

Flood Protection Manager's report for period ending 1 June 2007

1. Manager's comments

1.1 General

The major focus of the department over the last month has been the completion of the annual works programmes in preparation for the end of the financial year. Overall progress has been good although progress on some of the major capital works has been delayed due to hold-ups in getting land owner approvals. The landowner issues have been resolved and it is expected that the lost time will be made up in the coming financial year.

Two issues have arisen over the last month that will need attention over the next few months. Firstly, the tenders received for the flood wall being constructed as part of the Whirinaki Stopbank project are all substantially higher than the estimate. We are currently considering options for reducing the costs. A meeting has been arranged with the golf club to keep them informed on the status of the project.

Secondly, the Carterton District Council has requested that we undertake a bank edge protection project on the Gladstone section of the Upper Ruamahanga River adjacent to the Cliffs and Dakins Road to protect road access. The cost estimate for the work is \$158,000 with CDC offering to contribute 50% of the cost. This work will be included in the 2007/08 works programme.

Staff have spent time over the last month putting together information relating to MfE's National Flood Risk Review and a request for comments on a proposed National Policy Statement on flood risk. In undertaking this work we are taking it as an opportunity to more clearly document Councils approach to flood risk management. The documentation of the approach will enable us to more effectively consult with the community about the issue and in particular the non structural options.

2. Kapiti floodplain management [Kees Nauta]

2.1 Friends of the Waikanae River

The planting plan for the Waikanae River is expected to be completed by 30 June 2007. It will be sent out to all involved parties for final approval in July 2007. The plan identifies 13 areas for restoration work to be completed by the Friends. The number of sites planted each year depends on the pre-planting weed control requirements and the ability of the Friends to set and carry out the workload. Assistance in site preparation where possible will be given by Flood Protection Operations staff.

Graeme Campbell and John Bissell met with Robin Pennel from the Kapiti Environmental Restoration Management Trust to discuss their potential work along the Waikanae River. This Trust has been formed recently to address concerns by people working in the Kapiti area that some restoration sites are in danger of being let go due to the inability of ageing volunteers to keep on top of the weed control. The Trust (KERMIT) will be taking on work along the south bank of the Waikanae River on land administered by KCDC who have supported and funded this initiative. The GW Flood Protection Group have decided to observe progress over the next twelve months before looking at any request for financial support of KERMIT. A report to the August 2007 LCC meeting will outline the proposal in more detail.

\$7,000 has been allocated to the Friends for the purpose of tree removal and site preparation prior to planting. Staff are working with the Friends to identify the sites.

Staff attended a committee meeting on 24 April 2007 where they presented the initial draft of the planting plan, discussed the proposed KERMIT Trust, tree removal, and the \$40K enhancement money from the James Cooke Park realignment. It was an interesting meeting and not lacking in passion and emotion. All issues were satisfactorily resolved at the meeting.

2.2 Friends of the Otaki River

John Bissell attended a planting day at Chrystalls Bend with the Otaki Friends. The event was well patronised and gave him an opportunity to meet new people.

Staff spent half a day on the Otaki River with Barry Baston and Max Lutz looking at future planting sites. They will be preparing a planting plan for the Otaki Friends similar to the Waikanae planting plan.

2.3 Chrystalls Extended Stopbank

As we advised at the last meeting submissions on the Notice of Requirement (NOR) and resource consent applications closed on the 30 March 2007. Seven submissions were received.

Kapiti Coast District Council (KCDC) and Environmental Regulation, GW are very close to reaching an agreement with all submitters regarding the proposed conditions. When this is finalised KCDC and GW will issue their recommendation on the NOR and decision on the resource consents respectively.

Geoff Dick, Divisional Manager, Catchment Management has delegated authority to issue a decision on the NOR on behalf of GW.

Recently approximately 6000 cubic metres of silts were excavated from the Chrystalls lagoon and stockpiled it for use in the proposed stopbank.

A number a large trees on the line of the stopbank have been removed and arrangements have been made for the boundary location to be undertaken along the alignment.

