

Flood Protection Manager's report for period ending 20 August 2007

1. Manager's comments

1.1 General

Department staff have made significant progress on a number of major projects over the last month. The major milestones have been:

- Approval of the Chrystalls Extended Stopbank Consents and Designation with no appeals
- Completion of the Hutt/Boulcott Stopbank workshop
- Finalisation of the Asset Revaluation and annual Audit of Assets
- Commencement of the Lake Wairarapa stopbank assessment
- Waiwhetu Stream Advisory Committee decision to proceed with planning approval for the contaminated sediment cleanup and channel improvements

Of the projects above the Waiwhetu project will provide the biggest challenge in the immediate future. A final decision on the government's level of contribution towards the clean up of the contaminated sediments has not been made at this point. The Waiwhetu Stream Advisory Committee acknowledged the importance of this work and has requested that planning for it should proceed without delay. Accommodating this request will require a delay of up to 12 months in the completion of the Flood Management Plan. Staff resources will concentrate on initiating the inter agency agreements and statutory approval process to remove both the contaminated sediments and increase the flood capacity of the lower reach of the Waiwhetu. Much of the detailed work will be able to be completed using contractors but the initial work and project management will be most efficiently undertaken in house.

Sharyn Westlake has been appointed to the position of Team Leader, Strategy and Technical Support. This is an internal appointment with Sharyn having filled the role in an acting capacity following the departure of Phil Purves in March 2007.

James Flanagan, an engineer working on the implementation of the Hutt Projects, has resigned to take up a position with Damwatch. James has been with us for 2 years and will be a loss to the department. He has helped to implement some major projects in the region and we wish him well in the future.

Vacancies for a senior engineer and an engineering position are currently being advertised with applications closing in mid September 2007.

2. Kapiti floodplain management [Kees Nauta]

2.1 Otaki River

Willow planting has been completed on the river. Staff have also been busy preparing planting sites for the friends groups. A mechanical trimmer has also been used to cut back Booth willow stands.

2.2 Waikanae River

Planting is almost complete and a number of over-grown areas have been cleaned up in preparation for Friends group plants.

2.3 Friends of the Waikanae River (FOWR)

The draft planting and landscape plan has been sent out for comment to all interested parties prior to finalisation.

2.4 Friends of the Otaki River (FOOR)

Members of the FOOR Committee attended the Wellington Conservation Awards ceremony on Wednesday 8 August. They were honoured with a Conservation Award for their dedication and hard work on the Otaki River. This award is well deserved and will be displayed in Otaki in a yet to be decided location.

2.5 Chrystalls Extended Stopbank

The appeal dates for the Notice of Requirement and Resource Consent have closed without any appeals being lodged.

The detailed design and tender documents were been completed and advertisements for tenders placed on 1st and 4th of August 2007. Tenders close on 27 August 2007. 17 sets of tender documents have been issued. A walkover site inspection with interested tenderers was held on 17 August to explain details of the works and answer questions. A very good turnout of over 20 contractors personal attended, indicating that there is a great deal of interest in this contract.

2.6 South Waitohu stopbank

Work is progressing with the detailed design and resource consent application. The hydraulic analysis of the 100 year flood flows is currently being reviewed to ensure that properties upstream of the proposed stopbank will not be adversely affected by construction of the stopbank. Initial results show that the affects are minimal but a detailed assessment is required.

2.7 Annual Consents Reports

The 2006/07 annual reports for the Otaki River, Waikanae River and Waitohu River were produced for Environmental Regulation as required by the conditions on the Resource Consents. Overall the 2006/07 was noted for having a significant number of “freshes” of less than the annual return period, particularly during July, October and November 2006. These caused some damage to the edge protection assets, but were quickly repaired and funded from the operational budgets. There were no floods greater than the 2 year return period.

3. Hutt River floodplain management [Daya Atapattu]

3.1 Ava to Ewen project

The contractor continues to make good progress on the Ava Rail contract works and the contract is now about 45% complete. By the end of July, the contractor has supplied and placed about 7,900 tonnes of rock out of a total of 15,000 tonnes. The contractor has also

placed and compacted about 19,000 m³ of fill materials out of a total of 31,000 m³ required for reconstructing the stopbank. Installation of the stormwater pipe at the Rail Bridge is about 60% complete and the concreting under the Bridge is progressing.

