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Committee Hutt Valley Floodplain Management Subcommittee
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Waiwhetu Stream Remediation and Widening and Deepening Project - Update

1. Purpose

To update the Subcommittee on the progress with the Waiwhetu Stream Project completion activities.

2. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

3. Background

The civil works stage of the Waiwhetu Stream Project was completed in 2010.

The environmental enhancement stages of the Project is scheduled for completion in August 2013

4. Civil Works

4.1 Retentions Release

The final retentions payment to Brian Perry Civil was released upon acceptable remedial work on defects. This milestone was advised on 23 February 2012.

4.2 Parkside Road Erosion

Planting work planned for the eroded bank along Parkside Road is scheduled for August 2012. However, this may be delayed and incorporated into broader capping work discussed in 4.3.

4.3 Exposure of contaminated material

Recent monitoring has identified a spike in contaminant readings for Zinc and Lead, at a location upstream of Hutt Park Bridge. An environmental monitoring plan was enacted for the Waiwhetu Stream, following completion of the remediation works.

Investigations identified the source of this to be re-exposure of a contaminated seam of material in the stream bank. This bank was capped with material during the construction project, but subsequent stream erosion has re-exposed this material in isolated locations.

Further investigations have identified limited occurrences of contaminated material. The contaminated material is visually identifiable and occurs in a seam of 15cm to 20cm in depth at the mid tide level. The locations of these exposures were mapped out to assist with determination of appropriate remedial action. The contamination is bound within a relatively cohesive material. Sampling indicates that the spread of eroded material is limited and contamination concentration drops significantly over a short distance from the seam exposure. No interim emergency capping measures are therefore necessary and it is expected a permanent solution will soon be installed.

An appropriate method to cap the exposed material and prevent long term erosion is currently being developed by consultants who have been engaged by Hutt City Council. This design work is expected to be complete by 15 July and will include details of programme timing and costs

5. Environmental Enhancement Works

5.1 Planting

Stages 1 and 2 of the environmental enhancement plan are complete.

The Friends of Waiwhetu community group has been invited to carry out some thinning work on the stage 2 planting due to plant survival rate exceeding expectations. These plants will be re-used in community plantings further upstream.

Additional *Carex litorosa* (sea sedge) have been donated to the Waiwhetu project, and will be planted in the salt marsh area adjacent to the Owhiti Urupa as part of a Seaview/Gracefield business group weeding and rubbish removal afternoon. *Carex litorosa* is a NZ endemic plant identified as being in serious decline nationally.

The third and final stage has been split into two stages (3a and 3b) due to plant availability. Stage 3a will occur in August 2012, and stage 3b will occur in August 2013.

5.2 Amenity

Four more benches are to be installed along the project length during stage 3. These benches are the same Waka style designed by Isobel Gabites, with carving design work completed by Te Atiawa carvers based at the Waiwhetu Marae.

Waka Tuna in stream sculptures have been dropped from the designs due to concerns about proposed materials and their durability in the marine environment. Some follow up investigation for alternates has been carried out,

but the costs are significantly higher and not being pursued any further at this stage

6. Communication

Hutt City Council is managing the remediation process following the recent exposure of contaminants in the stream bank. HCC will field any media enquiries, and prepare a press release once works are underway.

A project update will be provided to the Friends of Waiwhetu Stream Committee on 3 July.

7. Recommendations

That the Subcommittee:

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

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