

Report 2014.16
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Committee Council
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Establishment of the Te Kāuru Upper Ruamāhanga River Floodplain Management Plan Subcommittee

1. Purpose

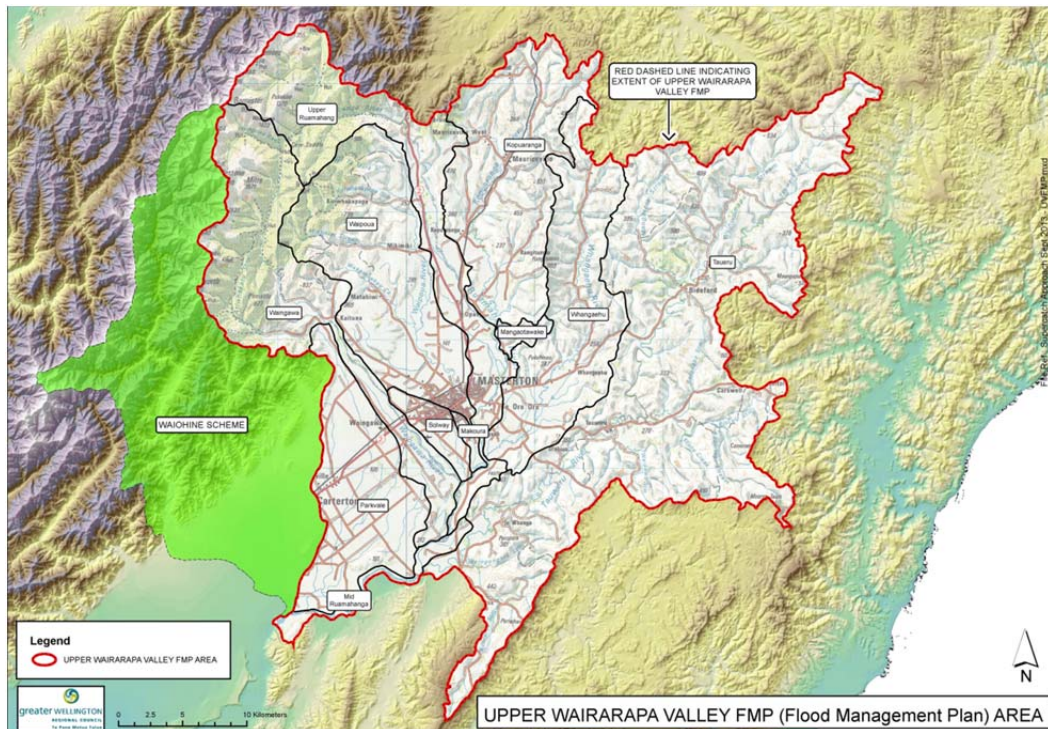
For Council to establish the Te Kāuru Upper Ruamāhanga River Floodplain Management Plan Sub-committee.

2. Background

On 21 November 2013 the Council adopted its committee and advisory group structure (Report 13.1004) and noted a separate report would be prepared on the establishment of a Wairarapa flood management subcommittee.

The decision to establish a new subcommittee was endorsed in September 2012 [Report 12.420] and further outlined by officers at an Environmental Wellbeing committee workshop and presentations made to the Wairarapa River Scheme meetings and Chairs meeting in September/October 2013.

The Te Kāuru Upper Ruamāhanga River Floodplain Management Plan Subcommittee will be tasked with developing a Floodplain Management Plan for the upper Ruamahanga Valley area, for consideration and adoption by Council. A Floodplain Management Plan is a non-statutory plan that sets out a long-term strategy for managing areas at risk from flooding and erosion. A Floodplain Management Plan may contain both regulatory and non-regulatory proposals. It is envisaged that the development of the plan will take up to two years to complete. The proposed terms of reference for the Te Kāuru Upper Ruamāhanga River Floodplain Management Plan Subcommittee are attached as **Attachment 1**. The area covered by the plan to be developed is shown below:



2.1 Te Kāuru Upper Ruamāhanga River Floodplain Management Subcommittee name and meaning

Rangitāne o Wairarapa, and Ngāti Kahungunu Ki Wairarapa (the iwi authorities whose rohe falls within the sub-committee boundary) were approached by officers to suggest a name for the sub-committee. Their suggestion was Te Kāuru Upper Ruamāhanga River, Kāuru meaning head (of a tree, river or stream). Officers are supportive of this name.

2.2 Relationship to the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee and existing river scheme advisory committees

Officers are aware that the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee has recently been established and encompasses a similar, albeit larger area to the Te Kāuru Upper Ruamāhanga River Floodplain Management Plan Subcommittee. To ensure effective communication between the two committees an update/report from the respective project manager will be a standing item on each committee's agenda.

It should be noted that the existing eight river scheme advisory committees will manage the activities of their respective schemes and continue to report to the Strategy and Policy Committee. Once the Floodplain Management Plan is completed a decision will need to be made about the most appropriate future governance arrangements.

2.3 Te Kāuru Upper Ruamāhanga River Floodplain Management Plan Subcommittee composition

The proposed terms of reference state the composition of the subcommittee. It is proposed that the Chairperson of the subcommittee will be appointed by Council from the community representatives appointed to the Subcommittee.

As the Chairperson is expected to carry a workload outside of formally convened meetings it is proposed that they be eligible to receive a taxable annual honorarium of \$5,000.

3. Communication

The relevant territorial authorities will be informed of the subcommittee's establishment.

4. Financial considerations

The costs to establish the Te Kāuru Upper Ruamāhanga River Floodplain Management Subcommittee can be accommodated within the existing project budgets.

5. The decision-making process and significance

The matters requiring decision in this report have been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.

5.1 Significance of the decision

Officers have considered the significance of the matter, taking into account the Council's significance policy and decision-making guidelines. Due to the procedural nature of this decision officers recommend that the matter be considered to have low significance.

Officers do not consider that a formal record outlining consideration of the decision-making process is required in this instance.

6. Recommendations

That the Council:

1. ***Receives** the report.*
2. ***Notes** the content of the report.*
3. ***Establishes** the Te Kāuru Upper Ruamāhanga River Floodplain Management Plan Subcommittee.*
4. ***Adopts** the terms of reference for the Te Kāuru Upper Ruamāhanga River Floodplain Management Plan Subcommittee.*
5. ***Appoints** Cr McPhee (Wairarapa Constituency Councillor) and Cr Donaldson (Chair, Strategy and Policy Committee) to the Subcommittee.*

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**Attachment 1: Te Kāuru Upper Ruamāhanga River Floodplain Management Plan
Subcommittee terms of reference**