2.4 South Waitohu stopbank

Work is progressing on a geotechnical assessment of site materials, detailed design and resource consent application. The programme is to gain Resource Consent approval by mid September and award the construction contract in late November.

3. Hutt River floodplain management [Daya Atapattu]

3.1 Ava to Ewen project

Dixon and Dunlop Ltd continues to make good progress on the Ava Rail stopbank contract. Rock supply from Takaka is continuing and by the end of May 2007, the contractor has placed about 4900 tonnes of rock out of a total of 15,000 tonnes. Concrete works to extend a pier cap of the Ava Rail Bridge was completed and the contractor has now commenced laying the new stormwater pipes. The outlet channel from the Opahu Stream culvert is now directly open to the river.

The draft tender documents for the Strand Park stopbank contract are now complete. Construction works are scheduled to commence in 2008/09. Hutt City Council (HCC) has sought our approval to construct some car parks on the Hutt River berm below Ewen Bridge. HCC will initially look for 100 car parks. We have agreed in principle to this request provided the car parks can be located so that the flood protection standard will not be compromised. HCC is now undertaking further investigations and if they decide to proceed the civil works for carparks could be included in the Strand Park stopbank contract with HCC paying the cost of that portion of the works.

3.2 Boulcott/Hutt stopbank

Good progress has been made with the phase 2 of the Boulcott/Hutt feasibility study. Topographic surveys and geotechnical investigations required for this phase of the study are now complete. Two meetings were held with Hutt and Boulcott Golf Clubs to provide opportunities for them to comment on the design. A concept design for the Red alignment was confirmed through two 'River Engineers' workshops. Staff are looking at river channel improvement options which could lower the design crest levels of the stopbanks.

A newsletter, providing a project update, was distributed to the adjacent property owners and stakeholders on 31 May 2007.

3.3 Whirinaki Crescent stopbank

Construction of the 175 metre long stopbank which forms part of Stage 1 is completed. We are now analysing the tenders received for the construction of the floodwall. The tender prices are significantly higher than estimate and we are now assessing the options. The tender documents for Stage 2 works are under preparation. We will delay the flood wall until prices have been received for stage 2. The delay will enable us to confirm whether the whole project can still be able to be completed within budget.

3.4 Maoribank Riverbed stabilisation

Investigations are progressing to identify the cause/s for the continued bed degradation. A walkover of the site with specialist consultants was completed in April 2007. An Engineering Geologist from the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences was engaged to report on the rock formation. Development of a hydraulic model to identify any changes to river characteristics has commenced and a re-survey of cross sections is due to commence in June 2007.

3.5 District plan changes

On 25 May 2007, a meeting was held with Upper Hutt City Council (UHCC) 'Planning Team' to discuss a programme to prepare a plan change application to include the Hutt River and Mangaroa flood hazard into the district plan. At this stage, UHCC officers expect to commence this work in August 2007. Until this time, we will progress with refining the Mangaroa flood maps in consultation with UHCC.

4 Western Operations [Jeff Evans]

Operational works programmes for both Wellington and Kapiti are running to schedule. The willow and native planting programmes for the coming year are now being developed. Work is being done with the Friends groups and local schools for the upcoming Arbour Day plantings.

4.1 Hutt River

The Environmental Planner and the Hutt River Ranger have been identifying planting sites for this year. It was a good opportunity for them to inspect sections of the river and discuss issues.

Three new groynes have been built in the River at Whakatiki. The area of eroded bank behind the groynes will be back filled using excess fill from the Masefield Street culvert removal works which are planned next financial year. A new groyne has also been installed in the river below the Maoribank Bend.

All the river vehicle access tracks have been graded and re-metalled in preparation for the winter traffic.

Some minor channel shaping has been completed opposite Nash Street and Gibbons Street in Upper Hutt.

4.2 Hutt River Trail

Maintenance has included vegetation cutback around Belmont and Taita Gorge and releasing around various native plots. There has been some vandalism repairs on various assets such as signs and seats.

