



*caring about you & your environment*

**Report 02.267**

16 May 2002

File: Y/0/4

Report to the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee  
from Ian Gunn, Manager, Operations

## **Separate Scheme Rates and Balances**

### **1. Purpose**

To obtain approval for the proposed 2002/03 Separate Scheme Rates, to be collected by the Wairarapa Division for scheme operation and maintenance, and to inform members of current and projected scheme balances.

### **2. Background**

- 2.1 Meetings have been held for seventeen river and catchment management schemes, to review progress and expenditure, and to confirm proposed activities and funding. In the case of the Lower Taueru Scheme a general meeting was held where all scheme ratepayers were invited to attend. For the other schemes meetings were held with their elected advisory committees.
- 2.2 For each of the sixteen drainage schemes papers were circulated to ratepayers, and programmes and funding levels were subsequently confirmed with each scheme advisory committee chairman.
- 2.3 The Opaki and Fernridge water supply schemes manage their own operations as incorporated societies for which the Council collects their annual rates. They have advised their rating requirements as set at recent Annual General Meetings.
- 2.4 A summary of current and recommended rates, as well as current and projected scheme balances, are given in the attached spreadsheet (Attachment 1).

### **3. Discussion**

The meetings have been positive and constructive, reflecting a good co-operative understanding between ratepayers, Councillors, and Council staff.

Particular matters for the Committee's information are:

#### **3.1 Floods**

This past year has seen no major floods. Rivers staff have been pleased to be able to consolidate the flood damage works from the previous year. The minor flood damage repair works carried over from last year have been completed.

#### **3.2 Cost Construction Index (CCI)**

The CCI decreased by 2.5% over this past year. Most schemes have kept their rates at a similar level compared with last year. The exception is the three new Ruamahanga River Schemes which have been developed over this current financial year.

#### **3.3 Reclassification of River Schemes**

The original Upper Ruamahanga River Scheme is now split into three areas following its review this year, as follows:

- Mount Bruce to Te Ore Ore Bridge
- Te Ore Ore Bridge to Wardells Bridge
- Wardells Bridge to the Waiohine River junction.

Advisory Committees have been created for these schemes resulting in new landowners becoming involved with the river.

Reviews were completed in the previous year for the Waiohine and Waipoua Rivers. A start will be made on a review of the substantial Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme in the next financial year.

#### **3.4 Waiohine- Mangatarere Scheme**

This scheme suffered considerable damage through the 1990's, but since the scheme review has improved significantly in physical and financial terms. Provided there is no further flood damage the \$127,631 scheme deficit will be repaid within two years. After that satisfactory levels of flood damage reserves will be accumulated.

#### **3.4 Waiohine River Advisory Scheme Committee – Membership**

Following the review of this scheme, the urban ratepayers of Greytown now contribute the same percentage of funds to the scheme as the landowners along the river. The committee has now expanded to have 5 representatives from the Greytown urban community (4 coming from

the community board), 2 from the Carterton District Council, a Maori representative, 8 landowners from along the river, and the 2 representatives from the Wellington Regional Council).

It has been agreed that the Waiohine Floodplain Advisory Committee chaired by Viv Napier will continue until there is clarity over the replacement bridge on State Highway 2, and the adoption of the one combined District Plan in the Wairarapa.

### **3.5 Lower Taueru Scheme**

The scheme deficit produced by the initial channel clearance programme will be paid off this year. From next year rates will be reduced to about 6% of existing levels, and a basic channel maintenance programme of debris removal and herbicide spraying of willow re-growth will continue indefinitely.

### **3.6 Waipoua Scheme**

This scheme has recently been reviewed, and this year rates were doubled to retire debt, and to ensure an adequate level of ongoing maintenance. The scheme is recovering well from the severe flood damage experienced during 2000. The projected deficit of \$47,371 is expected to be repaid within three years, after which flood damage reserves will gradually be built up.

### **3.7 Upper Ruamahanga Scheme**

The Upper Ruamahanga Scheme was reviewed this year, and from next year will be disestablished and divided into the three new schemes. The new schemes will be named the Upper Ruamahanga, Middle Ruamahanga, and Lower Ruamahanga, and will have more appropriate levels of funding and ongoing maintenance. All three schemes have inherited modest surpluses, and will gradually build up satisfactory levels of flood damage reserves.

### **3.8 Lower Wairarapa Valley Scheme Loan**

The Lower Wairarapa Valley Scheme has one remaining loan. It is proposed to repay the Pukio loan totalling \$208,000 in July this year.

## **4. Acknowledgement**

These meetings can be quite onerous to both members and staff, as they are concentrated within a tight four week period. However they continue to prove most rewarding, and provide an excellent opportunity to consult with and obtain feedback from the rural community. The efforts of the Scheme Advisory Committees, Councillors Long and Buchanan, and staff in ensuring the success of these meetings are gratefully acknowledged.

## 5. Communication

The recommended scheme rates as scheduled in Attachment 1 have been agreed to by the respective advisory committees and will be formally advertised accordingly.

## 6. Recommendation

*That the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee resolve to recommend:*

- (a) That the 2002/03 separate scheme rates be approved as scheduled.*
- (b) That a minimum rate of \$10.00 be applied to all rateable property as provided for under the Rating Powers Act 1988.*
- (c) That the Lower Wairarapa Valley Scheme Pukio Loans totalling approximately \$208,000 be repaid in July 2002.*

Report prepared by:

Approved for submission by



Ian Gunn  
Manager, Operations

Colin Wright  
Divisional Manager, Wairarapa