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Committee Te Kauru Upper Ruamahanga River Floodplain Management
Subcommittee
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Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga Floodplain Management Plan – Phase 2 Community Engagement

1. Purpose

To inform the Subcommittee about the community engagement strategy for Phase 2. This report outlines purposes, processes and desired outcomes of community engagement.

2. Background

Greater Wellington Regional Council's approach to floodplain management planning is documented in its Floodplain Management Planning Guidelines. This aligns with international best practices in floodplain management planning and builds upon the New Zealand Standard, NZS 9401:2008 Managing Flood Risk: A process standard.

Following the guidelines the scoping document was developed for the TKURFMP project that presents the overall programme and outlines the engagement strategy for the preparation of the FMP.

Phase 2 of the FMP process is focused on prioritisation of objectives, identification and assessment of flood risk management options. The community engagement is intended to set up a dialog between the project team and community at risk. This process allows communities to participate in the process of FMP, contributes to capacity building and flood awareness among participants. At the same time, community engagement allows the project team to gain local knowledge and perspective toward the flood risk.

3. Engagement Process

The engagement process is outlined in the Community Engagement plan, and includes five rounds. Each round of engagement addresses certain stage of the FMP process. The round starts when the project team issues a piece of information or proposal for the consideration of the Subcommittee. Comments and feedback from the Subcommittee are then used to amend the issued

document before engagement with the community. A range of tools and techniques are prepared for communication of the FMP related information.

Desired outcomes from the community are collected through appropriate tools. This collected feedback is utilised by the project team to move on to the next stage of the FMP process.

The overall process is illustrated in Figure 1 below.

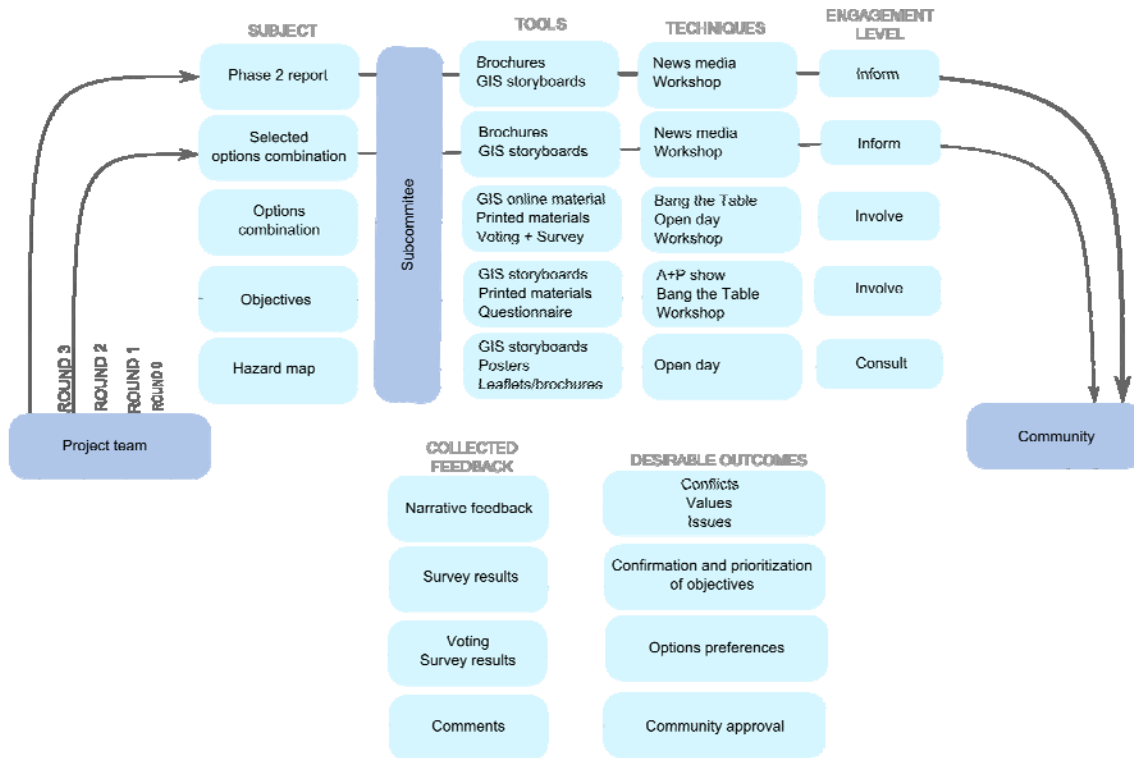


Figure 1: Community engagement wheel.

