



Report **05.299**
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Committee **Hutt River Advisory**
Author **Daya Atapattu Project Engineer**

Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan: Project Manager's Report

1. Purpose

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

2. Project status summary

We made good progress in implementing the HRFMP during the 2004/05 financial year. The highlight of the year was the completion of all structural works in realigning the river from Ewen Bridge to Ava Bridge ahead of schedule.

Additional minor works at Belmont are now complete. A contractor is currently fabricating flood gates for the Norfolk Street stopbank.

Hutt City Council has made good progress in implementing District Plan Change No.6: Hutt River Flood Hazard Areas. Further submissions on the proposed plan change closed on 17 June 2005.

Truebridge Callender Beach Ltd has called tenders for the procurement of pumps and other mechanical and electrical components for the Opahu Stream pump station.

3. Ava to Ewen project

Strand Park river realignment contract is now nearing completion ahead of schedule. The main realignment is complete and the contractor is currently progressing with the landscaping works and tidying up of site. We expect the contract works to be completed well before the scheduled completion date of 31 August 2005 and on budget.

The next stage of the Ava to Ewen project is to reconstruct the Alicetown stopbank. Construction tenders for this contract close on 8 July 2005. We expect to appoint a contractor by September 2005. At a meeting with adjacent

property owners held on 25 May 2005, we put in place agreed procedures for dealing with issues connected with stopbank construction.

Stages 3 and 4 of the Ava to Ewen project comprise of the Ava Rail and Strand Park stopbank upgrades. Ava Rail stopbank upgrade includes the Opahu stream pump station to be constructed by the Hutt City Council. Truebridge Callender Beach Ltd is currently progressing with the tendering process for the procurement of the pumps and other electrical and mechanical components for the pump station. GWRC's stopbank design consultant, Opus International Consultants Ltd, has provided stopbank upgrade information for the pump station layout design. The civil works contract for the pump station is scheduled to be let in September 2005. This contract will include a part of stopbank and some rock lining to be constructed with the pump station. Opahu Stream pump station construction is scheduled for completion in 2005/06.

Construction of the Ava Bridge stopbank strengthening works is currently scheduled to commence in 2006/07. Bruce Sherlock of Hutt City Council has informed us that a combined rail/road bridge connecting Wakefield Street and Whites Line West is still a preferred option for the Cross Valley Link Road. Funding and timing for this project remain to be sorted out. There could be savings in the order of \$500,000 to \$750,000 if the existing rail bridge is completely replaced with a new bridge in conjunction with Ava stopbank strengthening works.

It is desirable for the Ava Bridge stopbank works to be carried out in conjunction with any possible new bridge construction. Ideally, for the community to get maximum benefits from both projects, any new bridge construction must commence within the next three years. The existing flood risk to community will remain until the stopbank is strengthened. We will review the construction programme in consultation with Hutt City Council and GWRC's Land Transport Division.

4. Belmont improvements

We are pleased to report that the minor additional works required to further reduce the erosion hazard at Belmont are now complete. These works included groyne extension outside 11 Charles Street and the extension of the 900mm stormwater pipe at the end of Charles Street. The walkway ramps at Charles Street and Richard Street were also improved and more natives planted as part of these works.

GWRC's Engineering Consultancy Group has completed the design for installing flood gates for the Norfolk Street stopbank. A contractor is currently fabricating the flood gates. We expect the flood gates to be installed by September 2005.

5. Whirinaki Crescent stopbank upgrade design

Truebridge Callender Beach Ltd (TCB) has completed the preliminary design for the Wellington golf course section of the Whirinaki Crescent stopbank. Out of the two design options considered for the golf course section, an earthen

stopbank or a concrete floodwall, the golf club prefers the floodwall option as more trees can be saved. A properly designed floodwall is acceptable to GWRC. TCB is currently reviewing the alignment and the structural design of the proposed floodwall.