This period has seen a number of events along the trail and berms. The high profile Crazyman multi-sport event was held in May and over 500 participants rode the trail from Silverstream to Hutt City. There was also the annual Children's Bike Jam at Trentham Memorial Park which used the trail.

4.3 Hutt River ranging services

This period has once again seen the usual seasonal ranging duties such as patrols and regulatory issues. Presentations were made to the Hutt Rotary Club and a conservation/river evening with the Belmont School.

4.4 Watercourses

Annual Stream clearing runs have been carried out in the Waiwhetu Stream, Hulls Creek, Pinehaven, Takapu, Waimeha and Korokoro Streams.

4.5 Otaki River

Channel shaping has been completed to protect an area of erosion opposite the Wallace-Lutz properties. Staff have been busy release cutting and spraying around native plantings in the Chrystall's lagoon area.

4.6 Gravel extraction

Gravel extraction figures to the end of April 2007 are set out below.

River	Area	Contractor	Period Year 2006/07 (cubic metres)		Year 2005/06 (cubic metres)
			Period	Year	Full Year
Hutt	Estuary	Winstones	5,871	39,534	49,154
	River	Horokiwi	9,081	34,521	60,680
Otaki	River	Winstones	0	40,929	41,442
Waitohu	Bridge	Albert Mills	2500	2500	
Waikanae	Above Greenaway Road	Various	1,080	3,330	9,210
	Below Greenaway Road	Gary Holland Earthmoving	0	5,360	5,040
TOTALS			16,032	123,943	165,526

5 Wairarapa Operations [Mike Longworth]

5.1 Wairarapa River Schemes

5.1.1 Annual Works Programmes

The annual works programmes for the northern Wairarapa Rivers and for the LWVD Scheme are now completed.

5.1.2 Flood Damage Repairs

All flood damage repairs are now completed. Repairs to the Hikinui sill is complete, except for removal of the existing sill and installation of the debris barrier, which will be finalised in summer 2008. Funds for this work will be carried forward to the next financial year.

5.1.3 Drainage Schemes

All spraying and mechanical cleaning has been completed. The drains within each scheme network are in a good state for the onset of winter. Currently the Wairarapa is experiencing very dry weather conditions which is beneficial in helping to keep the electricity costs down for the pump drainage schemes.

The rebuilding of overall drainage scheme reserves with consequent rate increases is the main focus for the 2007/2008 financial year.

5.1.4 Annual Scheme meetings

All the annual scheme meetings are completed. A number of them had river inspections prior to meetings. Five schemes have adopted rate increases in line with the increase in the Cost Construction Index. Generally there has been a positive response from the scheme committees to the work the Council have carried out over the year.

The repayment of the 10 year loan for a willow clearing job on the Whangaehu River Scheme will be paid off during 2007/08. The Scheme Committee resolved to reduce the rates to support an annual maintenance programme of \$5,000 per year.

5.2 Kopuaranga River Enhancement Project

A separate report has been filed elsewhere in the order paper.

5.3 Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme Review

Following the completion of the recent public meetings staff have reviewed the points raised at the meetings. The proposed rating classification has been amended where it was considered to be appropriate. Ratepayers have also visited the office to discuss their situation. These meetings have gone well.

Legal advice has been received on how to proceed with the introduction of the new classification. The advice is not to introduce the new classification for next financial year as there is not enough time to complete a robust special consultative process as required under the Local Government Act. Instead it has been recommended that staff should consult with the Review Committee and seek their endorsement of the proposed changes. Once the Review Committee is happy it will proceed with the special consultative process on the new rating classification. The new rating classification will not now be in place until the financial year 2008/09.

A review committee meeting is scheduled for June 2007.

5.4 Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme Global Consent

The LWVD Scheme Global Consent has been lodged. The affected parties and the Consent Authority have requested further details. These are being provided and further consultation is in progress to get sign-offs from the affected parties.

