



Report 07.564
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Committee Rural Services and Wairarapa
Authors David Cameron, Manager, Land Management

Catchment Control Schemes – Annual Review

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee of activities within the six Wairarapa Catchment Control Schemes.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

There are six Catchment Control Schemes throughout the Wairarapa. These Schemes were formed under the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1941 and operate in the same way as a River Management Scheme. A Scheme rating classification is established to provide contribution from the community, and additional funding is sought from the local District Council. This local contribution is matched by Greater Wellington and provides the revenue for annual works programmes.

Each Scheme is administered by a Scheme Advisory Committee. In most cases the Advisory Committee is an elected body, however in two of the smaller Schemes the Advisory Committee is made up of all the ratepayers.

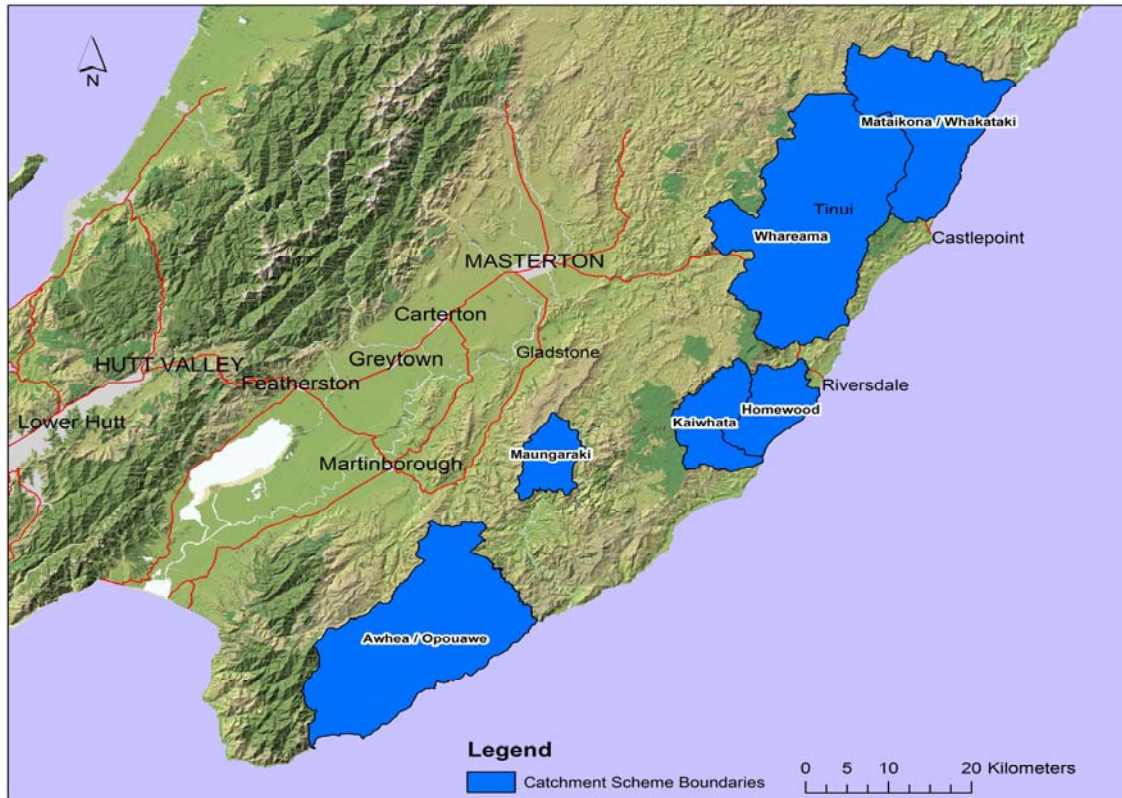
4. History

The Whareama Scheme was the first Scheme to be prepared in New Zealand. It was approved in 1957. Awhea/Opouawe followed closely behind as the erosion from Stoney Creek and adjoining properties began to severely impact on the local infrastructure, especially roads, bridges and dwellings.

The remaining Schemes were prepared at regular intervals through the 1970's and 1980's. The Kaiwhata was the last of these and this Scheme resulted from an extreme storm event in 1981. In recent years each of the catchments have suffered further

extreme storm events and it is evident that the catchment based programmes have been extremely beneficial for their respective communities. A very important aspect is the close working relationship between Greater Wellington and the local community. Primarily this is through each Scheme Advisory Committee.

The storm events suffered in recent years have highlighted the value of the Storm Damage Reserve fund. Money is set aside each year to build these funds and they have proved invaluable in enabling rapid response to flood damage repair. The Reserve fund is matched by an equal contribution from Council. Along with assistance from the three District Councils the funds provide very good insurance for the communities concerned.



5. Rating Classification Reviews

Originally each classification was established on an area of benefit basis as required by the National Water and Soil Authority. In some Schemes the focus of the works programmes has changed from a strong emphasis on erosion control in the headwater catchments to one of ensuring access is protected and maintained for the benefit of the whole community.

