

Report 03.326
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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 nearing the completion of the third year of the HRFMP implementation programme. Key milestones include:

- planning and design of the highest priority reach, Ava to Ewen is well advanced and the necessary resource consents obtained. Council has a preferred contractor for Strand Park realignment. However, an appointment cannot be made until the Strand Park land purchase is completed.
- Tranz Rail have signed the memorandum of understanding for the strengthening works at Ava rail bridge.
- the Landcare Committee approved in principle a cost sharing arrangement between Hutt City Council (HCC) and Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) to fund the proposed Opahu Stream pumping station.
- the final design for the Belmont edge protection work is completed, and the resource consent application has been lodged.
- significant progress has been made on developing non-structural measures with Upper Hutt City Council (UHCC) and HCC.

3. Ava to Ewen project

3.1 Strand Park update

A delay in beginning the works to realign the river has occurred as a result of the Strand Park purchase taking longer than expected. Greater Wellington's Landcare Committee considered these delays and approved a revised programme for implementing the Ava to Ewen works. The work on the first package, the river realignment, will now start in March 2004. The date for completing the four packages in the Ava to Ewen works programme remains unchanged. The programme for the design and construction of the stopbank and the pumping station at the Ava Rail Bridge has not changed.

Report 03.333 on this order paper provides further detail.

3.2 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Tranz Rail

Trans Rail has now signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which records the agreed waterway improvement works for the Ava Railway Bridge. The design of these improvements is programmed to commence in the 2004/05 financial year.

3.3 Opahu Stream pumping station

The Landcare Committee (11 March 2003) approved the recommendation for improving the waterway capacity of the Ava Railway Bridge, by constructing a storm water pump station at the Opahu stream outlet to the Hutt River. The Committee also approved in principle a cost sharing agreement between the HCC and GWRC for constructing the pumping station. HCC is preparing a draft agreement for approval of GWRC and HCC. We expect to complete this by the end of July 2004.

4. Belmont improvements

4.1 Edge protection final design and resource consent application

The final designs for the edge protection work and environmental enhancement have been completed. The resource consent application was lodged on 27 May 2003 and notified in the Dominion Post and the Hutt Valley News on 8 and 10 June respectively. Submissions close on 8 July 2003.

An information sheet was delivered to the Belmont community on 23 May 2003, advising the community that the designs were complete and that the application was to be lodged.

4.2 Norfolk Street stopbank

The design for the stopbank proposed at the southern end of Norfolk Street is progressing well, and a final design should be completed by mid August. The stopbank option was the community's preferred option in preference to house raising. Report 03.24 presented to the Advisory Committee in February addressed this matter in more detail.

4.3 District Plan provisions

The HRFMP classifies the Belmont 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 7 below and report 03.334.

5. Port Road improvements

At the February 2003 meeting, Mayor John Terris requested that some priority be given to improving the left bank of the Hutt River adjacent to the Seaview reclamation. There is no capital provision for this work in Greater Wellington's ten-year plan.

HCC and GWRC officers met with Mayor Terris on 12 June 2003 to develop a strategy for improving this area. The first step is to develop a vision that meets the needs of iwi, industry and stakeholders. This part of the process will be driven by HCC with close involvement of GWRC. We aim to present a development plan for the area to the October Advisory Committee meeting.

Coincidentally, \$30,000 per year has been included in the Hutt River maintenance budget to carry out repairs to the Port Road bank edge protections. Sam Richards is currently preparing some design options, one of which will most likely be incorporated into the proposed development plan.

6. Estuary bridge

Funding for a walkway linking the Hutt River's left bank under the Estuary Bridge has been provided by the GWRC, HCC and Rotary. This project will provide safe access past the busy Waione Street and improve the existing Hutt River Trail. Work has started and should be completed in July.

7. Implementing non-structural measures

7.1 District Plan measures

Good progress has been made by Hutt and Upper Hutt City Councils and the Regional Council to develop draft district plan provisions for high-risk flood hazard areas, and enhanced emergency management measures.

The expected year-end achievements are discussed in the non-structural measures update report (report 03.334), with a verbal update to be provided at the 26 June 2003 meeting.

7.2 Voluntary actions

Information on river flooding in the Wellington Region has been added to the Regional Council's hazard fact sheet series. The fact sheets include flood hazard maps for the Wairarapa; maps for the Hutt and Kapiti areas are still being developed. Voluntary actions that people can take to reduce the risk and consequences of flooding are also included.

The flooding hazard fact sheets are ready for distribution and a fact sheet is attached to Report 03.334.

8. Project budget

The table below shows the expenditure to date against the current HRFMP projects.

Project package	When constructed	Project budget as at June 2003	Cumulative expenditure to May 2003
Channel realignment	March 2004 to Aug 2005	\$4.86 m	\$451,600
Alicetown stopbank	2005/06 to 2006/07	\$2.75 m	\$112,000
Ava bridge stopbank	2005/06 to 2007/08	\$5.77 m	\$221,000
Strand Park stopbank	2008/09 to 2009/10	\$2.95 m	\$12,800
Total Ava to Ewen		\$16.3 m	\$797,400
Non-structural implementation	2001/02 to 2003/04	\$0.25 m	\$105,600
Belmont edge protection	2003/04	\$0.81 m	\$57,100
Norfolk Street stopbank	2003/04	\$0.115 m	\$13,400
Total HRFMP		\$17.5 m	\$973,500

9. Communication

The items in this report have been conveyed to the community via:

- a press release and a newsletter to the Alicetown/Woburn/Moera communities advising them of the delay in the Strand Park realignment work.
- a newsletter to Belmont residents advising them that the application was to be lodged. The results from the Belmont resource consent application process will be announced with a press release and another newsletter to the Belmont community.
- hazard fact sheets that will be distributed to schools and available on the Council's website.

10. Recommendations

That the Committee:

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

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