



Report 06.486
Date 7 September 2006
File WO/02/50/04

Committee Rural Services and Wairarapa
Author Ian Gunn, Acting Manager, Flood Protection (Wairarapa)

July 2006 Flood Damage – Wairarapa

1. Purpose

- (1) To inform the Committee of flood damage incurred, and repairs required following the flood events of July 2006.
- (2) To seek approval from the Committee to fund the flood damage repairs from the Flood Contingency Reserve and Advisory Scheme Reserves, subject to the completion of detailed investigations on the proposed repairs at the Guscott's property and Hikinui Sill.
- (3) To recommend to the Committee that the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme capital works for the 2006/07 financial year be delayed until 2007/08 so that the flood damage repairs can be completed promptly.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

Reports 06.381 and 06.379 (submitted to the August Committee meeting) provided details on the flood events of July 2006. Three flood events occurred over a two week period. The first event between 4-7 July was the largest flood in volume to have occurred since the completion of the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme. The floodways operated for at least 64 hours.

4. Flood Damage

Flood damage is itemised in the attached schedules (Attachment 1) for the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme, Upper Ruamahanga – Gladstone, and Waipoua River.

In the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme the total damage is \$1,313,000. Significant items of expenditure include:

- Shelton - \$129,000 – erosion of bank, damage to bank and trees - placement of willow clumps and rock groynes
- Guscott - \$332,000 – erosion of bank and damage to bank protection work and threat to stopbank – shift gravel, rock groynes, stopbank and place willow clumps
- Hikinui Sill - \$300,000 – replace 300 metres of earth sill bank with a concrete structure
- Tobin - \$74,000 – erosion of bank and threat to stopbank - placement of rock boulders
- Oporua Spillway - \$151,000 – erosion of sill bank and land behind – place boulders, filter cloth, reno mattresses, and bank battering.

Due to the flood damage repairs \$100,000 can be saved from the annual maintenance programme. Therefore funds required are:

- Scheme Reserve Fund - \$606,500
- Flood Damage Contingency Fund - \$606,500 (note this fund has a credit of over \$900,000 currently).

One property received significant damage in the Gladstone section of the Upper Ruamahanga River. The bank has eroded and 160 metres of willows removed. It is proposed to place 7 boulder groynes and 6 willow clumps for a total cost of \$20,000, funded as follows:

- Scheme Reserve Fund - \$10,000
- Flood Damage Contingency Fund - \$10,000

On the Waipoua River a 100 metre section of willows and bank have been lost. It is proposed to place 4 boulder groynes and willow clumps at a total cost of \$18,000, funded as follows:

- Scheme Reserve Fund - \$9,000
- Flood Damage Contingency Fund - \$9,000

5. Advisory Scheme Meetings

The Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme had a well attended inspection and meeting to consider the flood damage schedule on 31 August. The Advisory Committee approved the flood damage schedule with a proviso that further investigations be completed to ensure sound and effective designs are developed for the repairs at Guscott's and Hikinui Sill. Staff are currently

working with Gary Williams and Michael Hewison to achieve this. They also were supportive of postponing to next financial year the capital works programme of \$585,000 to enable the flood damage repairs to be completed this financial year.

No advisory scheme meetings have occurred on the Upper Ruamahanga – Gladstone Section and Waipoua Rivers. These will occur prior to the commencement of the works.

6. Financial Situation

The forecast position for the Council's Flood Contingency Fund as at 30 June 2007, assuming all works is completed by 30 June is:

Balance at 1 July 2006	\$947,000
2006/07 contribution	\$250,000
Withdrawal for Wairarapa flood damage July 2006	(\$625,500)
Forecast total	\$571,500

The financial situation of the various schemes is as follows:

- Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme

Current Reserve balance	1,097,200
2006/07 contribution	280,800
Flood damage	(606,500)
Forecast total	771,500
Major Flood Damage Fund (projected for 30 June 2007)	455,000

- Upper Ruamahanga – Gladstone

Current Reserve balance	18,500
2006/07 contribution	14,000
Flood damage	(10,000)
Forecast total	22,500
Major Flood Damage Fund (projected for 30 June 2007)	32,000

- Waipoua River

Current Reserve balance	(6,700)
2006/07 contribution	21,000
Flood damage	(9,000)
Forecast total	5,300
Major Flood Damage Fund (projected for 30 June 2007)	10,000

From the above information each scheme and the Council's Flood Contingency Fund can fund the proposed works on the flood damage schedule for July 2006.

7. Comment

It is proposed to complete the flood damage schedule within the 2006/07 financial year. Further consideration of appropriate designs for Guscott's and Hikinui Sill are underway. As a consequence of the scale of damage the proposed capital works identified in this year's LTCCP will be postponed until next year. There is sufficient funding in all the reserves to undertake the works.

Also note that staff have already committed the isolated works budget for this financial year. Isolated works occur outside of scheme areas and receive a 30% grant from Greater Wellington. The annual budget for isolated works is \$63,800. Due to the unusually large flood event in July 06, there have been large number of requests made (and are still coming) for funding assistance for repairs in the areas lying outside of the schemes. Staff are in the process of scheduling them. They are likely to be in the order of \$100,000 i.e. a contribution of \$30,000 from Council. Staff will request additional funds at the time of the six month review.

The floods have highlighted the fact that private stopbanks primarily on the eastern side of Lake Wairarapa are vulnerable to very high lake levels. Following discussions with some lakeshore farmers, staff and regional councillors it has been agreed that an assessment of the state of these stopbanks will be conducted by council. Once completed there will be discussions with the affected land owners to clarify how they need to manage the banks and how they might be protected from wavelap erosion. It is possible after these discussions that there may be a request for additional isolated works type funds. It is clear that such banks need to be constantly maintained for them to be effective over the long term

8. Communication

No further communication is required. Scheme advisory committees will discuss the schedules. A newsletter is in preparation to highlight the impact of the July 2006 floods on the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme.

9. Recommendations

That the Committee

1. **Receives** the report.
2. **Notes** the content of the report.
3. **Recommends** to Council that it:
 - (a) Approves the expenditure of \$1,251,000 to undertake flood damage repairs in the Wairarapa, as set out in Attachment 1, and summarised as follows:
 - (i) \$1,213,000 for the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme, subject to the Advisory Committee approving the final design of Guscott's and Hikinui Sill.
 - (ii) \$20,000 for the Gladstone section of the Upper Ruamahanga River subject to the approval of the Advisory Committee.
 - (iii) \$18,000 for the Waipoua River subject to the approval of the Advisory Committee
 - (b) Approves the funding of the \$1,251,000 by withdrawal of \$625,500 from the Council's Flood Contingency Fund matched by equal contributions from the appropriate scheme reserves.
 - (c) Approves delaying the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme capital works programmed for 2005/06 until the 2007/08 financial year (or as amended during the 2007/08 annual plan update process).
4. **Notes** that it is likely that a request for additional funding for the isolated works budget will occur at the 6 month budget review.
5. **Notes** that investigations of the status of private stopbanks in the vicinity of Lake Wairarapa will commence shortly.

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

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Attachment 1: