ava to Ewen project

The Ava to Ewen project is now about 50% complete and is on track for completion by 2010. Stages 1 and 2 of the project, the river realignment and the Alicetown stopbank reconstruction, are complete and construction is progressing on the first part of Stage 3, the Opahu Stream pump station project. The Ava Rail stopbank reconstruction and waterway upgrade is the next major contract in the Ava to Ewen project.

Opahu pump station

All GWRC works included in the Opahu pump station contract, culvert extension, outlet structure, outlet channel and stopbank works, are now substantially complete. The floodgates are in position and the outlet channel is functioning. The contractor is now progressing with the concreting of the pump station superstructure and expects to install the pumps and commission by January/February 2007.

Ava Rail stopbank reconstruction and waterway upgrade

This is the next major contract in the Ava to Ewen project. Tenders are being invited from 4 pre-qualified contractors and close on 22 November 2006. At this stage, we expect to appoint a contractor before Christmas 2006.

This contract includes the upgrade of the stopbank and waterway on the true left bank from Whites Line West to a location near Randwick Crescent, about 350 metres downstream from the Rail Bridge. The contract works consist of reconstructing the stopbank to meet the required standard, a new rocklining to protect the stopbank, removal of the training bank, concrete works under the bridge and upsizing of a stormwater pipe. The contract also includes preparation works for establishing an inanga habitat in the remaining section of the old Opahu Stream channel. This is a two year project to be completed by June 2008.

Alicetown stopbank reconstruction

The contractor is currently progressing with the tidying-up of the works in accordance with a task list prepared by the Engineer. These maintenance works include establishing the grass cover, pressure testing completed penstocks and reinstating damaged surfaces. We are currently discussing with HCC officers, a programme to hand over the environmental plantings to Hutt City Council.

Strand Park stopbank design

Opus International Consultants have now completed the detailed design for both the Ava Rail and Strand Park stopbanks. We are currently reviewing the draft design report. This design took more time than expected because of the complex issues under the rail bridge.

4. Norfolk Street floodgate operation

We have prepared the draft procedures for operating the Norfolk Street floodgates during a flood emergency. An onsite meeting with HCC Emergency Management officers was held on 8 November 2006 to discuss these procedures. GWRC staff will be responsible for operating the gates during an emergency. However, a set of keys will be kept with a resident in Norfolk Street so that residents can close the gates in the event GWRC staff cannot reach the site due to access problems. We expect to explain these procedures to Norfolk Street residents at a meeting in February 2007.

5. Whirinaki Crescent stopbank upgrade

Progress with this project is affected by land purchase issues. The project will now continue into 2007/08. Report 06.648 of the Order Paper provides details of land purchase issues and the new programme.

6. Boulcott/Hutt stopbank project

Consultation on the Option Evaluation outcomes is underway. Report PE06.663 of this order paper provides details of the issues raised during Round 2 consultation and the proposed process for negotiating with the two golf clubs and refining the favoured stopbank alignment.

7. Gravel extraction

The Flood Protection Department has now been granted resource consents for gravel extraction in the Hutt River below the water level. The methodology for extracting below water level was agreed at an onsite meeting with the consultant, contractor and a representative from Fish & Game. Weather permitting, our contractor will commence extraction under this consent before the end of November 2006.

8. Implementing non-structural measures

The Upper Hutt City district plan change to include the Hutt River flood hazard areas remains to be done. At this stage, UHCC officers are expecting to report to their council in February 2007 on the proposed plan change and the consultation programme.

9. Maoribank Riverbed stabilisation

The purpose of this project is to find permanent solutions to arrest the ongoing bed degradation in the Maoribank reach of the Hutt River. This two year investigation project is programmed to commence in January 2007.

10. Budget and 2006/07 programme

Attachment 1 shows the project budget and expenditure to October 2006. The total approved budget for 2006/07 is \$3.4 million. At this stage, we expect all projects, except the Whirinaki Crescent stopbank, to progress to budget and programme.

11. Communication

Each HRFMP project has its own communication initiative. A newsletter will be distributed to Woburn and Moera residents and a press release issued once a contractor is appointed for the Ava Rail stopbank contract.

12. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*

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Attachment 1: 2006/07 Budget and Expenditure