

Report 03.608
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Committee Hutt River Advisory
Author Daya Atapattu, Project Engineer

Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan implementation Project Manager's report

1. Purpose

To update the Advisory Committee on progress made with implementing the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan (HRFMP).

2. Project status summary

We have made good progress with the 2003/04 Hutt River work programme. Progress on key projects includes:

- completion of tendering and selection of a contractor for the Belmont edge protections.
- Office of Treaty Settlement (OTS) and Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) clearance for the transfer of Strand Park to Greater Wellington.
- commencing the Whirinaki Crescent stopbank survey and geo-technical investigations field work.
- the non-structural working group meeting to discuss the timing and process for implementing district plan measures.
- Greater Wellington (GWRC) approval of the 'Opahu Stream Outlet Improvements' agreement.

3. Ava to Ewen project

3.1 Strand Park update

We are pleased to advise that the OTS officers committee, which met on 23 September 2003, decided in favour of clearing the land through the Maori Protection Mechanism. The land was not nominated as a site of significance. OTS has now provided its decision to the Ministry of Education's (MOE) accredited agent, OPUS, confirming that the land can be transferred from MOE to Council and that the transfer does not need to be subject to any tags or memorials.

In May 2003 the Council applied to the Department of Conservation (DoC) for the transfer of the land to be exempted from the requirement for a Marginal Strip to be established. A meeting was held with DoC officers, on 30 September 2003, to address the Council's application. It was clear that DoC officers would not positively support the Council's application for the exemption to the Minister. A Marginal Strip will therefore be imposed on disposition of the land from the Crown (MOE). The Marginal Strip will only be over that area with current river frontage, approximately 150 metres long, and be for a depth of 20 metres.

To ensure access to the marginal strip to undertake the work set out in the resource consent, Council has been required to submit an application for a concession with the DoC. The application was lodged on 3 October 2003. The concession, if granted, will be for a term of 30 years and will cater for both the current work proposed and for the ongoing management of the land following completion of the realignment project. It is expected that DoC will provide a decision on the application for a concession by early November 2003.

MOE's accredited agent, OPUS, reported to LINZ on 8 October 2003 recommending the transfer of the land to the Council. The LINZ approval was received on 17 October 2003.

In accord with the MOE/GWRC agreement, we now have access to the land.

3.2 Opahu Stream outlet improvements

On 16 September 2003, GWRC approved the Opahu Stream Outlet Improvements agreement. This agreement, jointly prepared by GWRC and Hutt City Council (HCC) officers, sets out the programme and responsibilities for improving the Opahu stream outlet.

The next step is for HCC to approve this agreement. The first stage of the project is to complete a concept design of the pumping station by June 2004.

4. Belmont improvements

On 7 October 2003, the Landcare Committee approved officers accepting the tender from Cashmore Contracting Limited for the construction of the Belmont edge protections. Cashmore Contracting Limited scored the highest in the tender evaluation and also submitted the lowest price of \$622,491.20.

The edge protections contract includes all civil works for edge protections, walkways and a security gate. The proposed environmental planting will be carried out separately by Flood Protection staff.

The contractor will be appointed before the end of October 2003. We expect the works to start before Christmas and be completed by May 2004. The contractor is required to submit a detailed work programme once the formal appointment is made.

The Environment Committee of GWRC granted the necessary resource consents for the edge protection works on 4 September 2003.

Design of the stopbank at the southern end of the Norfolk Street is largely complete with construction planned for February/March 2004. This stopbank was the community's preference over the previously proposed house raising in Norfolk Street.

5. Whirinaki Crescent stopbank upgrade

The proposed Whirinaki Crescent stopbank upgrade is the first HRFMP structural work programmed for Upper Hutt. The capacity of the existing stopbank is under 1,900 cumecs. The HRFMP recommends upgrading the stopbank to a 2,300 cumec standard. Flood Protection's Operating Plan makes provision for constructing the upgrade works in the 2006/07 financial year. However, the preliminary design was advanced to 2003/04 due to spare staff capacity as a consequence of the delay in the Strand Park construction.

