

Report 09.03
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Committee Catchment Management Committee
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Flood Damage, Wairarapa - October 2008

1. Purpose

To obtain approval for the use of Council's Flood Damage Contingency funds to undertake flood damage repairs within the Wairarapa's river management schemes.

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

Flood Protection has responsibility for maintaining 10 river management schemes in the Wairarapa in accordance with Council policy and approved asset management plans. These schemes have a total asset valuation of \$97 million and a current maintenance budget of \$1.56 million annually.

Flood damage has occurred in 6 of the schemes. These were the Ruamahanga – (Gladstone, Mt Bruce and Te Ore Ore), Waipoua, Waingawa and Waiohine. This damage was a direct result of an intense rainfall event on 7 October in the Tararuas.

High river levels were recorded on the 7 October, as follows:

- Ruamahanga River at Wardells - 5 year return period
- Waipoua River at Mikimiki - 5 year return period
- Waingawa River at Kaituna - 2.33 year return period
- Waiohine River at the gorge - 2.33 year return period

The flood had more of an impact in the upper Ruamahanga River and its tributaries out of the Tararuas than the lower valley section of the Ruamahanga. The rivers were high for 8 to 10 hours which contributed to the damage.

The Waipoua River sustained the most damage in the upper reaches where the only bank protection is planting. The lower reaches where heavier protection such as rock was used to repair flood damage from the 2004 floods has with stood this flood relatively well.

4. Comment

4.1 The total flood damage has been estimated at \$369,000 in the 6 schemes. \$69,000 of the flood damage can be accommodated within the schemes maintenance budgets but the remainder needs to be funded out of the scheme reserves and the Councils Flood Damage Contingency Fund.

4.2 With the damage occurring in early October and the risk of further spring floods, staff proceeded to carry out urgent repairs in the period up to Christmas. To allow the urgent work to proceed, the Divisional Manager has authorised expenditure of up to \$150,000 and this report seeks Council endorsement of the expenditure to date and approval of the remaining expenditure.

4.3 The proposed funding is set out in the following table together with the individual schemes reserve balances once their share of the funding is drawn down –

River Scheme	Total Flood Damage (000's)	Accommodated in Work Programmes (000's)	Council Flood Damage Contingency Fund(000's)	Scheme Contribution (000's)	Scheme Reserve Balance on completion (000's)
Ruamahanga Mt Bruce	10	10	-	-	53.5
Ruamahanga Te Ore Ore	32	32	-	-	77.5
Ruamahanga Gladstone	69	19	25	25	58
Waipoua	94	-	47	47	16
Waingawa	64	-	32	32	37.6
Waiohine	100	8	46	46	430
Total	369	69	150	150	

5. Communication

- 5.1 River inspections and meetings have been held with the four scheme advisory committees where the draw down of flood reserves is recommended. In December 2008, they were advised of the damage, initial repair work and the scope and funding for the remainder of the repair work.
- 5.2 The four scheme advisory committees of the Ruamahanga – Gladstone, Waipoua, Waingawa and Waiohine have all endorsed the proposed work and its funding. A copy of the respective scheme committee resolutions is contained in Attachment 1.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Approves the expenditure of up to \$300,000 on flood damage repairs and the withdrawal of \$150,000 from the Council's Flood Contingency Fund for flood damage repairs in the Upper Ruamahanga – Gladstone Section, Waipoua, Waingawa and Waiohine River Schemes.***

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Report endorsed by:



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Attachment 1: Flood Damage Wairarapa 2008