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**Report 01.463**

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Report to the Hutt River Floodplain Management Advisory Committee  
from Daya Atapattu, Project Leader, Flood Protection Group

**Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan (HRFMP) : Project Leader's Report**

**1. Purpose**

To update the Advisory Committee on the status of the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan (HRFMP) investigations and implementation.

**2. Background**

The status of the HRFMP investigations and implementation was last reported to the Advisory Committee at the 8 March 2001 meeting.

On 24 May, the Advisory Committee:

- heard and considered public submissions on the HRFMP Consultation Draft and the Draft Utilities and Services Policy
- was briefed on the process to finalise the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan

At this meeting the Advisory Committee will:

- consider the Draft Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan
- consider and make recommendations on the future role and Terms of Reference for the Advisory Committee
- receive information on the HRFMP investigations and project implementation

### 3. **HRFMP Accelerated Programme**

The Advisory Committee consideration of the Draft Plan on 12 July will substantially complete the accelerated HRFMP process, which started in August 1998. Major achievements to date are:

Design standard	June 1999
Recommending a programme of works for LTFS	September 1999
Environmental Strategy	June 2000
Non-structural Measures	June 2000
Draft Plan	June 2001

### 4. **HRFMP Phase 2/3 Investigations**

#### 4.1 **Hutt River Environmental Strategy**

At the March 2001 meeting the Advisory Committee received copies of the completed Hutt River Environmental Strategy. Since then 128 copies of the document have been distributed as follows:

Hutt City Councillors and Officers	10
Upper Hutt City Councillors and Officers	10
Ward Committees	6
Environmental and Community Groups	25
Libraries	18
Secondary Schools	8
WRC Councillors and officers	51

The document is also available on the Regional Council's web site.

About 120 letters were sent to individuals and community and recreational groups who are likely to be interested in the strategy, advising them that the document was available on the web, at public libraries and the three councils.

#### 4.2 **Fault Rupture Study**

The Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences (GNS) has received an Earthquake Commission (EQC) grant of \$53,000 to study vertical deformation in the Lower Hutt / Petone area. The study, which will take about a year to complete, is expected to commence in July 2001. The study will be a pilot for similar research work in Upper Hutt, Porirua and Kapiti Coast areas. The Hutt Valley drill hole database and the Regional Council's Digital Terrain Model will be used for this study.

It is anticipated that the outcomes of the study (viz. better knowledge on fault rupture and vertical deformation) will help the Flood Protection Group to better assess the impact of earthquakes on the Hutt River flood protection system. The study resulted from co-ordinated representation by a number of local government and other agencies who have a common interest in predicting earthquake impacts.

## 5. HRFMP Phase 4 : Plan Preparation

### 5.1 Drafting the Plan

The hearing of submissions on 24 May marked a major milestone in the Plan's preparation. On 12 June the Landcare Committee considered the Advisory Committee's recommendations and referred them for approval to the Regional Council's 10 July meeting.

Since 24 May, the "recommended relief" approved by the Advisory Committee has been incorporated into the Draft Plan, and the first stage of professional editing has been completed. Upper Hutt and Hutt City Council officers were asked to review the Plan to ensure the "recommended relief" was adequately reflected in the document. Report 01.488 on this Order Paper presents the Draft Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan to the Advisory Committee and requests its recommendation to the Landcare Committee.

### 5.2 HRFMP Adoption Process

The next phase in the process is for the Advisory Committee to request Hutt City and Upper Hutt City Councils to consider and endorse the Draft Plan. The Hutt City Council will consider the Draft Plan on 10 July and Upper Hutt City Council Works Committee on 25 July. Regional Council officers will attend the respective meetings, if requested.

In a parallel process, the Landcare Committee will, at its meeting on 26 July, receive the Advisory Committee's recommendations on the Draft Plan. Pending Landcare Committee approval, the Draft Plan will be presented to the Regional Council on 23 August seeking the Plan's adoption. The outcomes of this process will be reported back to the community through Newsletter No. 7, which will be published at the end of August 2001.

### 5.3 HRFMP Launch

The HRFMP launch is planned for the second week of October 2001. The launch programme details are currently being prepared and will be presented at this, 12 July, Advisory Committee meeting.

## 6. HRFMP Implementation

### 6.1 Ava Railway Crossing Investigations

Stage 1 of the Ava Railway crossing feasibility study, completed in May 2001, considered a wide range of options to improve waterway capacity at the crossing. Two options were considered worthy of further investigation. Holmes Consulting Group has substantially completed Stage 2, which refines options to the preliminary design stage, and assesses environmental effects for:

- the **Existing Bridge Option**, retains the existing bridge structure, minimises the risk to the flood defences through stopbank strengthening and improved edge protections and includes emergency breach provisions for the western railway embankment. This option will not meet the 2800 cumec design standard for the bridge.

- a **New Bridge**; replaces the existing bridge with a new structure to meet the 2800 cumec standard.

Tranz Rail has maintained involvement through Stage 2 of the study. The Stage 2 outcome will be a preferred option that will form the basis for a Memorandum of Understanding with Tranz Rail and the draft resource consent application. Stage 2 of the study will be completed in July 2001.

Any improved bridge crossing option must take into account the Opahu Stream (Black Creek) outlet channel. Currently the bank of the outlet channel passes under the bridge decreasing flood capacity. Hutt City Council has long-term plans for pumping Opahu stream to ease stormwater flooding. Considering pumping and waterway improvements together is a sensible and practical approach. The Flood Protection Group and Hutt City Council officers believe that an integrated waterway design, including a pump station, could result in overall cost savings. Holmes Consulting Group is developing a scope for a joint Regional Council / Hutt City Council study for the pump station preliminary design.

## 6.2. **Ava to Ewen Preliminary Design and Resource Consents**

AC Consulting Group has developed preliminary design options for the river realignment and stopbank upgrades. These options have considered and, where possible, incorporated community input from the initial consultation phase completed in early April. The second round of consultation with the community and major stakeholders is now complete. At the second round of meetings, Flood Protection officers sought feedback on the draft preliminary design and potential environmental enhancement options. The second round of consultation included meetings with:

- the Alicetown community
- the Woburn community
- a public meeting at the Dowse Art Museum with the wider community.

A series of meetings was held with Hutt Valley High School and the Ministry of Education to explain the proposal's impacts on Strand Park. Further options and opportunities were considered and documented at their request.

The preliminary design and the draft resource consent applications will be completed by the end of July 2001. The community and stakeholders will then be given the opportunity to comment on the draft resource consent applications before they are lodged.

## 7. **Communication**

The next "*Living with the River*" Newsletter No. 7, to be published in August 2001, will report on the finalised HRFMP.

Two project information sheets were distributed in April and May 2001 about options for the Ava to Ewen upgrade. About 600 copies of the second information sheet were distributed in Alicetown and Woburn. A third project information sheet will describe the project's environmental effects and the proposed mitigation methods. A public meeting will be held to explain the draft resource consent application and how people can participate in the process.

## 8. Recommendation

*That the Advisory Committee receive the report and note the contents.*

Report prepared by:

Approved for submission:

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