

Report 04.300
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Committee Landcare
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Makara/Ohariu Community Board stream inspections

1. Purpose

To advise the Committee of the outcome of the meetings, discussions and stream inspections held with the Makara/Ohariu Community Board.

2. Background

On 16 October 2003 Geoff Dick and Sharyn Westlake attended a Makara/Ohariu Community Board meeting to discuss flooding and stream management issues for the Makara and Ohariu Streams (Flood Protection Manager's Report 03.685 to the Landcare Committee meeting of 19 November 2003). The invitation by the Community Board Chair to attend the meeting was prompted by recent flooding in the area. The meeting ended with an offer to set up a site visit with Community Board members to inspect the streams, and review current arrangements for cutting the Makara Stream mouth.

An inspection of the Makara and Ohariu Streams was duly carried out on 8 December 2003 by five of the six Makara/Ohariu Community Board members, Cr Terry McDavitt, as well as Greater Wellington and Wellington City Council officers. This inspection was reported in the Flood Protection Manager's Report (04.34) to the Landcare Committee meeting of 5 February 2004.

3. Greater Wellington responsibilities in the Makara/Ohariu area

Under the Administration of Watercourse Agreement with the Wellington City Council (WCC), the Flood Protection Department is responsible for the "administration" of the Makara and Ohariu Streams, being rural watercourses. This responsibility is largely discharged through occasional flooding and erosion advice to landowners and assistance to the Consents Management Department, when requested, for the issuing of consents. Greater Wellington has historically been responsible for cutting the Makara Stream mouth and we have also helped WCC remove dumped cars from the streams.

4. Outcomes of the 19 May 2004 meeting between Flood Protection and the Makara/Ohariu Community Board

On 19 May 2004 a further meeting was held between representatives of Flood Protection (Steve Murphy and Sharyn Westlake) and the Makara/Ohariu Community Board (Neville Beach and Jack O'Leary) to follow up items resulting from the 8 December 2003 stream inspections. The items discussed in this meeting are summarised in the following sections.

4.1 Mouth cutting

The properties that are first inundated by floodwater in a flood event when the Makara Stream mouth is closed were identified. It was decided that levels from these houses would be taken and transferred by survey to a mark (or gauge board) at the stream mouth. The mark (gauge board) would act as a trigger to identify when mouth cutting is required.

Protocols and the process for cutting the Makara Stream mouth, were agreed (It is permitted activity under the Regional Coastal Plan).

4.2 Inspections

It was agreed that inspections of the Makara and Ohariu Streams would be carried out prior to winter (April) and after winter (September) by Community Board representative(s) and the Area Engineer Wellington (Jeff Evans) and/or the Operations Support Engineer (Steve Murphy).

The purpose of the inspections will be to identify areas of concern in regard to the main watercourses of the area. The inspections will generally cover the stream reaches from Makara Hall to the beach, and along the Takarau Gorge to the north end. A checklist on which to record any concerns arising from the inspection is to be developed. A plan identifying the extent of the inspection area will also be included.

A copy of the completed checklist would be supplied to the Community Board within 10 working days.

4.3 Post inspection follow-up

Any matters that are considered the responsibility of GW will be noted on the checklist. The Area Engineer will either action these items directly or forward a copy of the checklist to the responsible Council Department for action.

The Makara/Ohariu Community Board shall be responsible for following up concerns that are the responsibility of any other authority, organisation or individual.

As is our normal practice anything of significance will also be reported to the Landcare Committee, either through the Managers report or in its own right.

5. Recommendations

That the Committee

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

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