

# **Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan: Utilities and Services Policy**

## **Why is a Policy Needed?**

A wide range of public and commercial utilities and services are located in the Hutt River Corridor and existing stopbanks. The HRFMP proposes the upgrading or replacement of stopbanks or berm enhancement. This provides an opportunity to rationalise the location of these services and institute a policy for new and existing services or upgrades.

Existing services have historic justification or in a few cases formal agreement with the Regional Council or its predecessors.

## **Proposed Policy Principles**

The following principles developed earlier in the process are now being discussed. As a standard, all services except stormwater outlets and sewer overflow crossings, should be located outside the stopbanks. However, to recognise both new and existing services and works proposed in the plan the following principles are suggested:

- New or upgraded services, except stormwater outlet and sewer overflow crossings, shall not be installed within or under stopbanks, except at formalised crossings
- All existing services within stopbanks must be relocated outside upgraded or new stopbanks during construction. Where possible a services corridor will be provided
- Stormwater outlets and sewer overflow crossings must be rationalised during stopbank upgrading to minimise the number of outlets within any reach
- Service relocation costs lie with the owner
- New and significantly redeveloped key network utility facilities located within the River Corridor must meet the 2800 cumec design standard
- Existing key network utility facilities located within the River Corridor must have contingency plans to meet the 2800 cumec design standard
- New networks for sewerage and water supply located within the River Corridor must meet the 1900 flood standard.

## **Communication with Utilities and Services Owners**

Utilities and services owners have been sent the proposed policy principles for comment. There is general acceptance of the principles, but there have been some comments made, issues and concerns raised.

## **Comments, Issues and Concerns**

- Council needs to provide some explanation and qualification for the principles
- Owners do not want to pay for service relocation required as a result of flood protection works
- Several owners suggested meetings. Staff have already met with Hutt and Upper Hutt City Councils and other meetings are being scheduled.

## **Next Actions**

- A legal opinion will confirm the Council's powers and liabilities
- Staff will discuss the policy with individual companies or groups before it is put to the HRFMAC for adoption and inclusion in the Plan.