The appropriate level of engagement has been determined by the project stage and illustrated in Figure 1. The various levels of engagement are described in the following table:

Level	Description
Inform	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them to understand the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions
Consult	To obtain public feedback for decision-makers on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions
Involve	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered in the decision-making process

4. Engagement Programme

Round 1 “Objectives” – from 2nd February to 6th March 2015

Round 2 “Option combination” – May-June 2015

Round 3 “Selected options combination” – September 2015

5. Completed Engagement

5.1 Round 1

5.1.1 Masterton A+P Show 21st February

The project team attended the Masterton A+P show on the 21st of February. At this event the team showcased two parts of the project. In addition the project team shared the stand with the Whaitua Committee.



(a) Aims for floodplain management planning

The first part of the stand showed values and land use across the catchment, and asked people to consider these when they allocated resources across five categories of aims. These categories were Economic, Social, Cultural, Environmental and Governance. The resources given to each participant were 10 stones, and they could choose where they would like to spend their money if they were in the shoes of a decision maker. The game was well received and encouraged discussion with many of the participants about what was most important to them.

The results of the game gave a strong weighting in favour of environmentally directed aims, with a relatively even spread across the other categories.

When quizzed further many people saw issues around water quality as their main concern, with uncertainty about how safe the rivers were or how poor the water quality had become.

(b) Masterton stopbank option development

The second part of the stand included the two options developed by the Subcommittee for flood protecting Masterton. This showcased issues and opportunities with each approach and encouraged people to add comments to the posters about their thoughts.

Despite good discussion about each of the options, people were reluctant to write on the posters or comment on post-it notes and no written feedback was received.

When directly quizzed about the options, and attention being drawn to some of the more contentious aspects of the options, people had no real preference. Enthusiasm was shown for the opportunities possible with the wide option approach.

(c) Other

In addition to the two main parts of the stand, visitors offered up other issues they were aware of in relation to rivers. Most of these focused on general concerns about amount of water in rivers, water quality and how consents were obtained to do things in rivers. However a couple of location specific issues were noted including vehicle use in bird colony areas and toxic algae issues in Henley Lake. These were recorded and will be considered during further development of the FMP and shared with the Whaitua Committee.

(d) 'My Masterton'

Separate to the Regional Council, Masterton District Council held a stand at the A+P show called "My Masterton". At this stall they encouraged participants to write on the side of a caravan what it was that they liked about Masterton.

Discussions following the event with the Project Manager for the 'My Masterton' project indicated a strong link to the rivers within the collected responses.

5.1.2 River management schemes members meeting 3rd March

A meeting is being held on the 3rd of March to discuss the aims for floodplain management planning with members of the river management schemes. The feedback from this meeting will be presented to the Subcommittee on the 10th of March.

6. Communities to be engaged with

There are a number of communities that will be affected by and have an interest in this project. Communities can be defined as communities of interest (Iwi, water, recreation) and communities of location. These communities include:

- Landowners, land users and occupiers
- Tangata whenua: which includes individuals, hapu and whanau not included as part of the Memorandum of Partnership between GWRC and seven iwi within the region.
- GWRC (Biodiversity, Environmental Monitoring, Flood Protection)

- Statutory organisations: Fish and Game NZ, Department of Conservation, QEII Trust, Federated Farmers
- Local Government: Masterton District Council, Carterton District Council, South Wairarapa District Council
- Service and recreation clubs: Lions, Rotary, Wairarapa Paddlers, Wairarapa Anglers, Fish and Game NZ, Safer Wairarapa.
- Government agencies
- Infrastructure providers.

7. Engagement with Iwi

Engagement with Iwi is not included as a separate component in the engagement strategy.

GWRC has a Memorandum of Partnership with mana whenua which includes seven iwi in the region. Each iwi has a different rohe, and this project impacts directly on the rohe of Ngāti Kahungunu and Rangitāne o Wairarapa.

Representatives of both Ngāti Kahungunu and Rangitāne o Wairarapa are part of the Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga Floodplain Management Subcommittee which will recommend the final decision to council.

8. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

8.1 Engagement

Engagement on this matter is unnecessary.

9. Recommendations

That the Subcommittee:

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

Report prepared by:	Report approved by:	Report approved by:	Report approved by:	Report approved by:
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