At a meeting on 25 May 2005 with the Golf Club, we agreed to prepare a draft agreement outlining the responsibilities for the design, construction and maintenance of the proposed floodwall. We expect to seek the Landcare Committee approval of the proposed agreement in August 2005. The proposed floodwall will save upgrading of about 220 metre long section of the existing stopbank which includes land purchase.

6. Implementing non-structural measures

District plan provisions

Hutt City Council has made good progress in implementing District Plan Change No. 6: 'Hutt River Flood Hazard Areas. Submissions closed on 22 April with nine submissions received including a GWRC submission supporting the change. Further submissions closed on 17 June 2005 with only one submission, which was from GWRC.

Upper Hutt City Council (UHCC) is planning to go through the proposed plan change in 2005/06. UHCC expects to start pre-notification consultation before September 2005. We will meet with UHCC officers in July 2005 to prepare a detailed programme.

Emergency management provisions

Good progress has been made in implementing all the emergency management enhancement projects identified in the HRFMP either through the special programmes or day to day planning activities of GWRC, UHCC and HCC. We have been advised that UHCC will consider the implementation of an audible warning system through the next LTCCP process.

From now on any new projects or further work on any of the HRFMP projects will be implemented through the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group (CDEMG). The CDEMG has already agreed on a schedule of projects to enhance the emergency management capability of the Wellington Region.

7. Hathaway Avenue flooding

On 10 March 2005, we had a meeting with Hathaway Avenue residents, and the Hutt and Boulcott Golf clubs to discuss GWRC's stopbank upgrade programme and methods for managing the flood risk until the new stopbank is constructed. Residents and the Hutt Golf Club were strongly pressing for an immediate start of the process for constructing a new stopbank. Hutt Golf Club's preference is to construct the new stopbank along Harcourt Werry Drive. On this matter a residents' representative and the Hutt Golf Club made submissions to the Landcare Committee on 22 March 2005. GWRC has undertaken to consider this proposal through the 2006-2016 LTCCP process.

At the meeting with residents, we also proposed to lower the river bed and use improved flood warning procedures to reduce the flood risk until the stopbank is constructed.

At the May 2005 meeting, the Landcare Committee approved a programme to increase the gravel extraction rate to lower the Hutt River bed levels to those experienced in 1998. GWRC's contractors are currently lowering the gravel beaches at an increased extraction rate. Jacky Cox, Assistant Engineer, Flood Protection is currently preparing a consent application to carry out the extraction works in the flowing water.

HCC Emergency Management officer, Paul Nickalls, in consultation with the residents, has set up an improved flood warning system for the Hathaway Avenue area.

8. Project budget

Project package	When constructed	Project budget as at June 2003	Cumulative expenditure to May 2005
Ava to Ewen Channel realignment	March 2004 to August 2005	\$4.86 M	\$3,700,400
Alicetown stopbank	July 2005 to December 2006	\$2.75 M	\$165,000
Ava bridge stopbank	2005/06 to 2007/08	\$5.77 M	\$375,200
Strand Park stopbank	2008/09 to 2009/10	\$2.95 M	\$12,800
Total Ava to Ewen		\$16.3 M	\$4,253,400
Non-structural implementation	2001/02 to 2003/04	\$0.25 M	\$203,800
Belmont edge protection	2003/04	\$0.81 M	\$796,500
Norfolk Street stopbank	2003/04	\$0.115 M	\$77,100
Whirinaki Crescent	2006/07	\$0.544 M	\$59,400
Total HRFMP		\$17.5 M	\$5,390,200

9. Communication

Communication initiatives including, press releases, newsletters and meetings with residents are in place for all the HRFMP components. Separate meetings were held with Hathaway Avenue residents to discuss flooding issues and with Alicetown stopbank adjacent property owners to discuss stopbank construction issues. A newsletter containing the contractor's programme on Alicetown stopbank construction will be distributed once the contractor is appointed in September 2005.

10. Recommendations

That the Committee:

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

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Report approved by:

Daya Atapattu
Project Engineer

Geoff Dick
Manager, Flood Protection

Rob Forlong
Divisional Manager, Landcare