3.2 Boulcott/Hutt stopbank

Phase 2 of the feasibility study to determine a preferred option for the Boulcott/Hutt stopbank is now complete. Outcomes from Phase 2 were presented to a well attended workshop of the Advisory Committee on 13 August 2007. A presentation to Hutt City Council is scheduled on 22 August 2007. A recommendation on a preferred alignment will be made to the Advisory Committee on 6 September 2007.

3.3 Whirinaki Crescent stopbank

Wellington Golf Club has agreed to proceed with an 'earthwork' option to replace the proposed stage 1 floodwall on the new sub division boundary. This earthwork option is less expensive than the floodwall and it is aimed to complete this option by Christmas, subject to obtaining resource consents.

Tenders for the Stage 2 stopbank works are now being evaluated. More information from two lowest tenderers has been requested to complete the evaluation. A contractor is expected to be appointed by mid September 2007.

3.4 Maoribank Riverbed stabilisation

A scope for completing the Stage 1 Risk assessment has been prepared and this work will commence in September 2007.

4. Western Operations [Jeff Evans]

Over the last period staff have been fully occupied with the willow and native planting programmes, along the river berms. Willow rejuvenation work is also still in progress, on all the major river systems and many of the older booth willow stands have been mulched down to encourage increased growth.

An annual peer review was undertaken of river asset maintenance programmes on the Otaki and Waikanae Rivers on 7th August 2007. The peer review provides an audit of maintenance standards and procedures, at a number of specific sites along the rivers. No significant issues were raised as a result of the review.

4.1 Hutt River

Work continues on berm development and planting site lines have been cleared in the Maori Bank reach of the river in preparation for survey work to help with the bed degradation assessment in the area.

Gravel extraction has continued in the Belmont reach of the river and staff have also been cutting and checking site line locations in the lower river.

4.2 Hutt River Ranging Services

Patrols have continued over the last period. There has been extensive damage to both the berms and stop banks in the Taita and Pomare areas mainly caused by the public using vehicles in the river.

4.3 Hutt River Trail

Maintenance of the trail over the last period has largely consisted of debris clearing and drainage work to assist water run off from the trail.

A Hutt River Trail community planting event was held on 25 July 2007 at Poets Park with 50 children from Fergusson Intermediate School. When the plants ran out they then spent an hour mulching all around the plantings. Their enthusiasm was infectious and everyone including the staff had a great day out. The plantings will increase wildlife habitat on the Hutt River and act as shelter for people enjoying the Hutt River Trail. A corporate planting day in the Belmont Domain resulted in 250 plants being planted in an inaccessible area for mowing.

4.4 Watercourses

Stream checks have been undertaken on all watercourses in the region, and a number of wind fallen trees have been removed as a result of these checks.

4.5 Gravel extraction

Gravel extraction figures to the end of July 2007 are set out below.

			Period Year 2007/08 (cubic metres)		Year 2006/07 (cubic metres)
River	Area	Contractor	Period	Year	Full Year
Hutt	Estuary	Winstones	4,116	4,116	46,100
	River	Horokiwi	6,849	6,849	46,890
Otaki	River	Winstones	3,866	3,866	40,929
Waikanae	Above Greenaway Road	Various	0	0	3,330
	Below Greenaway Road	Gary Holland Earthmoving	0	0	5,360
Waitohu	River	Mills Albert	2,502	2,502	2,500
TOTALS			17,333	17,333	145,109

5. Wairarapa Operations [Mike Longworth]

5.1 Wairarapa River Schemes

5.1.1 Annual Works Programmes

The 2007/08 annual works programmes for the Wairarapa Rivers have commenced with planting, tree work and some island clearing on the Waiohine River. The heavy protective works will start in the period around October/November.

The new Kopuaranga River Scheme work has started with clearing willow blocks. Aerial spraying will be undertaken in the summer.

Staff have been preparing the documentation required for the schemes asset management plan reports.

5.1.2 Drainage Schemes

There are no significant issues to report. The mild winter to date has resulted in much lower power consumption compared to this time last year.

5.2 Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme Review (LWVDS)

The LWVD scheme review committee plan to meet with in the next month before commencing the Special Consultative Procedure which is necessary before the new classification can be recommended to Council.

