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Report to the Hutt River Advisory Committee
from Alistair Cross, Senior Resource Planner, Flood Protection

Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan : Progress Report on Implementing Non-structural Measures

1. Purpose

To update the Advisory Committee on progress made towards implementing the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan (HRFMP) non-structural measures.

2. Background

At the June meeting, the Advisory Committee requested that Hutt City Council (HCC) and Upper Hutt City Council (UHCC) consider the:

- draft objective and policies template as basis for further work on district plan provisions.
- prioritised emergency management projects for the period up to 2004/05.

We can now report that relevant committees of UHCC and HCC considered these items on 1 and 21 August, respectively. HCC endorsed the Draft Scope for Implementing Non-structural Measures, which had already been endorsed by UHCC in May 2003.

3. Progress on Measures

We are continuing to make good progress on developing non-structural measures, with the support of the Non-structural Measures Working Group (NSMWG). We have:

- developed a scope and tasks for emergency management projects in the current financial year.
- formed basic technical standards that could apply to land use activities in the river corridor and higher-risk floodplain areas.
- formed a draft detailed 2002/03 work programme for the NSMWG to consider.
- commenced a preliminary s32 RMA analysis, and a Wellington Regional Policy Statement (RPS) comparison.

3.1 **Scope and Programme for Emergency Management Projects**

A scope, including key tasks and timelines, has been developed for the following Emergency Management projects:

- Producing a co-ordinated media management plan.
- Developing and documenting real-time internet information for flooding.
- Developing flood hazard emergency management maps.
- Following up on the IGNS earthquake hazard study.
- Evaluate consistency of school readiness-response education packages.
- Ensure documentation of mayoral relief fund procedures.

The Regional Council will lead three of these projects, with the remaining projects to be facilitated by HCC or UHCC. All projects are programmed to be completed by June 2003.

Work has already commenced on flood hazard mapping, including re-evaluating and refining existing hazard information. The focus for the hazard evaluation work is on vulnerable unprotected areas of the Hutt Valley.

Debbie Cunningham from the Regional Council's Emergency Management Department led the scoping work, with significant input from the emergency management teams of the two city councils and consideration by the NSMWG.

3.2 **Technical Standards for Land Use Activities**

Work has commenced on analysing existing district plan provisions, and forming technical standards for land use activities in unprotected flood-prone areas.

The technical work began earlier than initially planned, in response to a suggested reordering of tasks by the NSMWG. The bringing forward of this task is a practical and highly effective way to begin work evaluating potential needs for land use controls. We anticipate that the technical work will help the NSMWG:

- determine the scale, intensity, and location of land use activities that may cause adverse effects on the flood protection system, other structures, or land.
- clarify possible options for drafting district plan rules.

At this stage technical work has involved a series of internal Regional Council workshops. Workshops with the two city councils will follow, with the first on 11 October. We will verbally update you on outcomes of this session at the October meeting.

The effort required to progress the technical standards work has been considerable, nevertheless we hope to complete the technical sessions and associated tasks by early November.

It is important to note that this technical work is ultimately guided by the Non-structural Measures Principles and the related activities tables from the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan.

3.3 Detailed Work Programme

The NSMWG considered the draft detailed 2002/03 work programme but now wishes to review the programme and associated tasks, once the technical work on draft provisions is complete.

At this stage, we remain on track with the overall programme set out in the Scoping Report. We expect to report on the detailed programme at the February Advisory Committee meeting.

3.4 Section 32 Analysis and RPS Comparison Work

Work has commenced on an initial Section 32 analysis, covering the full HRFMP process up to the forming of Non-structural Measures Principles. However, this work has slowed to allow the technical standards work to progress more quickly.

Staff from the Regional Council's Resource Policy Department are analysing the level of consistency between the Non-structural Measures Principles and Wellington Regional Policy Statement (RPS).

An initial comparison was carried out at the time the Principles were being formed, and we do not anticipate that the Principles will be inconsistent with the RPS. However, a second analysis is timely given that draft district plan provisions may soon be developed. It is important that draft provisions are not inconsistent with the RPS.

4. Communication

There are no direct communications with the community stemming from this report. The main communications will happen through the consultation process on draft measures.

5. Recommendations

That the Committee:

- (1) **Receive** the report.
- (2) **Note** the contents of the report.

Report prepared by:

Approved for submission:

ALISTAIR CROSS
Senior Resource Planner

GEOFF DICK
Manager Flood Protection

DAYA ATAPATTU
Project Engineer

ROB FORLONG
Divisional Manager, Landcare