

Report 15.453  
Date 10 September 2015  
File CCAB-14-24

Committee Hutt Valley Flood Management Subcommittee  
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## **Hutt River City Centre Upgrade Project**

### **Community feedback and establishment of the Hutt River City Centre Upgrade Project Hearing Panel**

#### **1. Purpose**

- To provide an update on community feedback received on Integrated Concept Design consulted as part of the Hutt River City Centre Upgrade Project consultation process.
- To establish a hearing panel to consider written and oral feedback received and develop recommendations to be made to the Hutt Valley Flood Management Subcommittee.

#### **2. Background**

On 25 June 2015 the Hutt Valley Flood Management Subcommittee (HVFMS) recommended two selected options for the City Centre Project to proceed to community consultation. The recommendations of the Subcommittee were approved by Greater Wellington Regional Council on 30 June 2015.

The community feedback period ran from 3 August to 14 September 2015 and involved seeking public written feedback through a variety of means, including:

- Contacting 79 land owners whose land will be potentially required for the proposed works. Contact commenced on 30 July and individual meetings with land owners are still progressing. GWRC and HCC staff are assisted by property consultants.
- Media releases received wide publicity through local and national newspapers.
- Letters to 500 adjacent land owners giving details of the project and how to provide feedback.

- Distribution of over 2,000 copies of the project brochure including hardcopies of the feedback form.
- A display of consultation materials for one week at Westfield (Queensgate), Lower Hutt. More than 1000 people visited this display.
- Three open days held at 131 High Street, Lower Hutt to provide opportunities for interested people to meet with officers and project consultants.
- Presentations to various community groups.
- Delivery of 35,000 ‘postcards’ throughout Lower Hutt advising people on how they can provide feedback on the options.
- Information made available on GWRC’s website including an online feedback form.

The HVFMS will consider an analysis of community feedback at a public hearing on 15 October and GWRC is expected to make a decision in December 2015.

### 3. Feedback received

Community feedback was sought on options, river corridor enhancement, CBD/river link enhancement, Melling Bridge replacement and Cycleway/pedestrian Bridge.

At the time of writing this report (14 September), we have received a total of 266 feedback forms. Around 38 of these were from the land owners whose land is potentially required for the project.

The table below shows the feedback received on key questions.

The options – which is your preference?	Option A - One step	76%
Do you support parking areas within the corridor?	Yes	63%
Do you support Daly Street Promenade	Yes	63%
Replacing Melling Bridge –with a Gateway Bridge	Yes	42%
Do you support the pedestrian cycle bridge	Yes	66%

Staff have already commenced analysing the feedback forms in preparation for the hearing scheduled for 15 October 2015. A detailed analysis of the feedback forms will be provided at the hearing.

Letters will be sent to the land owners whose land is potentially required and to all those who have sent feedback forms advising them of the opportunity to present to the hearing panel, if they wish.

#### **4. Hearing panel**

It is proposed that the Subcommittee establish a hearing panel to consider and hear feedback, seek clarification from officers on technical matters and report its recommendations to the HVFMS meeting on 26 November 2015.

The hearing panel meeting will be held at 9.30am on 15 October 2015 at the Dowse. It is proposed that the hearing panel will comprise of all members of the Subcommittee who have advised their availability for the hearing.

#### **5. Terms of reference for hearing panel**

The proposed terms of reference for the panel are attached (**Attachment 1**).

#### **6. Local Government Act 2002**

It is consistent with best practice and the requirements of section 82 of the Local Government Act 2002 that members hearing submissions should be present for the duration of the hearing and consideration of the submissions.

#### **7. Communication**

Community consultation process has received wide publicity through the national and local press. A wide range of engagement tools were used during the process.

#### **8. The decision-making process and significance**

The matter requiring decision in this report has been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.

##### **8.1 Significance of the decision**

Officers have considered the significance of the matter, taking into account the Council's significance policy and decision-making guidelines. Due to the procedural nature of this decision officers recommend that the matter be considered to have low significance.

Officers do not consider that a formal record outlining consideration of the decision-making process is required in this instance.

##### **8.2 Engagement**

In accordance with the significance and engagement policy, no engagement on the matters for decision is required.

#### **9. Recommendations**

*That the Subcommittee:*

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

3. **Resolves** to establish a hearing panel to consider written and oral feedback on the Hutt River City Centre Upgrade Project
4. **Appoints** Cr Sandra Greig (as Chair), Cr Barbara Donaldson, Cr Ken Laban, Cr Chris Laidlaw, Cr Prue Lamason, Cr Paul Swain, Mayor Ray Wallace (HCC), Deputy Mayor David Bassett (HCC), Councillor Chris Milne (HCC) and Councillor Steve Taylor (UHCC) as members of the panel.
5. **Adopts** the terms of reference for the panel as set out in Attachment 1 to this report.

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**Attachment 1:** Terms of Reference for the Hutt River City Centre Upgrade Project Hearing Panel