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Committee Hutt River Advisory
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Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan Implementation: Project Manager's Report

1. Purpose

To update the Advisory Committee on progress made with implementing the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan (HRFMP).

2. Project status summary

We are making good progress in implementing the HRFMP.

- We are recommending to Greater Wellington – The Regional Council that they accept a tender for the Strand Park river realignment contract at their meeting on 20 February 2003. Letting this contract will be a significant milestone.
- Developing non-structural measures is progressing well with the support from the Non-structural Working Group. We are on track to prepare draft district plan provisions by the end of June 2003.
- We have consulted with all Belmont landowners affected by encroachment and house raising issues on an individual basis. The preliminary design for the proposed edge protections and environmental enhancement works at Belmont is complete. A public meeting for the Belmont community is scheduled for 13 March 2003.

3. Ava to Ewen project

3.1 Detailed design

Opus International Consultants have completed the final design report for the Strand Park river realignment and Alicetown stopbank upgrade. This design report contains the final design and cost estimates for the proposed structural and environmental enhancement works. The report also covers the design of stormwater upgrades requested by HCC.

3.2 Strand Park land purchase

The Regional Council and MOE solicitors have drafted an agreement for the Strand Park land transfer. This agreement contains:

- the procedure for land transfer
- lease back arrangements
- ‘access for work’ approval
- compensation and costs.

The Regional Council signed this agreement in December 2002. We expect MOE to sign the agreement in February 2003. Note the land transfer procedure also has to be approved by Land Information New Zealand (LINZ). We expect the MOE to grant us an ‘access for work’ approval once LINZ accepts the proposed land transfer procedure.

3.3 Strand Park river realignment contract

Tenders were invited from four pre-qualified contractors for the Strand Park River Realignment. Tender evaluation was completed in January 2003 and we have recommended a tender for Regional Council approval. However, we do not propose to appoint a contractor until ‘access for work’ approval is obtained from the MOE.

We have appointed Opus International Consultants Ltd for the supervision of the realignment contract.

3.4 Construction programme for the Strand Park river realignment

The due dates for completing project components are:

- Viewing platform 30 June 2003
- River realignment 30 June 2004
- Landscape works 31 August 2004

These completion dates may have to be reviewed if there is a delay in letting the contract.

3.5 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Tranz Rail

We have now agreed with a Tranz Rail staff representative on the contents of the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Tranz Rail management are yet to sign off the MOU.

4. Belmont improvements

The HRFMP's recommended flood risk reduction measures for Belmont include:

- bank edge protections to a 1900 cumec standard
- financial assistance for house raising
- District Plan provisions.

4.1 Bank edge protections and environmental enhancement

Graduate Engineer, Susan Borrer, has completed the preliminary design for the proposed bank edge protections at Belmont. The proposed edge protections are a mix of rock groynes, rock lining and strengthened vegetation (railway iron and cable fences at 30m spacings in the willows). The proposed works will greatly reduce the erosion risk to the properties located immediately adjacent to the river channel. The preliminary design of edge protections is provided in **Attachment 1**.

Attachment 2 shows the environmental enhancement concept plan for the project area prepared by consultant landscape architect Rose Armstrong. The concept plan proposes:

- extending the Hutt River trail along the riverbank to provide public access to the river
- improving the ends of Carter, Charles and Richard Streets to keep vehicles away from the bank edge and reduce rubbish dumping
- clearing weeds and planting with native species.

We propose to lodge the resource consent application for the river works in June 2003 and appoint a construction contractor in December 2003.

We hope to substantially resolve the long-standing 'river berm' encroachment issues before commencing construction of the edge protections. Consultation with the encroached landowners has progressed well. The outcomes and recommendations are contained in report PE-03.25.

4.2 House raising

Report 03.24 addresses this matter in detail. In summary, the HRFMP provides for house raising assistance to Belmont homeowners significantly affected by a 100 year flood in the Hutt River. Our consultation with targeted homeowners is now complete. Out of thirteen homeowners eligible for house raising assistance five do not need their houses raised. The remaining eight are in Norfolk Street and the home owners do not want their houses raised but prefer a stopbank proposed at the southern end of Norfolk Street.

4.3 District Plan provisions

The HRFMP classifies the Belmont floodable area as a 'Higher-risk floodplain hazard' area and recommends changing Hutt City District Plan provisions where necessary, to minimise the risk to any new development. The proposed district plan provisions are being developed separately through the HRFMP non-structural measures process described in Section 5 below.

5. Implementing non-structural measures

5.1 Progress on measures

We are continuing to make sound progress developing non-structural measures, with the support of the Non-structural Measures Working Group (NSMWG). The general programme, outlined in the Scoping Report, remains on track. We have commenced:

- drafting district plan provisions
- work on selected emergency management enhancement projects
- developing information to support voluntary actions.

