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Committee Hutt River Advisory  
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## Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan: progress report on implementing non-structural measures

### 1. Purpose

To inform the Advisory Committee of progress with the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan (HRFMP) non-structural measures 2002/03 work programme.

### 2. Background

In June 2002 the Advisory Committee endorsed programmes for forming draft district plan provisions and progressing work on six emergency management enhancement projects.

We are pleased to report that this initial phase of implementing non-structural measures is largely complete.

### 3. Progress on measures

#### 3.1 Summary of achievements

By year end we expect to have:

- formed officers' draft district plan provisions<sup>1</sup>, together with the relevant officers of Hutt City Council (HCC) and Upper Hutt City Council (UHCC).
- overseen the completion of five out of the six emergency management projects undertaken by the three councils in 2002/03.
- developed flood hazard fact sheets for the community – an addition to the 2002/03 work programme.

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<sup>1</sup> It is important to note that as officers' draft provisions they do not yet have any status with the Hutt and Upper Hutt City Councils.

## 3.2 Drafting District Plan provisions

A set of officers' draft district plan provisions are expected to be completed by the end of June. The work for both cities affects higher-risk areas nearer the Hutt River, therefore the extent of the provisions' potential influence is quite limited particularly for existing developed areas. Also, few completely new provisions are involved. The relatively minor changes to district plans reflects the fact that both district plans already contain significant provisions that represent the intent of the HRFMP Non-structural Measures Principles<sup>2</sup>.

Amendments that relate to both district plans include:

- modifications to rules in selected zone or activity chapters.
- suggested additions to the existing issues, objectives and policies intended to provide guidance for decisions on resource consents that reflect more the specific intent of the principles.
- generally minor changes to permitted and controlled activity standards or conditions that are specific to the flood hazard.
- where necessary, flood hazard issues included as matters for consideration or assessment for discretionary activities.

However, the content of the provisions differs somewhat between the two district plans, reflecting the plans respective structure and style of approach for provisions.

### Documentation

The documents containing draft provisions will be in the form of the affected district plan chapters containing draft issues, objectives, policies and methods<sup>3</sup>. In some cases the full detail behind certain provisions will not have been fleshed out, although instructions as to the intended content of those provisions will be contained in the draft documents. Examples of where these are likely to occur are for permitted activity standards or specific policy wording.

A brief comparison of draft provisions with the Non-structural Measures Principles will be verbally reported to the Advisory Committee on 26 June 2003.

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<sup>2</sup> The objectives and policies template, formed by the Non-structural Measures Working Group in 2001/02, provided the basis for ensuring that, where possible, the Non-structural Measures Principles were covered in the draft objectives and policies.

<sup>3</sup> Methods include rules and other non-regulatory methods.

### **3.3 Emergency management programmes and procedures**

The following emergency management enhancement projects are expected to be completed by the end of June:

- following up on the IGNS earthquake hazard study
- developing and documenting real-time internet information for flooding
- developing flood hazard emergency maps
- producing a co-ordinated media-management plan
- ensuring documentation of mayoral relief fund procedures.

Work by HCC and UHCC on evaluating the consistency of school readiness-response education packages is now expected to progress in the coming 2003/04 year as resources are made available.

A summary of the projects will be verbally reported at the 26 June meeting.

### **3.4 Voluntary actions**

Two of the four flooding hazard fact sheets have been completed, including one general fact sheet. The fact sheets describe the flooding hazard in the region, listing voluntary actions which people can do to reduce the risk and consequences of flooding. They also include flood extent maps, basic descriptions of flood impacts, an account of big floods on the local scene. A sheet for the Hutt floodplain will be completed in the 2003/04 year.

The general flooding hazard fact sheet is provided as **Attachment 1**.

## **4. Considering the 2003/04 work programme**

### **4.1 District Plan provisions**

The 2003/04 year will see the Regional Council's responsibilities in the drafting process decrease considerably, as both HCC and UHCC gear up for possible district plan changes.

HCC and UHCC officers will determine the appropriate way in which to bring the draft provisions to their respective committees and the best timing for this process.

The major tasks for the Regional Council in the coming 2003/04 year include:

- assisting in presenting draft provisions to the respective HCC and UHCC committees.
- completing the first part of a draft section 32 RMA analysis<sup>4</sup>, covering the process from phase 1 of the HRFMP process through to forming draft provisions. The two city councils will complete the second part of the analysis as they move forward into any plan change process, responding to consultation feedback and submissions.
- providing additional detail to specific provisions.
- providing comment to any pre plan-notification editing of draft provisions.

The 2003/04 work programme has yet to be considered in detail by the Non-structural Measures Working Group.

## **4.2 Emergency management**

Projects programmed for the 2003/04 year include:

- investigating the effects of landslide hazard on flooding
- investigating sand supplies in local areas
- investigating possible alerting systems for Upper Hutt
- evaluating consistency of emergency response procedures
- documenting specific contingency and evacuation plans for higher-risk areas
- evaluating consistency of school readiness-response education packages.

A lead agency has been selected for each of the projects according to the scope for enhancement projects<sup>5</sup> for the period up until 2005/06.

The projects dealing with investigating landslide hazards and possible alerting systems could be sizeable, with the latter possibly resulting in the eventual establishment of a new alerting system in Upper Hutt.

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<sup>4</sup> Refers to section 32 of the Resource Management Act 1991, requiring the process for considering initial mitigation options and forming draft district plan provisions to be documented, as well as establishing the costs and benefits of the draft provisions and alternatives.

<sup>5</sup> The scope for enhancing emergency management projects was completed by a working group of emergency management and planning officers from each of the three councils in June 2002.

### **4.3 Voluntary actions**

A Hutt Valley flooding hazard sheet will be prepared in consultation with HCC and UHCC during the 2003/04 year.

Discussions with the two city councils to determine opportunities for further voluntary actions projects will occur as part of developing the 2003/04 work programme. We will then consider the appropriate level of Regional Council involvement, given existing budgets.

## **5. Communication**

There are no direct communications with the community stemming from this report. The main communications will happen through any plan change process consultation.

## **6. Recommendations**

*That the Committee:*

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

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**Attachment 1:** General flooding hazard fact sheet