5.3 Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme Global Consent

Work has continued on the LWVD Scheme Global Consent to get sign-offs from affected parties. Iwi have asked for some additional information before they agree to approve the documents.

5.4 Study of Private Stopbanks and Other Structures around Lake Wairarapa

The proposed study of private stopbanks and other structures around Lake Wairarapa as outlined in the March meeting report has been started by Opus International Consultants (Michael Hewison). A letter advising of the scope of the study will be sent out to affected landowners. Michael will then be making contact with the land owners.

6. Strategy and Technical Support [Sharyn Westlake]

The following table summarises the number of formal, written requests attended to from 1 August -20 August 2007:

	June 2007	YTD
Requests brought forward	3	3
Additional requests received	20	20
Responses provided	16	16
Outstanding requests	4	4

Policy work over this period included the Department's input to the Ministry of the Environment's National Policy Statement (NPS) on Flood Risk Management, regarding development of the NPS scope and content, and review of submissions received to date.

Flood Protection is holding four internal workshops before the end of 2007 to inform staff about best practice flood risk management, with the first one scheduled for mid September.

The Policy Team has also contributed to the options development of Phase 2 of the Waiwhetu Stream Project.

Staff met with members of the Tawa Rotary Club to discuss possible options for the creation of a walkway alongside the Porirua Stream through Tawa. The proposed walkway would potentially cross public and private land and there are a number of issues to work through before this project could be taken to the next stage.

Staff met with Fish and Game NZ to discuss issues with Flood Protection capital works and maintenance. Fish and Game are generally satisfied with how their interests are being catered for, and the Memorandum of Understanding between Flood Protection and Fish and Game will be rolled over for another three year period.

Staff responded to a request from Hutt City Council (HCC) to look at possible sites on the Hutt River and surrounds where a grove of Cherry Blossoms could be established in recognition of their sister city in Japan. Staff and several Councillors met with HCC staff and Mayor Ogden to discuss this. A number of possible sites were considered and HCC selected Avalon Park which they manage, as the most suitable option.

7. Investigations and Assets [John Eyles]

7.1 Waiwhetu Stream floodplain management study

The technical work required to complete Phase 2 was finished in June 2007 and has been reported to the Waiwhetu Stream Advisory Committee. This work included studies into:

1. Flood mitigation options in the upper Waiwhetu.
2. Channel Management
3. Bridge waterway improvements in the upper Waiwhetu.
4. Flood Proofing isolated properties.
5. Flood warning and evacuation.
6. Channel Morphology.
7. Assessment of easements and encroachments for the lower channel.

The next phase of the project is to complete option development, formal consultation, drafting the Flood Management Plan (FMP) and getting signoff from HCC and GW by the end of June 2008.

In late June, Hutt City Council and Greater Wellington confirmed a 33% local share (estimated to be \$2,000,000) towards the clean up costs of the contaminated sediments in the Waiwhetu Stream. At the same time, an application to the Contaminated Sites Remediation Fund (CSRF) for the remaining 67% (estimated to be \$4,000,000) was made.

A letter was received from the Ministry on 3 August. The funding the Ministry has offered is 50% (up to a maximum of \$2,929,500) over three years broken down as follows:

- 2007/08- \$1,000,000
- 2008/09- \$1,000,000
- 2009/10- \$929,500

This latest offer replaces an earlier offer from the Ministry to fund 40% (\$2.4M) that was received in May.

In the eyes of the Ministry, the project has not achieved “special” status worthy of a higher level of funding such as other high profile contaminated sites at Mapua and Tui Mine. We understand that an approach will be made by elected GW representatives to acting Minister for the Environment David Parker to consider additional funding from the CSRF. The offer will be discussed at the next WSAC meeting, scheduled for 22 August.

7.2 Asset management

A reciprocal peer review of flood protection assets was undertaken with staff from the Wairarapa office in early August. The peer reviews provide the opportunity for staff in the Flood Protection Department (Wairarapa and Western Rivers) to compare and contrast asset maintenance practices across the region. A write up of the peer reviews is underway

and the results will be reported in the annual Western Rivers Asset Management report at the September LCC.

Software provider SAP has been selected for further consideration in the organisation-wide asset management information system review. We are currently considering how the next stage of the assessment process will be resourced within Flood Protection.

Graeme Campbell
Manager, Flood Protection