

**HUTT CITY COUNCIL**

**WAIWHETU STREAM ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE**

Report of an additional meeting held at the Pelorus Trust Sportshouse,  
Hutt Park , Lower Hutt on  
**Wednesday 3 February 2010 commencing at 4.00pm**

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**PRESENT:** Cr P Lamason, GWRC (Chair)  
Cr I Buchanan, GWRC  
Cr S Greig, GWRC  
Cr P Glensor, GWRC  
Cr R Jamieson, HCC  
Cr R Styles, HCC  
Mayor DK Ogden, HCC  
Mr T Puketapu  
Mr L Roberts, Waiwhetu Stream Working Group

**APOLOGIES:** There were no apologies.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs F Wilde, Chair, GWRC  
Cr R Wallace, HCC  
Mr D Benham, Chief Executive, GWRC  
Mr B Sherlock, General Manager City Infrastructure, HCC  
Mr G Campbell, Manager Flood Protection, GWRC  
Mr W O'Donnell, General Manager, Catchment Management, GWRC  
Mr T Porteous, Project Manager, Waiwhetu Stream Project, GWRC  
Mr A Allen, Assistant Engineer, Waiwhetu Stream Project, GWRC  
Mr J Coakley, Consultant, URS  
Mr R Grobecker, Engineer, Waiwhetu Stream Contract, CPG  
Ms D Bush, Committee Advisor, HCC

**REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**PUBLIC BUSINESS**

Matters requiring specific consideration by Council are shown as "RECOMMENDED" while those matters which are within the Subcommittee's power to determine are shown as "RESOLVED."

UNCONFIRMED

1. **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

3. **WAIWHETU STREAM FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT STUDY 7A  
WAIU ST UPDATE: REMOVAL OF CONTAMINATED MATERIAL**

Report No. WSAS2010/1/1 by the Project Manager - circulated pages 1-4.

The Assistant Engineer, Waiwhetu Project, Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) elaborated on the report. He explained the procedure that had been undertaken for the removal of contaminated soil from the cleanfill site at 7A Waiu Street, Wainuiomata.

The Manager, Flood Protection, GWRC, apologised for the dumping of contaminated material at Wainuiomata. He noted that no GWRC managers were aware of the incidents before 4 December, 2009.

Members noted that officers had identified possible problems and thanked them for dealing with them in a timely fashion.

In response to a request from a member for assurances from officers that there were systems in place on the project to ensure that these incidents did not recur, the Manager, Flood Protection advised that GWRC had made changes in the project management structure and that Mr T Porteous had been appointed as the Project Manager, Waiwhetu Stream Project. He confirmed that the Project Manager had a clear understanding of the current challenges of the project.

The Chair, GWRC advised that the Wainuiomata cleanfill incidents had drawn attention to the need that clear lines of internal communication between all concerned were maintained and that communication between the main project partners, GWRC and HCC was robust.

The Chief Executive, GWRC reiterated the points made by the Chair, GWRC. He apologised to both Councils and the public for the Wainuiomata cleanfill incidents. He provided his personal assurance that

as much as possible was being done inside GWRC to ensure that incidents were not repeated in the future.

Mayor Ogden advised that while he appreciated the apologies from GWRC he was concerned that the community still felt let down by Council. He reiterated that it was important that everyone concerned had learned a lesson from the decision to dump contaminated fill in Waiu Street without consultation with all affected parties.

Cr Wallace acknowledged the work of officers on the Project. He noted that they had taken the concern of the community regarding the dumping of contaminated fill at Waiu Street, Wainuiomata, seriously. He advised that officers had kept the local community informed of the work that was being undertaken to remediate the problems.

The Manager, Flood Protection, GWRC advised that he was confident that all the contaminated material from the Waiwhetu Stream Project had been removed from the landfill at 7A Waiu Street, Wainuiomata. He noted that officers were working in partnership with the Wainuiomata Community Board to engage the services of an independent consultant to test the toxicity levels at the site.

In response to a question from a member, the Assistant Engineer advised that the Waiwhetu Project used the Australia and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC) Interim Sediment Quality Guidelines (ISQG) for measuring the level of lead contamination (the most serious of the contaminants in the stream). He said that the objective of the remediation was to ensure that the levels of lead in the stream bed were reduced to ISQG - Low levels (or 220 parts per million) or below.

Cr Styles noted that while the ISQG - Low values were appropriate in a stream environment they could be considered overly conservative when used as a threshold to determine contamination in a cleanfill. He asked what work had been undertaken to determine the existing (or background) levels of contamination at the Wainuiomata cleanfill and requested officers to report on the subject to its next meeting.