Topographical survey and geotechnical investigations for the preliminary upgrade design commenced in September 2003. Adjoining property owners, Upper Hutt City Council (UHCC), Wellington Golf Club and St Patrick's College were contacted before commencing the survey. However, the Silverstream College Board of Proprietors acting on behalf of St Patrick's College has objected to our surveyors entering their property. We have however got sufficient information to proceed with the preliminary design without surveying this property.

The Wellington Golf Club has requested a meeting with us to discuss flood protection issues. We also plan to meet UHCC and the Silverstream College Board of Proprietors in November 2003 to discuss flood protection issues.

We plan to complete the preliminary upgrade design by June 2004. Community consultation and final design is scheduled for 2005/06.

6. Port Road improvements

HCC is progressing with developing a vision for the Seaview area including the adjacent section of the eastern Hutt River bank. The consultant is currently working on a draft report. Separately, we have developed a number of edge protection options for the riverbank upstream of the Waiwhetu Stream mouth. Once the HCC approves the vision, we plan to meet with HCC's landscape designers to jointly develop an edge protection and landscape design for the section of riverbank from the Waiwhetu Stream mouth to the Estuary Bridge.

While we are aiming to complete the design by February 2004 we still have to obtain resource consents before commencing any construction works.

7. Hutt River bed level survey

A re-survey of Hutt River bed levels is due to be carried out this financial year. This five yearly survey will provide information for monitoring gravel bed movement for gravel extraction and general river management purposes. It will also provide river channel profiles for monitoring the hydraulic capacity of the river. The bed level survey extends from the Hutt River mouth to Te Marua, a distance of 33 kilometres.

Tenders for the survey closed on 10 October 2003 and are currently being assessed. We aim to complete the survey by March 2004, and the subsequent analysis by June 2004.

8. Implementing non-structural measures

Report 03.611 in this Order Paper provides a more detailed report on progress with implementing non-structural measures.

The non-structural working group met on 9 September 2003 to discuss the plan change programme. HCC and UHCC officers are progressing with their respective plan change processes.

Debbie Cunningham is co-ordinating the six emergency management projects scheduled for 2003/04. A good start has been made by all three councils to get these projects underway.

Work has also begun on producing a flooding hazard fact sheet for the Hutt floodplain. We expect to complete a draft by February 2004.

9. Project budget

The table below shows the expenditure to September 2003 against the current HRFMP projects.

Project package	When constructed	Project budget as at June 2003	Cumulative expenditure to Sep 2003
Channel realignment	March 2004 to Aug 2005	\$4.86 m	\$476,200
Alicetown stopbank	July 2005 to Dec 2006	\$2.75 m	\$124,800
Ava bridge stopbank	2005/06 to 2007/08	\$5.77 m	\$223,200
Strand Park stopbank	2008/09 to 2009/10	\$2.95 m	\$12,800
Total Ava to Ewen		\$16.3 m	\$837,000
Non-structural implementation	2001/02 to 2003/04	\$0.25 m	\$131,400
Belmont edge protection	2003/04	\$0.81 m	\$76,900
Norfolk Street stopbank	2003/04	\$0.115 m	\$14,500
Whirinaki Crescent	2006/07	\$0.544 m	\$6,900
Total HRFMP		\$17.5 m	\$1,066,700

10. Communication

A press release has been issued advising of the selection of a contractor for the Belmont edge protection works. A newsletter will be sent to Belmont residents once the contractor's programme is approved.

We expect to issue another press release in December 2003, once the Strand Park river realignment contract is let. As for Belmont a newsletter will be sent to the Alicetown/Woburn/Moera community once the contractor's programme is approved.

11. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. *receive the report.*
2. *note the contents of the report.*

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Report approved by:

Daya Atapattu
Project Engineer

Geoff Dick
Manager, Flood Protection

Rob Forlong
Divisional Manager, Landcare