



Report 07.645  
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Committee Landcare  
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## Waiwhetu Stream Advisory Committee Summary and Minutes of 22 August 2007 meeting

### 1. Purpose

To provide a summary of the key outcomes from the Waiwhetu Stream Advisory Committee (WSAC) meeting held on 7 May 2007.

### 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

The confirmed minutes from the meeting are attached to this report.

The Committee received reports on the technical studies to complete Phase 2, combination of options development and the project manager's report but the main item for discussion was the contaminated sediment clean up.

#### **Contaminated Sites Remediation Fund: Response from Ministry for the Environment**

3.1 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 for the remaining 67% (estimated to be \$4,000,000) was made.

3.2 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

- 3.3 The Ministry offer, plus the local share from both councils leaves a funding shortfall of approximately \$1M to complete the clean up project. 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. The WSAC was advised that while the offer is considered “final” by Ministry officers, there is a prospect of further funding after consideration by the acting Minister for the Environment David Parker.
- 3.4 Given the information above, the Advisory Committee was asked to provide direction to officers for the next steps with the project.

#### **4. Advisory Committee Recommendations**

The Advisory Committee has recommended that although full funding is not yet in place, that preparatory work should start on the contaminated sediment clean up project.

- 4.1 This preparatory work could involve:
- negotiating roles and responsibilities with the MfE, HCC and GWRC, including project management and governance arrangements;
  - refining the remediation technique;
  - proof testing of remediation technique and acceptability of the contaminated sediments for landfill disposal;
  - completing final design of channel widening and deepening.
- 4.2 The project agreement with each agency will need to address who gains the benefits for cost savings or bears the risk for cost overruns given that the project costing estimates for the clean up are nearly a year old and to a preliminary design accuracy of +/- 20%. Other considerations include an allowance for inflation and cash flowing of actual expenditure.
- 4.3 Removing the contaminated sediments is a cornerstone for the flood protection and environmental enhancement work proposed for the lower Waiwhetu stream. There is also a clear community expectation that the contaminated sediments will be addressed as part of the environmental enhancement of the stream.

#### **5. Consequences for the Waiwhetu project**

The Advisory Committee’s recommendation means that the priority of the project has changed from completion of the FMP to commencing the cleanup and the associated flood protection widening and deepening in the lower Waiwhetu channel. In practice this means:

1. A delay of up to 12 months in the completion of the Waiwhetu Floodplain Management Plan.
2. Project planning work is already underway for the inter agency agreements, final design, resource consenting and proof testing of the removal methodology. A governance and management structure for the clean up project will be established to guide the decision making process during the initial stages. This will need to be approved before significant expenditure on this project is committed.
3. A shortfall of approximately \$1M exists between the funding available and the amount estimated to complete clean up works. A special meeting of the Advisory Committee will be called to discuss options once a final response on funding from the Minister for the Environment has been received. Recommendations will be made back to each council after this meeting.

## 6. Recommendations

*That the Committee:*

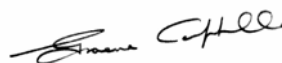
1. **Receives** the report.
2. **Notes** the contents of the report.

Report prepared by:



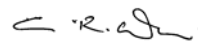
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**Geoff Dick**  
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Attachment 1: Waiwhetu Stream Advisory Committee Report – 22 August 2007