In the last two years two rating classification reviews have been completed. In both the Awhea/Opouawe and Mataikona/Whakataki Catchment Schemes there has been community acceptance of a new classification based on land values and a dwelling charge (formerly known as cartilage). The dwelling charge is the setting of a unit rate for each permanent dwelling. Generally there is an equal split of total rates collected between the amount obtained from dwellings and the amount obtained from farms.

The Kaiwhata, Maungaraki and Homewood Catchment Schemes have not required a classification review as the existing classification are deemed relevant to the costs and

benefits associated with the works programme. The Whareama Catchment Scheme is due for a five year review of the works programme this coming year and the existing classification will be reviewed as part of this process.

6. Key Scheme Milestones

Awhea Catchment Scheme

The Awhea Catchment Scheme is located to the east of Martinborough and contains the catchments of the Awhea and Opouawe Rivers. The catchments suffered considerable damage in the July 2006 storm. Access to the area was severely threatened at Whakapuni and Tukurumuri. Urgent remedial work was carried out in conjunction with road repairs sanctioned by the South Wairarapa District Council.

A very good working relationship has developed with engineering staff from the District Council which has enabled Scheme funds to supplement the work carried under emergency by the District Council.

The Scheme Advisory Committee approved a rate increase for the 2007/08 year of 5.7%. Scheme storm damage reserves total \$28,165.

Maungaraki Catchment Scheme

The Maungaraki Catchment Scheme is located to the east of Gladstone and covers an extremely vulnerable section of the Clifton Grove Road. The catchments also suffered considerable damage in the July 2006 storm. Access to the area was severely threatened at a number of places. Urgent remedial work was carried out in conjunction with road repairs sanctioned by the Carterton District Council.

A full meeting of ratepayers approved a rate increase for the 2007/08 year of 5.7%. Scheme storm damage reserves total \$13,207.

Kaiwhata Catchment Scheme

The Kaiwhata Catchment Scheme is located to the east of Masterton. The catchment suffered severe damage in the March 2005 storm. The rainfall was most intense over land that had been recently harvested. Access to the area was severely disrupted and it took a huge effort from the community to remove forest debris from roads and river flats.

The focus of the works programme over the last year has been to tidy up the remaining debris from the 2005 storm. In addition, road protection work has been completed alongside the Lower Kaiwhata Road. The Advisory Committee voted for the second successive year to approve a 50% rate increase to complete the cleanup and rebuild the storm damage reserve.

The Scheme Advisory Committee approved a rate increase for the 2007/08 year of 50%. Scheme storm damage reserves total \$15,894.

Homewood Catchment Scheme

The Homewood Catchment Scheme is located on Wairarapa's east coast south of Riversdale. The catchment has not suffered any major storm events in the last few years, however it did experience high flows in many of its creeks as a result of the March 2005 event in the neighbouring Kaiwhata catchment.. Since that event there has been the consolidation of pole planting along major stream courses and the clearance of bitter and crack willow from major streams.

A five year review was presented to this years meeting and those attending endorsed the scheme objectives and proposed works programme for a further five years.

A full meeting of ratepayers approved a rate increase for the 2007/08 year of 5.85%. Scheme storm damage reserves total \$18,106.

Whareama Catchment Scheme

The Whareama Catchment Scheme is located to the east of Masterton near Tinui. The catchment has not suffered any major storm events in recent years. Erosion damage has occurred in the hill country environments on a number of occasions especially in 2005. The focus of this Scheme is the maintenance of clear river channels in both the Tinui and Whareama rivers. Crack willows are removed mechanically and regrowth sprayed to ensure that floodwaters are not impeded. In any one year the willow control programme accounts for 70% of the expenditure.

Masterton District Council are carrying road stabilisation works at seven sites in the catchment and Scheme funds are being directed to protection work to complement the Councils work.

The Scheme Advisory Committee approved a rate increase for the 2007/08 year of 5.7%. Scheme storm damage reserves total \$6,723.

Mataikona/Whakataki Catchment Scheme

The Mataikona/Whakataki Catchment Scheme is located on Wairarapa's east coast north of Castlepoint. The Scheme contains two major catchments, both of which suffered considerable damage in the March 2005 storm. Since that event there has been a full Scheme review and a new rating classification has been adopted.

As with all the catchment schemes there has been a large amount of repair work carried out in the last two years. Work has focussed on well-known hotspots along the roading network and it is hoped that this year's programme will be able to refocus on some of the other objectives of the scheme.

The Scheme Advisory Committee approved a rate increase for the 2007/08 year of 5.7%. Scheme storm damage reserves total \$13,479.

7. Communications

A number of attendees at the Mataikona/Whakataki meeting raised questions regarding the now defunct River Management and Catchment Scheme newsletter. It was seen as a highly informative publication and had not been produced since 2002. There is an

opportunity to repackage the information into one of Greater Wellingtons existing publications.

8. Recommendation

That the Committee

1. *Receives the report*
2. *Notes the contents of the report.*

Report prepared by:

Approved for submission by:

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is 'David Cameron' and the signature on the right is 'Geoff Dick'.

David Cameron
Manager, Land Management

Geoff Dick
Divisional Manager, Catchment Management