



Report 07.282
Date 8 May 2007
File E/06/16/03

Committee Landcare
Author Geoff Dick, Divisional Manager, Catchment Management

Divisional Manager's Report - Catchment Management

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about Western Flood Protection activities, and progress of matters, since the last meeting.

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. Managers report

The Flood Protection Manager's report is attached.

4. Comment

Waiwhetu Project

There is still much work to do to complete the Waiwhetu Stream floodplain management plan. The current estimate is that it will take until June 2008 to complete this project. As expected this timeframe was the subject of considerable debate at the Waiwhetu Stream Advisory Committee (WSAC) meeting on 7 May 2007. The WSAC has requested that the programme be reviewed to see if the work can be completed quicker.

Once all the technical investigations currently underway are complete the work of looking at the options and putting together a sensible and appropriate plan begins. By necessity this work needs to be lead by officers from both Greater Wellington and Hutt City, assisted by our expert advisors. The final plan needs to be 'owned' by both Greater Wellington, Hutt City and the local community.

The current timeframe to complete the plan is realistic, but I have some concerns the programme could be interrupted by the desire to start works on the ground. The steering group will shortly look at how we would project

manage the contaminated sediment removal/channel improvements should the funding be sorted and approval to proceed be given.

Western Flood Protection capital works progress

The Catchment Division's third quarter review forecasts only \$3.8 million of the budgeted \$6.16 million of flood protection capital expenditure for the year.

The delayed work includes Chrystalls Extended, Whirinaki Crescent and South Waitohu (all land related) and the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme (need to get on with flood damage repairs).

It is proposed that the approximately \$2.4 million worth of uncompleted work be carried forward to next year – 2007/08, to complete.

The current draft 2007/08 Annual Plan already provides for a western capital expenditure programme of \$5.24 million. Most of this work is completing projects underway, however it is still a big ask to expand the work programme out to about \$7.6 million and complete it.

I will review the capital programme and consider if any of next years work could sensibly be phased better to ensure an achievable work programme, and possibly delay some loan funding requirements. This phasing check will need to be completed very quickly if any changes are to be incorporated into next year's annual plan.

Proposed Jim Cooke Park footbridge, Waikanae River

The now materially completed Jim Cooke Park channel realignment project had two phases of work:

- Major construction – physical realignment, rock groynes and downstream lining, willow planting.
- Environmental enhancements/restoration – works that would contribute to the implementation of the environmental strategy for the river.

The major construction works were completed by mid 2006, with the environmental enhancement works to follow. \$40,000 (approx 5% of the cost of the design/construction costs) is included in this year's annual plan for the enhancement work.

The schedule of enhancement works proposed to be completed has been the subject of much discussion with the Waikanae Friends and the Waikanae Community Board. The options include restoration planting, walkway upgrades, or other amenity improvements within the corridor. The preference of the local community is a new footbridge at Jim Cooke Park.

We have now received a letter from the Kapiti Coast District Council formally seeking that Greater Wellington make a contribution to the proposed new footbridge using the funds available and that such funding be made available in the 2007/08 year, see **Attachment 2**. Creation of a footbridge in this area

would facilitate greater use of the south bank of the river by Waikanae residents and create a loop track that would be well used.

Officers are comfortable with the request in principle, although there are some technical design matters that would need to be considered in terms of maintaining floodway capacity and security. The views of the Committee would be appreciated before officers respond to the KCDC request.

5. Communication

No communication is required.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***

Report prepared by:

Geoff Dick
Divisional Manager, Catchment Management

Attachment 1: Flood Protection Manager's report for the period ending 20 April 2007

Attachment 2: Letter from Gael Ferguson, KCDC about a proposed new footbridge, Jim Cooke Park, Waikanae River.