

Report 15.39  
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Committee Hutt Valley Flood Management Subcommittee  
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## Hutt Valley Flood Management

### Project Manager's Report - February 2015

#### 1. Purpose

To update the Subcommittee on progress made with various Hutt Valley flood management projects.

#### 2. Background

The Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) is currently implementing a number of flood protection projects in the Hutt Valley. There are separate reports to the Subcommittee providing updates on major projects. This report keeps track of progress on all projects, and also provides references to the major project reports.

#### 3. City Centre Project

Investigations to prepare the Integrated Concept Design options are progressing with the aim of commencing community consultation in mid 2015. Report 15.40 provides details.

#### 4. Boulcott/Hutt Project

The boundary surveys are complete and the draft survey plans are currently being reviewed by Hutt City Council and the Golf Club. The Golf Club is continuing with course development works.

Safeway Storage Limited's claim against GWRC remains to be resolved.

#### 5. Waiwhetu Stream Flood Management Plan

##### 5.1 Fish Survey

GWRC completed a survey of stream invertebrates, fish communities and stream habitat in the Waiwhetu Stream on 20 January 2015. This survey is a repeat of work carried out in 2002 by Kingett Mitchell, and will be used to both compare fish populations against the 2002 results, and to set a benchmark against which future stream improvement work can be measured.

The fishing surveys recorded species present in the stream that were not identified in 2002, including longfin eels and koaro. Inanga – one of the five whitebait species that is considered “at risk” by DoC – was abundant at most of the sites assessed.

Full results including scientific interpretation are in development, and will be reported to the Subcommittee when available.

## **5.2 Waiwhetu Stream Walkover**

In conjunction with the Friends of Waiwhetu Stream and Hutt City Council, GWRC is co-ordinating a morning walkover of the Waiwhetu stream. These walkovers provide an opportunity for the community to directly discuss with councillors, officers and other community members the work which has been carried out on the stream, issues that exist, and inspect the initiatives of both Council and community that have been implemented or may be implemented in the future.

The event is planned to start at 9am on 27 March. Further details will be provided through the Councillor Bulletins for GWRC and HCC councillors respectively.

## **6. Pinehaven Floodplain Management**

Officers have prepared the Terms of Reference for an independent audit of flood modelling and mapping for the Subcommittee’s approval. Report 15.38 provides details.

## **7. Mangaroa FHA and Upper Hutt City Council Proposed Plan Change 15**

GWRC consultants are preparing a report addressing the peer reviewer’s comments around the Mangaroa River modelling that were raised during the Plan Change 15 process. When this information is received, officers will discuss it with the Upper Hutt City Council (UHCC), and involve their reviewer to ensure that any concerns are addressed before a new plan change is initiated by UHCC to put the flood hazard information into their District Plan.

## **8. Maintenance and Recreation Activities**

Bed re-contouring has been undertaken in a number of areas along the river, dry gravel beaches have been ripped and vegetation has been removed to stop islands forming. Willow layering has also been undertaken. This allows the cut willow trees to sucker against the eroding bank edge and grow again, forming protection against further erosion.

Significant bank edge erosion has taken place in the reaches below Totara Park and Belmont in the Hutt River, and it is proposed to bring forward budget to do the repairs. Staff are currently finalising the design and rock procurement tenders.

The Hutt River gravel analysis, processing the survey data from last year, is progressing. Outcomes from this analysis with the suggested gravel extraction policies for the next five years will be reported to the Subcommittee for

endorsement. The Hutt River annual ‘Gravel Grab’ is scheduled for 14 February 2015.

The fine weather has significantly increased visitor numbers to all our rivers. The major concern over the period has been the presence of toxic algae in the Hutt and Ruamahanga Rivers, which has been deterring people from using those rivers for swimming. Apart from an increase in the amount of dumped rubbish, users are generally behaving well.

## **9. Communication**

A group of US students are currently doing a survey to investigate ‘Flood and Climate Change Perception in the Hutt Valley’. It is expected that this survey will help to raise the awareness of the Hutt Valley community on the risk of flooding.

Communication initiatives, including newsletters, meetings with residents and other stakeholders, are in place for all projects. Most of the major projects are receiving wide publicity through the local press.

## **10. The decision-making process and significance**

No decision is being sought in this report. This report provides an update on implementing the current floodplain management projects, and is for information only.

### **10.1 Engagement**

Engagement on the matters contained in this report aligns with the level of significance assessed. Major projects have their own engagement initiatives as outlined in section 9.

## **11. Recommendations**

*That the Subcommittee:*

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

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