



Report 10.280
Date 10 May 2010
File WO/02/01/22

Committee Catchment Management Committee
Author Ranjan Cyril, Engineer Southern

Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme – Recommendation for Private Structures around Lake Wairarapa

1. Purpose

For the Committee to recommend to Council a new funding arrangement for the construction and upgrading of private flood and erosion protection structures around Lake Wairarapa.

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

The floods of 2004 and 2006 resulted in maximum Lake Wairarapa levels being recorded since completion of the cut-off diversion and the Barrage Gates. These high lake levels, although much lower than the pre-Scheme high water levels, severely stressed the integrity of significant areas of the “private protection works network” e.g. the Barton-Moran stopbank failed, resulting in a large area of flooding on both properties.

It is clear that any “protection works” need to be constructed to a specific standard and must have an ongoing maintenance programme. During discussions with Councillors and staff, affected landowners requested that GW consider how it might assist in the protection of the “private stopbank network”.

The Catchment Management Committee received Report 10.64 titled “Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme – Study of Private Structures around Lake Wairarapa” in March 2010. The report brought together work that had been undertaken looking at the construction and maintenance of private flood

and erosion protection works around Lake Wairarapa following the floods in 2004 and 2006. See **Attachment 1** for a locality plan.

Report 10.64 was also presented to the LWVDS Advisory Committee in March 2010 at which the views of the Committee were sought. Of the four options presented the Advisory Committee favoured Option 2, which was for private owners to seek isolated works funding from Greater Wellington to assist with construction and upgrading of the works rather than incorporating the works into the assets of the LWVDS.

We have subsequently reported back to the Annual LWVDS meeting in May 2010 that it is our intention to take a recommendation back to the Catchment Committee seeking approval to use the isolated works funding formula for Flood and Erosion protection works around Lake Wairarapa.

4. The options

The “Private Stopbank Network” has been constructed both before and after the completion of the LWVDS. There is now a requirement to develop a policy on how to handle requests for the funding of the “Private Stopbank Network” in the vicinity of Lake Wairarapa.

Four options have been considered:

- Option 1 – Do Nothing
- Option 2 – Consider use of the Isolated Works Policy for such works
- Option 3 – Incorporate parts of the old stopbanks along the old Ruamahanga cut-off channel into the LWVDS and use the isolated works policy for maintenance of the remainder of the “private stopbank network”.
- Option 4 – LWVDS takes over the improvements and management of all of the “Private Stopbank Network” in the vicinity of Lake Wairarapa.

A fuller description of the options outlined in the March report are contained in **Attachment 2** to this report for information.

5. Discussion of options

5.1 Option 1

This option is not recommended as staff consider that, although the LWVDS has no obligations relating to the private structures, these landowners are at a disadvantage compared to others both within and outside the scheme area.

5.2 Option 2

This is the favoured option by staff. The reasons are:

- (a) As explained above these landowners are eligible for some assistance.

- (b) The upgrading of the flood and erosion works is consistent with the Isolated Works Policy and is therefore considered to be eligible for funding within the existing funding criteria.
- (c) It will not have any impact on other rate payers in the scheme.
- (d) Since the structures will not be taken over by the LWVDS under this option, it would be sufficient to bring them up to “As Constructed Standard” rather than landowners having to face the cost of bringing them up to the full scheme standard.

5.3 Options 3 and 4

These two options are not favoured by staff for the following reasons:

- (a) The scheme has no obligations relating to the private structures. The benefit is generally only to the landowners and not to the scheme.
- (b) If part of the scheme area is considered for a higher protection standard then for consistency purposes all areas should be considered.

6. Funding implications

The estimated cost of upgrading all of the private stopbanks to a reasonable “as constructed” standard would be \$1.18M as follows:

Stopbank Upgrade (4200m)	\$400,000
Rock Rip Rap Protection	\$150,000
Flax/Willow Edge Protection	\$430,000
Floodgates and Culvert work	\$100,000
Miscellaneous work	\$100,000
Total	\$1,180,000

The rate at which these works would be implemented would depend on the individual landowners and their ability to fund the local share. For estimating purposes, if the works were completed over a 10 year period we would require additional general rate funding of \$35,000 per year for the ten years. The general rate funding within the current isolated works budget is \$39,000 per year and is normally fully taken up. The sum for the Lake Wairarapa stopbanks would therefore need to be in addition to this or, we would have to substantially reduce the amount of isolated works funded across the rest of the region.

7. Recommendations

That the Committee recommends that Council:

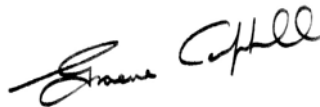
1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the contents of the report.*
3. *Agrees, for inclusion in the Proposed 2011/12 Annual Plan, that the general rates contribution to the annual Isolated Works Budget be increased by \$35,000 from 2011/12 for a period of 10 years to assist landowners around Lake Wairarapa to upgrade flood and erosion protection works.*

Report prepared by:



Ranjan Cyril
Engineer, Southern

Report endorsed by:



Graeme Campbell
Manager, Flood Protection

Report approved by:



Wayne O'Donnell
General Manager, Catchment
Management

Attachment 1: Aerial map

Attachment 2: Options Considered