



WAITOHU STREAM STUDY NEWSLETTER NO 1

APRIL 2004

# Waitohu Stream Study – What is going on?

## Towards a sustainable region – our ten-year plan

“Towards a Sustainable Region” is Greater Wellington Regional Council’s ten-year plan to improve the quality of life of people in the region.

The ten-year plan gives a high priority to improving the water quality of the Waitohu Stream (particularly in the lower reaches).

As the stream’s upper reaches are generally very good this study provides opportunities to look at the whole stream to improve its overall water quality and ecological health.

Greater Wellington also manages the Waitohu Stream to reduce the risk of flooding to the community. The ten-year plan identifies undertaking a flood hazard assessment of the Waitohu Stream as a high priority.

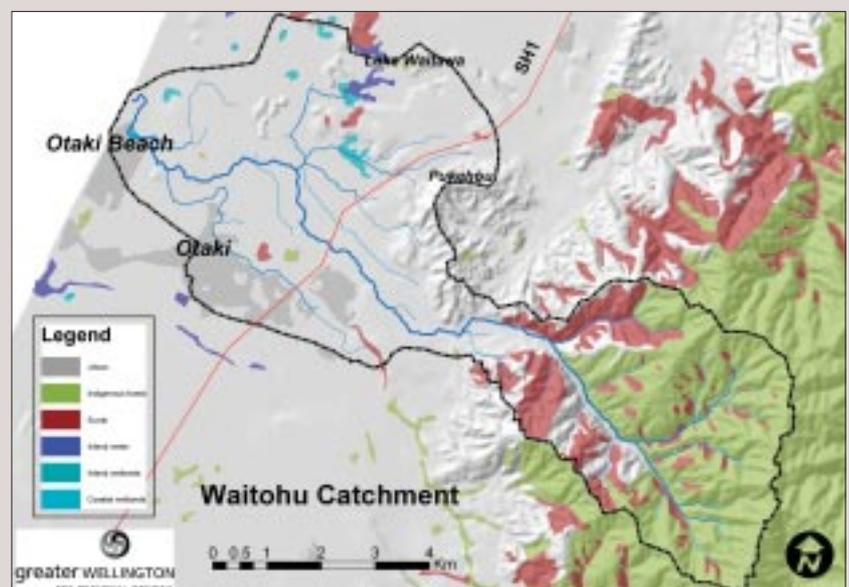
## The study

We have started an assessment of the flood hazard and water quality of the Waitohu Stream.

Large amounts of silt, nutrients and faecal coliforms in the stream have resulted in its lower reaches becoming among the most unhealthy stream habitats in the Wellington Region. The stream is also subject to flooding and erosion.

This newsletter introduces the study, lets you know what is going on and how you can be involved.

## The study area



## Initial project timelines

March 2004	key issues from technical reports identified
March 2004	start consulting with the community
April/July 2004	ongoing consultation
June 2004	complete technical reports
December 2004	complete summary reports and recommendations

## Greater Wellington/ Kapiti Coast District Council roles

Greater Wellington is leading this study and will be dealing with flooding and water quality issues for the Waitohu Stream. Kapiti Coast deals with land use planning and development on the surrounding land.

## For more information

### Your GW Councillors

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### If you have any questions, comments, or want to be involved please contact:

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## What do we do already?

Over the years there have been a number of studies of the stream and efforts have already been directed towards helping parts of the stream attain a more healthy and natural state.

More recently we have been working with the community to make the stream healthier. Some landowners have fenced the stream and wetlands on their properties. Community groups and tangata whenua have planted native plants on the stream banks and carried out a water quality monitoring programme

On the flood protection side, our approach to date has been to maintain the flood capacity and stream alignment to reduce stream bank erosion. Willows have been planted to minimise the need for ongoing channel alignment works (although they also need to be cleared occasionally to avoid increasing flood problems). The Waitohu Stream mouth is also cut periodically to reduce flooding and erosion problems.

## What does the study involve?

The study starts off by gathering information about the stream and talking to the local community. This involves investigating the flood hazard posed by the stream and reviewing all the information we hold about its water quality and ecosystem health. We will also be reviewing the long-term management and care of the stream. People who live by and use the stream will be asked for their views on the stream, now and in the future.

## How can you be involved?

Starting in March 2004 we have been talking with tangata whenua, landowners, community groups and other stakeholders.

At the same time we are talking to Kapiti Coast District Council and Otaki Community Board. Kapiti Coast officers are actively involved in the stream study.

Newsletters will also continue at regular intervals to keep you up-to-date.

We will be contacting people who are affected or who have an interest in the stream. If you want to know more, or would like to go on our mailing list, or know someone who would like to go on our mailing list please contact GW (see box opposite for details).

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT US

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Greater Wellington is the  
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