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**Report 02.341**

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Report to the Hutt River Advisory Committee  
from Daya Atapattu, Project Leader, Robbin Britton, Engineer, Trecia Smith, Environmental  
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**Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan (HRFMP) : Ava to Ewen  
Improvements**

**1. Purpose**

- To update the Advisory Committee on progress with the Ava to Ewen improvements.
- To seek Advisory Committee endorsement of the proposed programme for implementing stopbank strengthening works and Opahu Stream pumping station at Ava Bridge.

**2. Project Status Summary**

Significant progress has been made in the project since the last Advisory Committee meeting in April 2002.

We are on track to appoint a contractor for the river realignment by the end of November 2002. The river realignment is the first implementation “package” of the Ava to Ewen improvements.

In March 2002 a resource consent application covering the entire Ava to Ewen project was lodged. We are on track to obtain all the required resource consents and to complete purchase of Strand Park before advertising for construction tenders.

The status of key project components follows:

- Tranz Rail is currently reviewing a draft Memorandum of Understanding, which will record the agreed improvements for reducing the flood hazard at Ava Bridge, as well as the programme and responsibilities for implementing those improvements.

- Hutt Valley High School (HVHS) has written to Ministry of Education giving its consent to WRC purchasing Strand Park.
- Hutt City Council approved the non-notified consent application for the proposed interpretation platform and relocation of existing services.
- A hearing was held on 4 June 2002 for the main WRC resource consent application. A positive decision is expected by the end of June 2002.
- The parameters for the detailed design of the river realignment and stopbanks were completed in June 2002.
- A principal consultant was appointed in June 2002 to complete the detailed design and manage the tendering process for the river realignment.
- A draft programme for implementing the Opahu Stream pumping station and stopbank strengthening works at Ava Bridge was agreed with Hutt City Council officers.

### **3. Detailed Design**

Attachment 1 shows the process and timetable for completing the detailed design and appointing a contractor to undertake the river realignment.

Gary Williams and Phil Wallace have completed the design parameters required for the detailed design. These parameters include the proposed alignment, extent and type of edge protections, berm protection measures and stopbank heights.

On 11 June 2002, Opus International Consultants were appointed to complete the detailed design and prepare contract documents for the river realignment and Alicetown upgrade. Our programme requires that this work and the appointment of a construction contractor is completed by November 2002.

### **4. Resource Consent Application**

Hutt City Council have approved the non-notified consent application for the proposed interpretation platform and relocation of existing services on 3 May 2002.

The river works consent application to the Regional Council received four submissions from the following individuals / organisations:

- Mr Norm Rodley
- Department of Conservation
- TelstraClear
- Hutt Valley Canoe Club

Three of the four submissions were resolved by negotiations without the need for either a pre-hearing meeting or a hearing. Mr Rodley was the only submitter who wanted to be heard.

A formal hearing was held on 4 June 2002 before two independent commissioners. The presiding commissioner was pleasantly surprised by the small number of submissions on the application. The commissioners adjourned the hearing until 7 June 2002 so the conditions could be agreed between the parties. A favourable decision is expected from the commissioners by 28 June 2002. The last hurdle is the appeal period which ends on approximately 12 July 2002.

## 5. Stopbank Strengthening at Ava Bridge and Opahu Stream Pumping Station

Following Tranz Rail's acceptance of the proposed stopbank strengthening option a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was prepared. The MOU will record the agreed improvements for reducing the flood hazard at Ava Bridge as well as the programme and responsibilities for implementing those improvements.

Tranz Rail is currently reviewing the draft MOU. We expect the MOU to be agreed by early July 2002.

The proposed stopbank strengthening works include the removal of the existing Opahu Stream training bank when Hutt City Council (HCC) construct a pumping station at the Opahu Stream outlet. The following table shows the draft programme agreed with HCC officers to ensure an integrated design and construction is achieved in the Ava Bridge strengthening works.

Item	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Pumping Station	Survey and Hydraulic Modelling (HCC)	Design and Consent application (HCC)	Construction (HCC)		
Stopbank strengthening works		Detailed Design (WRC)	Construction of works required to complete the pumping station (WRC)	Construction (WRC)	Construction (WRC)

This programme is dependent upon:

- WRC reallocating its budget to commence the detailed design of the stopbank strengthening works in the 2004/05 financial year.
- HCC allocating funds for completing the design and construction of the pumping station.
- HCC and the WRC agreeing to a cost-sharing agreement for the design and construction of the pumping station.

## 6. Strand Park Land Purchase

Hutt Valley High School (HVHS) has written to the Ministry of Education (MOE) giving its consent for WRC to purchase Strand Park. HVHS's consent is subject to:

- WRC consulting with HVHS prior to designing the environmental enhancement works to ensure space is available for practice fields.
- WRC leasing back the playing fields to MOE for HVHS use. This will be at a nominal rent of \$1.00 per annum.
- MOE agreeing that proceeds from the sale will be available for HVHS for future land purchase.
- WRC contributing \$8,000 plus GST towards the cost of a new roll out wicket.
- HCC looking at the issue of storm water flooding of the existing HVHS grounds on the land side of stopbank.

The next step is for WRC staff to meet with MOE and its legal advisers to formalise an agreement.

We expect the land purchase to be completed by early August 2002.

## 7. Environmental Enhancement Works

The enhancement concept plans prepared at the preliminary design stage will be further developed as part of the final design work by the principal consultant. Hutt Valley High School and Hutt City Council's requirements will be taken into account at the final design.

The Department of Conservation will be invited to participate in creating inanga habitat between the groynes on the Alicetown side of the river. This work should provide an excellent trial for creating similar conditions in the Opahu Stream area.

## 8. Project Budget

The expenditure to date has been associated with the preliminary design phase and applying for resource consents. The table below shows expenditure against four packages.

<b>Project Package</b>	<b>When Implemented</b>	<b>Project Budget</b>	<b>Expenditure to May 2002</b>
Channel Realignment	July 2002 to June 2004	\$4.6m	\$236,800
Alicetown Stopbank	July 2004 to June 2006	\$2.4m	\$15,100
Ava Bridge Stopbank	July 2006 to June 2008	\$5.0m	\$210,600
Strand Park Stopbank	July 2008 to June 2010	\$2.6m	\$12,800

## 9. Communication

Since the last update, lodging the resource consent application and calling for submissions has been the primary vehicle for seeking input from the community into these works. In addition, the Hutt community has continued to be informed of the project's progress through articles in the Hutt News.

## 10. Recommendations

*That the Hutt River Advisory Committee:*

- (1) **Receive** the report.
- (2) **Note** the contents of the report.
- (3) **Request** the Landcare Committee and Hutt City Council consider the programme for implementing stopbank strengthening works and Opahu Stream pumping station at the Ava Bridge.

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**Attachment 1** : Process Chart for Implementing Ava to Ewen Improvements