5.2 District Plan provisions

Upper Hutt City

We are currently drafting new and amended provisions for Upper Hutt City. Greater Wellington is leading this work with the Upper Hutt team providing overall direction. A set of summarised draft provisions will be completed for review in late February followed by a presentation to the Upper Hutt Policy Committee in March.

Hutt City

Hutt City is leading the process of drafting new and amended provisions for their district plan. A workshop was held with staff from Hutt City in mid February to assess the impact of controls proposed by the Non-structural Measures Principles on land use activities in Hutt City. The outcomes of this workshop will be verbally reported to the Advisory Committee on 27 February 2003.

5.3 Emergency management programmes and procedures

Work on six emergency management enhancement projects is progressing well. Two projects are substantially complete:

- the documenting of real-time internet information for flooding
- the IGNS earthquake hazard study¹.

All six projects will be completed by the end of June 2003.

¹ The results of this investigation will help determine better the impacts of major regional earthquakes on the Hutt River Floodplain and the flood protection system.

5.4 Voluntary actions

Information on river flooding in the Wellington Region will now be added to the Regional Council Hazard Fact Sheet series. A new item in this year's programme, the fact sheets will describe flooding in the region. They include flood hazard maps from the Hutt, Kapiti and Wairarapa floodplains. The fact sheets will also list voluntary actions which people can take to reduce the risk and consequences of flooding.

The flooding Hazard Fact Sheet Series is expected to be ready for distribution by June 2003.

5.5 The programme

Adjusting the 2002/03 target

Our original programme was to prepare draft plan change/variation applications by June 2003. However, it is more appropriate to only prepare draft planning provisions by June, and not move onto producing plan change/variation documents.

The Non-structural Measures Working Group (NSMWG) has determined that it would be procedurally clearer for the Regional Council not to be involved in the production of plan change/variation documents and the subsequent notification process. By removing itself at the completion of draft provisions, the Regional Council would be free to place submissions during a formal notification process. It could also be involved as a credible party to any subsequent references to the Environment Court.

Programme until June 2003

The table below outlines the Non-structural Measures programme.

Major tasks until June 2003	When
Determine provision drafting framework for HCC	Mid February
Complete draft summarised provisions for UHCC	Early March
Complete draft provisions for HCC	Mid April
Present draft summarised provisions to UHCC Policy Committee on 7 May	Early May
Present draft summarised provisions to HCC Strategy and Policy Committee on 14 May	Mid May
Complete enhanced emergency management projects for reporting	Late May
Refine draft UHCC and HCC provisions	Early June
Present draft provisions to UHCC and HCC committees	Late June and July

5.6 Draft provisions consultation

The NSMWG is currently reviewing the need for a short round of public consultation on draft provisions originally programmed between late March and early May this year. A brief consultation phase may not provide considerable benefit at this stage.

A consultation round over a possible four to six week period would only enable residents groups in relatively unprotected areas to be targeted. Even then, they would have a limited time to provide feedback to the city councils. It is doubtful whether iwi, and other affected groups, businesses, and agencies could also be consulted effectively in such a short period.

In contrast, the formal plan change/variation process would allow more time to be made available for more widespread consultation. Furthermore, both Hutt and Upper Hutt City Councils may be more comfortable with consultation on refined draft provisions, as part of a formal plan change/variation process.

Therefore, while a 'snapshot' of residents' views on draft provisions would provide some information, it is arguably more efficient and effective to consult once during the plan change process and do it well.

6. Project budget

The table below shows the expenditure against the four Ava to Ewen implementing packages and the Belmont edge protections.

Project package	When implemented	Project budget	Expenditure to December 2002
Channel Realignment	July 2002 to June 2004	\$4.6 m	\$412,800
Alicetown Stopbank	July 2004 to June 2006	\$2.4 m	\$102,900
Ava Bridge Stopbank	July 2006 to June 2008	\$5.0 m	\$212,600
Strand Park Stopbank	July 2008 to June 2010	\$2.6 m	\$12,800
Total Ava to Ewen		\$14.6 m	\$741,100
Non-structural Implementation	July 2001 to June 2003	\$0.25 m	\$79,300
Belmont Edge Protection	July 2003 to June 2004	\$0.63 m	\$37,300
Total HRFMP		\$15.48 m	\$857,700

7. Communication

Letting the Strand Park realignment contract is a significant milestone in implementing the HRFMP. We propose to celebrate this with a press release. The next Ava to Ewen newsletter will be published following the appointment of the contractor.

We have individually consulted with all Belmont landowners affected by encroachment and house raising issues. The consultation on the proposed edge protections and environmental enhancement concept designs will start with a public meeting in March 2003.

8. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. ***receive the report.***
2. ***note the contents of the report.***

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

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Attachment 1 : Edge protections preliminary design

Attachment 2 : Environmental enhancement concept plan