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**Report 02.622**

30 September 2002

File: N/50/01/15

cls-#141649

Report to the Landcare Committee  
from Geoff Dick, Manager Flood Protection

## **Floodplain Management Plan Implementation : Monitoring of Progress**

### **1. Purpose**

To provide a summary of progress to date on the implementation of the Hutt, Otaki and Waikanae Floodplain Management Plans (FMPs), and to advise that a formal annual progress report to the Committee is proposed.

### **2. Background**

FMPs for the Hutt, Otaki and Waikanae Rivers were completed in 2001, 1998 and 1997 respectively. All three plans contain substantial implementation, monitoring and review programmes.

Council's current ten year plan, Towards a Greater Wellington 2000–2010: 2002 Update contains a long term performance indicator (PI) that all three plans will be fully implemented by 2040 (the chosen capital spend option of about \$2 million per annum). The PI is reported against in the Council's Annual Report. However, I consider that a more comprehensive annual report to the Landcare Committee is appropriate.

### **3. Annual Report to the Landcare Committee**

I propose to prepare an annual FMP progress report to the August Landcare Committee. The report will report progress against all four plan implementation elements, namely:

- structural – stopbanks, floodwalls, etc.
- river management – river alignment and stabilisation works.

- non-structural – District Plan and emergency management measures.
- environmental – progress against the vision contained in the relevant environmental strategy.

The key areas to report against will be physical progress, financial matters, and plan benefits achieved.

The proposed annual report will achieve a number of purposes including:

- An accurate on-going record of plan implementation progress.
- Providing the basis for reporting against the long term Annual Plan PI in Council's year-end report. It can be used as part of the audit trail.
- Information for reviewing plan implementation priorities.
- Data for communicating with Territorial Authorities, and the community on progress with FMPs.

The annual report will focus on the financial year just completed, with a running summary of plan achievements from commencement.

#### 4. **Plan Progress to Date**

**Attachments 1 to 3** to this report contain summary tables of progress to date for each of the three FMPs. Those tables provide a brief summary only, and will be developed into a more comprehensive report for the proposed Annual report.

##### 4.1 **Hutt River FMP**

Implementation of the Hutt River FMP commenced in July 2000 with the investigations into work required to upgrade the Ava to Ewen reach. This work has progressed well. We now hold a resource consent for the upgrade work and detailed design of the Strand Park realignment and the Alicetown stopbank is substantially complete.

Other achievements to date include steady progress on the non-structural elements of the plan, commencement of investigations for the Belmont improvements and the appointment of a Hutt River ranger.

Although implementation of the Hutt River FMP is still in its early stages we should not forget all the scheme improvement works completed over the last 10 or so years.

The major achievement in recent times has been the completion of the Ewen Floodway Project that upgraded a vital 400m reach through the centre of Lower Hutt. Other improvements include edge protection works at Marsden Bend, Block Road, Owen Street, Belmont Sewer, Nash Street, Pomare Groynes, Awakairangi and Edgewater Parks. In addition, over this time the Hutt River trail has been developed and many thousands of natives planted along the berms.

## 4.2 Otaki FMP

Steady progress has been made on the Otaki FMP. The key achievement to date being the realignment works, environmental improvements, and the stopbank upgrade at Chrystalls Bend. This work has secured a former overflow point through Otaki township.

Other plan achievements include the Upper Rahui Improvements, channel alignment works and the development of buffer zones at Stresscrete and Tracy's upstream of the State Highway Bridge, as well as significant improvements to the edge protection works between State Highway 1 and the sea. A second set of floodgates at Rangiuuru has just been completed, and work has commenced on environmental enhancement of the adjacent river mouth area.

While good progress is being made some key improvements still remain to be achieved. High priority works yet to be constructed include the Chrystalls Extended stopbank, the South Waitohu stopbank and completing the edge improvements that protect the north stopbank downstream of Chrystalls.

The Otaki River is an active river system prone to bank erosion. Developing edge works and buffer zones, and then maintaining them is a key component of the plan.

## 4.3 Waikanae FMP

Implementation of the Waikanae FMP is the most advanced of all the plans. The implementation programme was given an additional boost following the October 1998 floods when the decision was made to proceed immediately with the State Highway to Maple Lane river stabilisation works, and to commence house raising at Otaihanga.

There are two major stopbank systems on the north bank, the Kauri-Puriri / Chillingworth bank completed in 1996, and the Jim Cooke Park stopbank. River realignment works are required at Jim Cooke Park before this stopbank is secure from river erosion. The stopbank can then be upgraded to plan standards. Note the existing Jim Cooke Park stopbank has the required flood capacity and only requires shape and surface improvements to ensure the desired level of security.

Flood protection works at Otaihanga are progressing steadily with design underway of road raising adjacent to Otaihanga Domain. Further house raising is programmed.

River alignment and stabilisation work is also progressing well with about 50% of the river system complete. The Jim Cooke Park realignment, programmed to commence in 2003/04 will be another significant step forward.

Non-structural measures are also well advanced with the first review of the Kapiti District Plan underway. Similarly major progress has been made with environmental enhancement works including Pukekawa Reserve, walkway improvements, native planting and planned improvements at the end of Greenaway Road.

## 5. Summary

Good progress is being made implementing all three floodplain management plans with Waikanae clearly the most advanced and the Hutt with the furthest to go.

All three plans still have high priority works and a balanced (between all three rivers) implementation programme for Council's 2003–2013 long-term financial plan remains appropriate.

Annual reporting of progress for all three FMPs is proposed to commence in August 2003 for the year ending June 2003.

## 6. Communication

This report was written for internal purposes only.

## 7. Recommendations

*That the Committee:*

- (1) **Receive** the report.
- (2) **Note** the contents of the report.

Report prepared by:

Approved by:

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ROB FORLONG  
Divisional Manager, Landcare

**Attachment 1** : Hutt FMP Summary Progress Table

**Attachment 2** : Otaki FMP Summary Progress Table

**Attachment 3** : Waikanae FMP Summary Progress Table