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**Committee** Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga River Floodplain Management  
Subcommittee  
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## Project Manager's Report

### 1. Purpose

This report outlines the general progress of the Te Kāuru Floodplain Management Plan (FMP), as well as outlining other activities being undertaken within the catchment area by the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC).

### 2. Te Kāuru FMP

Progress on the FMP work is proceeding to programme and budget. A detailed report on the completion of the Phase 1 work is contained within Report No. 14.490 of this Order Paper. Detail on the proposed work for Phase 2 is contained within Report No. 14.493 of this Order Paper.

### 3. Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee Work

The Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee has completed its first phase of work which is information gathering. It has had six public meetings this year and three field trips, one of which was in the upper Ruamahanga. The Committee also had a two day visit to Canterbury. The Committee's next phase of work is value identification, which will then lead to management scenario development in the first half of 2015. An extensive modelling project is underway to support the Committee's decision making, by testing management scenarios that they have developed.

### 4. Natural Resources Plan

The draft Natural Resources Plan is now available for public comment. The plan has been prepared in partnership with the region's mana whenua iwi to assist in the sustainable management of the natural and physical resources within the Wellington region. It is still a draft and we are not yet in a formal statutory consultation process (as outlined in Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991) so we continue to work collaboratively with territorial authorities and stakeholders on its content. The draft Plan brings together the five existing regional plans (air quality management, soil, freshwater, discharges to land, and coastal plans) for the Wellington region into one

integrated document. A Proposed Natural Resources Plan, which will take into account TA and stakeholder feedback, will be released in mid-2015

We encourage people to provide feedback to Wellington Regional Council. This can be done by going to the Wellington Regional Council web site at [www.gw.govt.nz/regional-plan-review](http://www.gw.govt.nz/regional-plan-review) or contacting us on 0800 496 or email [regionalplan@gw.govt.nz](mailto:regionalplan@gw.govt.nz). The deadline for providing feedback is **30 November 2014**.

## **5. Wairarapa Water Use Project**

The Wairarapa Water Use Project is midway through pre-feasibility stage investigations that will identify the most viable schemes from a shortlist of five preferred schemes to progress through to full-feasibility investigations starting mid-2015. During October and November this year the results of investigations into scheme design, social impacts, regional impacts and recreational opportunities will be completed and communicated with wider stakeholder groups and the community. Final scheme pre-feasibility viability assessment across environmental, financial, social and cultural criteria will be undertaken in March/April 2015.

## **6. Online GIS viewer**

The values information collected for the Phase 1 investigations is now available through a trial online GIS viewer. This is an in development tool which will be refined based on our use and feedback from the wider community. This has been advertised in the most recent 'Our Region' advertorial in the Wairarapa Times Age, and is available online at:

<http://mapping.gw.govt.nz/GW/URFMP/>

## **7. Te Kāuru area River Scheme Operations**

The first quarter of the 2014/2015 financial year has been fairly consistent with year's past in terms of the planting programmes and some reactive channel maintenance work.

Willow planting and some vegetative edge protection (including willow layering, cabling or clumps) has been completed in the Waipoua scheme and in the Ruamahanga schemes from Hidden Lakes to Gladstone bridge. Willow planting/layer/cabling works will continue in the lower section of the Gladstone and the Waingawa River schemes until mid-October.

A significant amount of channel alignment work has been completed in the Waingawa scheme in September. Some of this work is normal channel maintenance involving removal of debris and vegetation from the centre of the channel and some erosion mitigation. Some of the work is involved with mitigating erosion damage that occurred during spring 2013 flood events and the scheme was previously unable to address the issues either due to budget or consent constraints.

Gravel extraction has been very active in the Te Whiti area of the Gladstone scheme. This is related to the development of a new aggregate supply yard for Fulton Hogan in order to service the recently attained rural roading

maintenance contract for the three District Councils (formally managed by Oldfields/Higgins).

There is also significant erosion and river alignment issues in the Gladstone scheme. About 450m of channel alignment work has been completed near Daikens Road (also known as “the Cliffs”) as the road has been threatened by recent erosion. The river alignment work has likely relieved the risk of losing the road in the short term, however there is a high risk of losing the road in the long-term unless significant river edge protection is installed (excess of \$200,000 likely) or the road is relocated away from the river edge.

## 8. Communication

The following communications have occurred since the last meeting of this Subcommittee;

- 22 August Flood hazard information targeted mail release.
- 25 August Flood hazard information media release.
- 27 August – Pre Information day media release and advert.
- 1 September –Information day media release follow up.
- 8 September – Information day media release follow up.

## 9. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

## 10. Recommendations

*That the Subcommittee:*

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

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