Attachment 4 to Report 01.322

Part 1

Draft Utilities and Services Policy

DRAFT
Utilities and Services Policy for the Hutt River Corridor

Why have a policy ?

A services and utilities policy is needed to:

- Ensure that the Hutt River flood defences system provides the level of protection expected by the community.
- Ensure that the services and utilities located within the river corridor provide the level of service expected by the community.
- Provide service or utility owners with an understanding of the level of protection their assets in the river corridor could receive from the proposed Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan (HRFMP) upgrade works.
- Help service or utility owners to plan for future management of their assets.

Responsibilities

- Where the proposed flood protection upgrade works affects services or utilities, the **WRC** will contact service and utility owners early in the process.
- **Utility and Service** owners will contact WRC if they propose to upgrade existing services or wish to install new services in the Hutt River corridor.

Existing Services

Issue **Services in Stopbanks or the River Corridor can initiate failure of the stopbanks and/or berms**

Policy E1

Existing services will be removed from stopbanks and relocated where possible outside the river corridor during stopbank, River Corridor or service upgrading.

Explanation

- Existing services, due to deterioration, failure of the service or substandard installation, could initiate failure of the flood defences system.
- Excavation and back filling carried out during maintenance and repairs to services can also initiate failure.
- The Council will assist the service or utility owners to identify suitable routes for new services, where possible.

Issue **Stormwater Outlets can initiate failure of stopbanks, berms and edge protections**

Policy E2

The number, location and design of stormwater outlets should be rationalised during stopbank or service upgrading.

Explanation

- The presence of a large number of stormwater outlets crossing the stopbanks will increase the risk to the flood defences system.
- The number of stormwater and sewerage outlets, where possible, should be decreased to reduce the risk to the flood defences system.
- Rationalised stormwater outlets would provide opportunities for stormwater pumping which would benefit large areas.

Issue **Service assets within the River Corridor are at risk from the effects of floods**

Policy E3

The HRFMP assets are constructed to provide flood protection. Any protection benefit to utilities or services is secondary unless by individual agreement with the service owner.

Explanation

- The HRFMP upgrade works will be carried out in the order and to programme required to meet the flood protection priorities endorsed by the community.

- Utility owners should have a clear understanding of the upgrade works that will be provided under the HRFMP, and the timing for its implementation.
- Utility and service owners could provide a higher level of protection to their assets if desired.

Issue **Key utility network facilities within the River Corridor are at risk from the effects of flooding**

Policy E4

Key utility network facilities should be protected to a 1900 cumec standard and have contingency plans to cope with the loss of the service in a major flood.

Explanation

- Key network utility facilities are those parts of a utility service critical for ongoing function. Damage to these parts would considerably worsen flooding impacts, particularly as they may not be quickly repaired. Examples include electricity transformers and water pumping facilities.
- Through the HRFMP non-structural measures process the community has indicated that it requires that key utility network facilities in the River Corridor be protected to a 1900 cumec standard.
- Utility owners should have a clear understanding of the upgrade works that will be provided under the HRFMP, and the timing for its implementation.

Issue **Melling Substation is located in the River Corridor**

Policy E5

The Melling Substation is a special case and arrangements for maintaining and upgrading this asset within the River Corridor have been agreed with the owner.

Explanation

- It is accepted that the relocation of Melling substation and its network infrastructure is not possible now.
- Transpower have produced a strategy to protect the Melling substation. The strategy will be implemented over an indefinite period of time, and will be linked to the life of existing equipment at Melling.

New Services

Issue **Services in Stopbanks or the River Corridor can initiate failure of the stopbanks and/or berms**

Policy N1 Services along the River Corridor

New services will not be located in or under a stopbank. New services will be located in other areas of the river corridor (excluding stopbanks) only with the prior approval of the Wellington Regional Council.

Policy N2 Services crossing the River Corridor

Services will cross the river at approved or designated service crossings.

Explanation

- Services in or under stopbanks increase the risk to the flood defences system
- Services in the River Corridor must not affect the flood defences upgrade and maintenance works
- Designated crossings will be generally at road crossings or other locations where the flood defences failure risk is at a minimum
- Service installation will be designed to minimise the risk to the flood defences system, e.g. a water pipe crossing a stopbank should be laid following the stopbank surface contours.
- The Council will assist service or utility owners to identify suitable routes for new services, where possible.

Issue **Stormwater Outlets can initiate failure of stopbanks, berms and edge protections**

Policy N3

The number, location and design of stormwater outlets should be rationalised when new stormwater systems are needed

Explanation

- The number of stormwater and sewerage outlets, where possible, should be decreased to reduce the risk to the flood defences system.
- The possibility of discharging through an existing outlet must be investigated before considering a new outlet.
- Rationalised stormwater outlets would provide opportunities for stormwater pumping which would benefit large areas.

Implementation

Issue Individual Agreements are needed

Policy I1

An individual agreement will be negotiated with each identified service owner during the design phase of each major HRFMP project, service upgrade or new service installation.

Explanation

- This policy will be the primary means for ensuring the security for the flood defences and the services.
- This provides opportunity for the rational location of all services / utilities.
- The benefits to the service owner and the WRC will, where possible, be reflected in the agreement.