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Committee Hutt River Advisory
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Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan: Belmont improvements

1. Purpose

To update the Committee on progress in implementing the Belmont improvements.

2. Background

The Belmont capital works include the Belmont edge protection works, the Norfolk Street stopbank, and environmental enhancement works. Cashmore Contracting Limited (Cashmores) is making good progress with the edge protection works. Construction of the Norfolk Street stopbank is programmed to commence in late February 2004. Overall, we are happy that the project is on track for completion by June 2004.

3. Edge protection

About half of the Belmont edge protection works contract is complete. **Attachment 1** indicates the completed works and the work still remaining. Cashmores have completed three rock groynes, one at the northern end of Owen Street, and two at Charles Street. Six debris fences have been constructed from upstream of the Charles Street groynes to just upstream of Richard Street. Two of these debris fences have rock heads.

At the end of January, approximately 3500 tonnes of rock had been placed, out of a total of 7300 tonnes. The rock is being supplied from the Linton Quarry, in Palmerston North, with two to four truckloads arriving per day. The rock is being stockpiled in Belmont Domain, which will be reinstated once the construction is completed.

Cashmores are currently working on the rock lining between Edwin and Carter Streets, which is scheduled to be completed by early to mid March. The walkway from Carter Street to Richard Street will be developed once the lining is complete.

4. Norfolk Street stopbank

We now hold all necessary approvals to construct the stopbank at the southern end of Norfolk Street. Flood Protection's Mabey Road team, led by Wayne Angus, will construct this stopbank. Construction is due to start in the third week of February and is expected to take two to three weeks to complete.

The proposed stopbank, has a gap across the street to be closed by sand bags during a major flood event in the Hutt River. The adjoining Belmont Play Centre has agreed to make sand available from their sandpit during an emergency. We supplied 15m³ of sand and made a small cash contribution to the construction of the sandpit. This arrangement helps the play centre and also provides a reliable source of sand during an emergency. Tools and empty sandbags will be stored in a shed placed within the Belmont reserve.

Once the stopbank is built, we plan to show the local residents how to close the gap in a flood situation. We also expect to hold flood drills every two years to ensure that materials and tools are in place and residents continue to know what to do in a major flood.

5. Environmental enhancement

The proposed environmental enhancement works include plantings, a gravelled walkway from Carter Street to Richard Street, a gate and fence at the end of Carter Street, and bollards at other street ends. The track, gate and fence will be installed by Cashmores.

We expect to plant close to 4,000 plants in the reach from Carter Street to Richard Street. Out of this, approximately 2500 will be planted by June 2004, and the remainder during July and August 2004. We aim to carry out as much of the planting as possible using community volunteers. However, contractors and Mabey Road staff will undertake most of the preparation work and a significant portion of the actual planting. Plant orders have been placed. Some community members, such as the Charles Street Neighbourhood Watch Group, have already expressed an interest in being involved.

6. Communication

Information Sheet No. 4 was distributed to Belmont residents on 6 November 2003 advising that works were commencing, and containing details of the timing of the project. A fifth information sheet was distributed in mid February before commencement of the Norfolk Street Stopbank works. This sheet includes details of the environmental enhancement plans for the Belmont edge protection works, and the Norfolk Street stopbank construction. A further information sheet is planned for April 2004 to request community involvement in the environmental enhancement planting.

There have been a few public inquiries regarding the Belmont edge protection works, both to the contractor and to GW staff members. These inquiries were from residents with houses that back on to the river, and covered topics such as the starting hours of the contractor, the amount of vegetation removal associated with the works, and the replacement of this vegetation with native plantings once construction is complete.

GW Assistant Engineer Susan Borrer and Cashmores Site Manager Michael Burr have visited a number of residents to advise of work commencing, and discuss any concerns or queries those residents might have.

Cashmores also successfully accommodated a Belmont Pony Club event, held in the Belmont Domain on 29 November 2003. This involved adjusting the stockpile area in the Domain and removing fences so that there was sufficient room for horse floats to park in the Domain.

7. Recommendations

That the Committee:

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

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Attachment 1: Completed and outstanding works