In response to a question from a member, the Assistant Engineer advised that 900 truckloads of material had been taken to the Waiu Street landfill. He further advised that 80 truckloads had contained contaminated material and had been removed from Waiu Street to the Silverstream landfill.

MOVED: (Chair/Mayor Ogden)

"That the Subcommittee:

- (i) receives the report; and
- (ii) notes the contents of the report."

Members requested officers to report to its next meeting on the setting of appropriate levels of contamination for landfills.

AMENDMENT MOVED: (Cr Buchanan/Cr Jamieson)

That a new part (iii) be added to read 'requests officers to report back to its next meeting on the setting of appropriate thresholds for contamination for deposits to cleanfills.'

RESOLVED:

**Minute No. WSAS 100101**

*"That the Subcommittee:*

- (i) receives the report;*
- (ii) notes the contents of the report; and*
- (iii) requests officers to report back to its next meeting on the setting of appropriate thresholds for contamination for deposits to cleanfills."*

The amendment was declared CARRIED on the voices.

**4. WAIWHETU STREAM FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT STUDY  
WAIWHETU CONTRACT 1268 COSTS UPDATE**

Report No. WSAS2010/1/2 by the Project Manager – circulated pages 5-15.

The Manager, Flood Protection, GWRC tabled an amended report and elaborated on the amended report.

The Manager, Flood Protection, GWRC explained that the report had been amended as there had been an error in the calculation of the revised project costs and that an increase in funding was required to continue the project.

Mayor Ogden expressed concern regarding the timeliness of the amended report. He noted that the amended figures were substantially different and that the amended report had not been received by members in time for them to consider the changes prior to the meeting.

The Manager, Flood Protection, GWRC explained that the need for additional funding for the project was the result of considerably more contaminated material being found in the stream than had first been estimated. He noted that the total volume of material to be excavated, both cleanfill and contaminated material remained about the same as originally estimated (about 43,500 cubic metres) but that the proportions had changed. He further noted that there was an increased quantity of contaminated material and a corresponding decrease in clean material.

In response to questions from members, Mr Coakley, URS explained the reasons for the additional contaminated material. He explained that approximately 3,200 cubic metres of fill from the "U" channel section below Seaview Road bridge had now been identified as being contaminated. He advised that that material had previously been thought to be clean. He noted that in the area of the Urupa the contamination extended further laterally and in depth than previously calculated. He said that in the main clean up area there was more contamination than first thought including "lenses" of contamination running into the banks.

In response to questions from members, Mr Coakley advised that the consultants had been surprised that the revised estimate of the contamination was more than double that of the original estimate. He noted that it was the nature of contaminated site remediation projects that there were unknowns.

The Manager, Flood Protection, GWRC presented three options to the members for consideration. Option one was to work within existing budgets that would result in the project being stopped immediately. The second option was to complete the clean up of cells A to H and defer any clean up of the stream below the Seaview Road Bridge. The final option was for both Councils to agree to the increased funding requested in the amended report and complete the project. Members noted that options one and two would result in neither the flood improvements, nor the clean up objectives of the project being met.

Mr R Grobecker, Engineer, CPG explained the various elements that resulted in additional costs to each council. He noted that overall the excavation work was significantly greater than anticipated.

In response to a question from a member, the General Manager, City Infrastructure, HCC advised that the original funding arrangement involved GWRC being responsible for costs associated with flood protection works and HCC being responsible for costs associated with the contaminated sediments clean up. He further advised that due to the funding arrangements it was always a risk for HCC should anything go wrong as HCC would be required to increase their contribution to the project while the other funding contributions were fixed.

In response to a suggestion from a member, the Manager, Flood Protection, GWRC confirmed that work was being undertaken by officers and contractors to investigate the maximum amount of uncontaminated material as possible that could be removed in order to reduce landfill costs.

Members requested officers to go back to the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) and request additional funding that recognised the major significance of the work being undertaken in the clean up of the Waiwhetu Stream.

Members requested officers to report to its next meeting on the levels of contamination upstream and on the level of consultants' fees and options to proceed. Officers were also requested to report to its next meeting on GWRC retaining their contribution of 7% of the overall cost of the project.

Members noted that it was crucial that a decision be made urgently on the funding issues. They considered that it was important that the project continued.

Members agreed that, in order to make a balanced decision, the current recommendations lie on the table and an additional meeting of the Subcommittee be arranged for 3.00pm, Monday 15 February where an officer's report addressing all the concerns would be considered before a final decision was made.

**RESOLVED:**

**Minute No. WSAS 100102**

*"That this matter lie on the table and be discussed at an additional meeting of the Waiwhetu Stream Advisory Subcommittee to be held on Monday 15 February, 2010 at 3.00pm.*

**5. QUESTIONS**

There were no questions.

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.00pm.

Cr Prue Lamason  
**CHAIR**

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