



Report 08.660
Date 18 September 2008
File N/03/13/25

Committee Hutt River Advisory Subcommittee
Author Daya Atapattu, Team Leader, Western FMPs

Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan Project Manager's Report

1. Purpose

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

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 HRFMP implementation, currently in its eighth year, is progressing well. The Flood Protection Operating Plan 2008–2016, provides for \$4 million per year to implement the priority projects. We are currently working on two construction projects and two investigation projects.

- Ava to Ewen project
- Whirinaki Crescent stopbank upgrade
- Boulcott/Hutt stopbank project
- Maoribank riverbed investigations

4. Ava to Ewen project

The Ava to Ewen project is progressing to programme and well within budget. The project, now about 80 percent complete, is in its last stage of implementation. The last stage involves the reconstruction of the Strand Park stopbank from Ewen Bridge to Whites Line West.

The tendering of the Strand Park Stopbank Reconstruction Contract is complete and the contractor, Goodman Contractors Ltd, was appointed on 10 September 2008.

This \$2 million contract involves:

- Placing and compacting about 50,000 cubic metres of fill materials to raise and strengthen about 1 kilometre long Strand Park stopbank
- Constructing about 100 metres of floodwalls below the Ewen Bridge
- Upsizing two stormwater pipes in partnership with Hutt City Council (HCC)
- Providing access over the stopbank for a future car park and providing lighting along the stopbank in partnership with HCC

The Contract Works are scheduled for completion by June 2009.

The existing stopbank walkway is extensively used for pedestrian and cycle access to the high school and the city centre. There are currently only 10 lighting poles along the 1 kilometre long stopbank. The Contract includes providing lighting along the footpath to meet current HCC standards for lighting high use walkways. In addition to this, we are also investigating options to provide limited lighting along the Alicetown stopbank from the Ava Rail Bridge to Mudie Street. These lighting projects are joint initiatives between Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) and HCC.

Stage 1 of the Opahu Stream planting began with a community planting day on 5 July 2008. A second community planting day is scheduled for Saturday, 27 September 2008.

All tidying up works and any remaining remedial works in the Ava to Ewen reach are scheduled for completion in 2009/10. The Ava to Ewen project will be completed by June 2010.

5. Whirinaki Crescent stopbank

The reconstruction works on about 875 metres of the 925 metre long stopbank are now complete. We are experiencing major delays in completing the remaining 50 metres to connect the stopbank into high ground because of issues related to obtaining resource consents for removing five trees. Report No. 08.662 provides an update.

6. Boulcott/Hutt project

The Boulcott/Hutt project reached a major milestone with GWRC's adoption of a preferred alignment of the Boulcott/Hutt stopbank. Report No. 08.661 outlines the proposed implementation programme to project completion.

7. Maoribank riverbed stabilisation

The Hutt River bed from Totara Park Bridge up to the Norbert Street footbridge is degrading (lowering). This bed degradation is undermining the existing bank stabilisation works on both banks of the river. The bed levels above the Maoribank bend are now held by the rock outcrop at the bend. There is a high likelihood that the river will cut through this outcrop within the next 5 to 10 years, putting both banks of the river from the Maoribank bend to the Norbert Street footbridge at high risk from erosion damage.

The Maoribank riverbed stabilisation investigations are implemented in three stages.

- Stage 1 – Risk assessment
- Stage 2 – Erosion management strategy
- Stage 3 – Strategy implementation

The stage 1 risk assessment is now complete. **Attachment 1** contains the Executive Summary of the risk assessment.

The risk assessment has identified three areas at high risk from erosion damage.

- (1) Erosion damage to the Totara Park stopbank (within five years)
- (2) Harcourt area LB erosion (within five years)
- (3) State Highway 2 LB erosion (within 20 years)

There are three options that can be considered by GWRC to lower the above risks to an acceptable level.

- (1) Upgrade all Maoribank reach edge protections to an acceptable level
- (2) Upgrade Totara Park and Harcourt area edge protections to lower the risk to an acceptable level
- (3) Strengthen the rock outcrop to hold at current levels.

Urgent attention is required to manage the critical risks, and the analysis suggests that control or mitigation measures should be in place within 5 to 10 years.

We are currently preparing concept designs and cost estimates for the above mitigation options. At this stage we believe that about \$1.5 million would be necessary to lower the risk to a manageable level in the Maoribank reach. We are proposing that funding be provided in the years 2013/14 and 2014/15 to complete urgent works in the Maoribank reach. We expect to further report to the Advisory Subcommittee in March 2009 with details of recommended mitigation options.

8. District plan changes

Upper Hutt City Council (UHCC) is now preparing for District Plan Change 15 to include the Hutt River flood hazard in the areas directly affected by the Hutt River. We will assist UHCC with preparing the section 32 report, in consultation with the affected residents. This report will address the appropriateness of the proposed plan change for achieving the purpose of the Resource Management Act and the costs and benefits of the plan change.

We will also be proposing that they include the recently completed Mangaroa flood hazard maps in the same plan change.

9. Draft capital works programme

We are currently going through the process of preparing the draft 2009-2019 Hutt River capital works programme for inclusion in GWRC's proposed 2009-2019 LTCCP. The draft Hutt River capital works programme will include:

- The Boulcott/Hutt project
- The City Centre stopbank project from Ewen Bridge to Mills Street
- Urgent works in the Maoribank reach
- Ebdentown and Bridge Road edge protections in Upper Hutt

We expect to table the above works programme at the 25 September 2008 meeting.

10. Communication

Communication initiatives, including press releases, newsletters and meetings with residents, are in place for all the HRFMP components. A letter was sent to adjoining property owners advising of the Contractor's appointment for the Strand Park Stopbank Contract. Adjoining property owners and local schools were invited to another planting day along the Opahu Stream. A newsletter containing the Contractor's programme on Strand Park stopbank construction will be distributed once the Contractor's programme is approved. A press release was issued following the adoption of the preferred alignment for the Boulcott/Hutt stopbank.

11. Recommendations

That the Subcommittee:

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

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Report approved by:

Daya Atapattu
Team Leader, Western FMPs

Graeme Campbell
Manager, Flood Protection

Geoff Dick
Divisional Manager,
Catchment Management

Attachment

- 1 - Executive summary of the Maoribank Erosion Study Risk Assessment