6 Planning and development services [Sharyn Westlake]

The following table summarises the number of formal, written requests attended to during the period from 21 March – 1 June 2007:

	March/April 2007	YTD
Requests brought forward	8	4
Additional requests received	23	169
Responses provided	27	169
Outstanding requests	4	4

The Flood Protection Department is also involved with:

The 10-year review of the Regional Policy Statement, led by Environmental Policy Department. Flood Protection officers are providing ongoing contributions to the review, to ensure sustainable river and catchment management that achieves the particular level of flood hazard protection desired by each distinct community of interest.

Input into the River Managers Forum led initiative to create an informal, electronic "River Managers Guide" document which will include rules, guides, notes, procedures and practices relevant to the Management of NZ Rivers. Funding for the first stage of the project has just been granted by the Foundation for Research, Science & Technology.

Mediation regarding the objections to Kapiti Coast District Plan Change 50.

Development of maps and information for Upper Hutt City Council (UHCC) resulting from the Mangaroa River Flood Hazard Study. The resulting maps and information showing the flood hazard will be discussed with UHCC and affected parties before a future Plan Change to the Upper Hutt City Council District Plan.

7 Investigations and Assets [John Eyles]

7.1 Waiwhetu Stream floodplain management study

The technical work to complete Phase 2 is due to be finished by the end of June 2007. The next phase of the project, from 1 July, will involve completing the option development, formal consultation, drafting the Flood Management Plan (FMP) and getting formal signoff from HCC and GW by the end of June 2008.

Technical reports presented at the Waiwhetu Stream Advisory Committee meeting on 7 May included a paper on the Study of Upper Catchment Protection and on improving channel management. Other technical reports such as investigating bridge improvements in the upper catchment and house raising are nearly complete.

Officers are continuing to talk with Ministry officials to try to secure a viable level of funding for the contaminated sediment clean up costs. The current offer is for \$2.4M or 40% of the total clean up costs. Hutt City Council are still considering their position with respect to a local contribution. Structural flood protection works cannot start without doing the clean up work.

7.2 Pauatahanui Stream (in conjunction with Porirua City Council and Transit NZ)

The recent flood hazard study showed this stream is heavily overgrown with willows and has many obstructions to flow which increases the risk of flooding.

Steve Murphy is making good progress preparing individual property reports to identify stream maintenance required and also working on a resource consent template for individual owners to use when they wish to start work. Transit has agreed to call tenders to clean up the whole stream, probably next financial year. The individual property owners have to agree to pay their pro rata share.

We will continue to liaise with PCC in developing an integrated whole of catchment approach for managing the Pauatahanui stream.

7.3 Detention Dams study, Stebbings Dam Hydrology

The Building Act 2004 defines the responsibilities that dam owners have with respect to the integrity of dams and how they should be managed to protect public safety in the event of failure.

A draft report has been received from consultants NIWA that completes a review of the hydrology of Stebbings Dam. This follows similar work undertaken in 2001/02 for the Seton Nossiter dam. The purpose is to assess the maximum possible flood, with the

objective of evaluating the sufficiency of the flood storage and the adequacy of current flood warning and evacuation procedures to ensure public safety during extreme flood events. The full implications of the draft report have yet to be assessed.

7.4 Asset management

As part of the revaluation process, Flood Protection staff have developed new unit rates for Flood Protection's infrastructural assets. These are being entered into our asset registers to revalue the department's entire infrastructural assets. A draft re-valuation document has also been produced, and we are busy finalising this ready for our external peer review due before the end of the financial year.

In addition to the re-valuation exercise, we are also completing the routine year end asset management tasks specifically the annual inspections of the infrastructural assets on each river scheme.

As part of the organisation-wide asset management information system review, Officers have also attended a series of vendor demonstrations. Clarification is being sought with the vendors before a recommendation can be made for a preferred supplier.

7.5 Health and Safety

We held a successful health and safety meeting with the Operational staff of the department; this was the first combined meeting between Western and Wairarapa staff since the restructure. Health and safety systems were discussed and also areas where we can gain some consistencies, such as training and health monitoring.

Annual health monitoring for both the Western and Wairarapa Operations staff has been arranged for the end of June.

Graeme Campbell
Manager, Flood Protection