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Floodplain means change of plan

By COLIN WILLIAMS

Landowners living in the Hutt River floodplain corridor will receive letters from the city council about planned changes to the district plan reflecting new information about the waterway.

The Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan (HRFPM), completed several years ago by the Wellington Regional Council, identifies planning measures for reducing the river's flood risk.

Upper Hutt's district plan needs to be updated to bring it in line with the HRFPM, a report from the council planning manager Mike Hurley says.

Before undertaking a plan change landowners need to be aware of the proposed changes and it is important to gather infor-

mal feedback, a report to the council's policy committee says.

A letter will be sent out in a few weeks, Mr Hurley says.

If considered necessary, a public meeting would also be held. Regional council officers will attend the meeting to provide technical advice," he says.

Any consultation at this stage would be both informal and extra to the formal requirements of a district plan change.

The initial council communication will:

- Make landowners aware the drafting of the plan change is under way.

- Make landowners whose properties are not currently subject to plan provision relating to flooding aware of the proposed changes.

- Give information to landowners currently unaware of potential flooding risks.

- Alert owners to the erosion hazard line, a feature of the new plan. Expected changes to the District Plan will include:

- Updating maps to show the river corridors (both primary and secondary) and the erosion setback hazard line.

- Accessory buildings of less than 20 square metres floor area erected in the Hutt River corridor becoming a permitted activity. All other buildings and structures would remain discretionary.

- Standards for earthworks amended to strengthen and clarify existing provisions.