

<b>Report</b>	<b>15.88</b>
Date	26 February 2015
File	WO/06/01/03
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga River Floodplain Management Subcommittee</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Alistair J N Allan, Senior Projects Engineer</b>

## **Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga Floodplain Management Plan - Vision and Aims**

### **1. Purpose**

To seek the Subcommittee's approval of the overarching vision and aims for the Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga Floodplain Management Plan (FMP).

### **2. Background**

Phase 2 of the floodplain management planning process is titled 'Understand the risk and treatment options'.

This phase of the project aims to develop a package of measures which will be used to manage the flooding and erosion risks within the catchment, while protecting and enhancing catchment values.

The key tasks in this phase are:

- Defining objectives (aims).
- Identifying management tools (options).
- Combining management tools into option packages (option combinations).
- Selecting and refining a preferred option combination.
- Recommending a proposed package of measures.

This report covers the development and recommendation of the overarching vision and aims for the Te Kāuru Upper Ruamāhanga Floodplain Management Plan, against which mitigation measures can be evaluated.

### 3. Vision

At its workshop on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November, the Subcommittee developed a vision for the Masterton reach of the Waipoua river. The project team has taken the feedback from the workshop and developed an overall vision for the whole catchment.

This information was presented in draft format at a workshop on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 2015. Some discussion at that workshop was captured and the vision has been further refined.

The proposed vision for the Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga Floodplain Management Plan is:

*“A connected, resilient and prosperous community, proud of its rivers, that is responsive in managing the risk of flooding, in a manner that recognises local identity and protects, enhances or restores natural and cultural value.”*

### 4. Development of Aims

#### 4.1 Change in terminology – Objectives to Aims

The floodplain management planning guidelines recommend that objectives are developed as part of the floodplain management plan, and that these are used to develop the risk management option combinations. The intent behind these objectives is that they set a target to aim for, or a goal to work toward.

There is some confusion in use of the wording in the Wairarapa because a number of river management schemes have a specific set of objectives for their area. This has led to some confusion between the objectives for river scheme management and those for Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga Floodplain Management Plan.

For this reason for the development of the floodplain management plan we have changed to the use of **aims** for the Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga Floodplain Management Plan, which more clearly defines the purpose and intent.

#### 4.2 Aims

##### 4.2.1 Process to define aims

A workshop was held on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November with the Subcommittee to develop a vision and set of aims for the Masterton reach of the Waipoua River.

The project team has taken this work and expanded it over a series of workshops. The development of the overarching aims draws on the Phase 1 investigations and includes consideration of the flooding and erosion issues, the values within the catchment and discussions with stakeholder groups about what they want to see come out of the floodplain management plan. A meeting of the river scheme members has been set up for the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2015 to further consider the aims. The Subcommittee will be updated on outcomes of this discussion by officers during the Subcommittee meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March.

A river management scheme members meeting was held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December 2014 to consider the aims. At this meeting the project team agreed with the scheme members present to review the existing river management

scheme objectives and incorporate them into the FMP aims, bringing a revised set of FMP aims to the schemes for consideration in the first quarter of 2015.

The in progress aims were presented in draft format at a Subcommittee workshop on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 2015. Some discussion at that workshop was captured and the aims were further refined.

The project team discussed the aims with the community at the Masterton A+P show on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February 2014, and sought community feeling about these through an interactive game. This interactive game highlighted grouped aims that were strongly linked to economic, cultural, social, environmental or governance.

#### 4.2.2 Proposed Aims

The following section of the report presents the overarching aims for the floodplain management plan.

These aims apply across the whole project area and are in some instances supplemented with further detail and explanation within certain reaches to better clarify how they should be interpreted in relation to areas of particular importance. These explanations or specific location needs are not included in this report and will be further refined during the project. An example of a site that would include additional consideration is the reach near Hidden Lakes and the significance of that area, and the specific needs through the urban reach of the Waipoua river in Masterton.

The aims encompass the way in which the community at a regional, district and individual level currently use and value the floodplain, and incorporates consideration of future uses and needs.

##### **1. Working together to develop a sustainable floodplain management plan**

- 1.1 Provide affordable flood hazard management across a whole continuum of flood risk to agreed standards;
- 1.2 Ensure work aligns with integrated catchment management principles;
- 1.3 Ensure that the principles set out in the flood protection code of practice are followed;
- 1.4 Ensure that future development and land-use is compatible with flood risk through use of appropriate development controls.

##### **2. To support sustainable economic development**

- 2.1 Ensure the FMP informs and aligns with the Long Term Plans of the affected local authorities;
- 2.2 Reduce the likelihood of loss to private property, business and agriculture;
- 2.3 Ensure that property owners are aware of their flood risks and damage potential is understood and minimised;
- 2.4 Ensure that the risk to essential public infrastructure is managed or reduced and that lifelines are maintained during flood events.

### **3. To protect and improve the cultural values of rivers**

- 3.1 Improve the recognition of impacts of flooding and flood hazard management on cultural activities;
- 3.2 Improve the Mauri of water ways within the catchment;
- 3.3 Improve access for mahinga kai and cultural activities;
- 3.4 Recognise and consider the interconnectedness of natural systems.

### **4. To recognise community needs and build resilient communities**

- 4.1 Ensure that communities are aware of their flood and erosion risk;
- 4.2 Recognise the aspirations of the community and landowners;
- 4.3 Identify and support opportunities for improved public access along rivers;
- 4.4 Maintain and improve level of safety for recreation users of the rivers.

### **5. To protect and enhance our natural spaces**

- 5.1 Improve awareness and understanding of the natural values and character of the river environment;
- 5.2 Improve recognition of impacts of flood and flood hazard management on environmental and ecological values and that the use or extraction of natural resources including gravel management is sustainable and complies with relevant policies;
- 5.3 Create more space for the rivers and their natural processes;
- 5.4 Improve the water quality and habitat diversity along the rivers.

## **5. The decision-making process and significance**

The matter requiring decision in this report has been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act). Part 6 sets out the obligations of local authorities in relation to the making of decisions.

### **5.1 Significance of the decision**

Part 6 requires Greater Wellington Regional Council to consider the significance of the decision. The term 'significance' has a statutory definition set out in the Act.

Officers have considered the significance of the matter, taking the Council's significance and engagement policy and decision-making guidelines into account. Officers recommend that the matter be considered to have low significance.

Officers do not consider that a formal record outlining consideration of the decision-making process is required in this instance.

### **5.2 Engagement**

In accordance with the significance and engagement policy, no engagement on the matters for decision is required.

## 6. Recommendations

*That the Subcommittee:*

1. **Receives** the report.
2. **Notes** the content of the report.
3. **Approves** the vision for the *Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga Floodplain Management Plan*.
4. **Approves** the overarching aims of the *Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga Floodplain Management Plan*.

Report prepared by:

**Alistair J N Allan**  
Senior Projects Engineer

Report approved by:

**Graeme Campbell**  
Manager, Flood Protection

Report approved by:

**Wayne O'Donnell**  
General Manager  
Catchment Management