

Report 2017.265
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Committee Wairarapa Committee
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Flood Protection Department Overview

1. Purpose

This report provides an outline of the Flood Protection Department's activities with a focus on those activities in the Wairarapa in 2017-18.

2. Background

The primary activities of the Flood Protection Department are undertaken under the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1941, The Local Government Act 2002 and the Resource Management Act 1991. This legislation provides for the Department to undertake flood and erosion control work and to advise the community of flood risks.

Our approach to undertaking these works is set out at a broad level in two sections within the Council's Long Term Plan contained as **Attachment 1** to this report. These activities broadly fit into the areas of understanding flood risk, developing and implementing mitigation strategies and maintaining infrastructure assets.

3. Wider regional activities

GWRC undertakes a range of activities across the region. Our guidelines and the associated Council policy for floodplain management planning provide the basis for undertaking our work. The Guidelines can be found on our website at <http://www.gw.govt.nz/floodplain-management-planning>. Engaging with the community to identify and understand the flood risk, and to formulate plans to manage all of those risks is a core part of our work. We strive to achieve genuine community engagement and will continue to work with stakeholders until we do. Council has also set some policy frameworks within which our work is undertaken. These policies include ensuring:

- River scheme works are sustainable into the long term
- Avoiding subdivision and new development in areas at risk from natural hazards

- Climate change is taken into account in all of our work
- New stopbanks to protect existing residential areas are designed to protect against at least the 1% recurrence interval flood event

In undertaking these activities, the Department is divided into the following areas of work:

Understanding flood risk

- Investigations and design
- Floodplain Management Plans (FMPs)
- Advisory service

Improving flood security

- Building and improving flood protection works
- Implementing non-structural mitigation measures
- Implementing Environmental enhancement works

Maintaining flood security

- 15 major river schemes
- 30 watercourses
- 15 drainage schemes

Across the region, GWRC maintains over 1000km of waterways with a total asset value of approximately \$360M (2017). It should be noted that the length of waterways we maintain, while comprising the lengths of the major rivers and streams, represents only 4% of the total length of waterways.

The responsibility for the waterways not managed by GWRC generally rests with the landowner through whose property the waterway flows. That responsibility involves keeping the waterway free from obstructions to the flow.

The department expenditure for the 2017/18 year is \$40.6M being made up of:

Understanding Flood Risk	\$ 3.6M
Maintaining Flood Security	\$17.6M
Improving Flood Security	\$18.3M
Reserves	\$ 1.1M

A plan showing the major rivers and streams maintained by GWRC is attached as **Attachment 2** to this report.

4. Wairarapa specific activities

The areas covered by the schemes that GWRC maintains are shown in **Attachment 3** to this report. Total expenditure on these Wairarapa Schemes is approximately \$7.0M this financial year with Department activities focused in the following areas:

Understanding flood risk

In this area we are primarily working to complete the Te Kāuru and Waiohine Floodplain Management Plans. In addition to this, there are a number of investigations underway to support the activities we undertake and providing an advisory service to help people understand the flood risk.

Improving flood security

The work on improving flood security at this stage is focused on work in the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme. This work includes strengthening stopbanks, erosion protection and improvements on the Whakawiriwiri Stream. Some funding had been budgeted for the commencement of work implementing the outcomes of the Te Kāuru and Waiohine FMPs but delays in the completion of these Plans has delayed the implementation work.

Maintaining flood security

Within the Wairarapa, GWRC maintains 10 river schemes and 16 drainage schemes, the largest of which is the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme. This Scheme protects some 40,000 ha of land and provides for significant economic development in the area.

As part of the maintenance of the river schemes in the Upper Ruamāhanga valley, GWRC is in the process of renewing the resource consents required for the day to day activities undertaken in the river channel. The application has been lodged meaning we are able to undertake the routine work until the new consents are granted. This is a major activity for the Department; with a new adaptive management approach being taken to the way we operate in the river channel with the aim of gaining consents for a 35 year term. The adaptive approach will allow us to use alternative and new techniques for river management driven by an improved understanding of their impacts of our work.

5. Communication

A further presentation will be given to a future meeting of the Committee to cover off the specific activities covered in the report in more detail.

6. Consideration of Climate Change

The matters addressed in this report have been considered by officers in accordance with the process set out in the GWRC Climate Change Consideration Guide.

6.1 Mitigation assessment

Mitigation assessments are concerned with the effect of the matter on the climate (i.e. the greenhouse gas emissions generated or removed from the atmosphere as a consequence of the matter) and the actions taken to reduce, neutralise or enhance that effect.

Officers have considered the effect of the matter on the climate and have concluded that the matter will have no effect.

Officers note that the matter does not affect the Council's interests in the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) and/or the Permanent Forest Sink Initiative (PFSI)

6.2 Adaptation assessment

Adaptation assessments relate to the impacts of climate change (e.g. sea level rise or an increase in extreme weather events), and the actions taken to address or avoid those impacts.

GWRC plans for climate change in assessing the degree of future flood hazard and in determining an appropriate response. There are only specific, limited situations in which climate change is not relevant (for example, planning for present-day emergency management).

7. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report. The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Committee members.

7.1 Engagement

Engagement on this matter is unnecessary.

8. Recommendations

That the Committee:

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

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Attachment 1 LTP Activities

Attachment 2 Map of waterways managed by Greater Wellington across the Region

Attachment 3 Map of schemes managed by Greater Wellington in Wairarapa