

Report 15.40  
Date 12 February 2015  
File E/12/08/04

Committee Hutt Valley Flood Management Subcommittee  
Author Daya Atapattu, Team Leader, FMP Implementation

## Hutt River City Centre Upgrade Project Integrated Concept Design - Update

### 1. Purpose

To update the Subcommittee on progress made with the Integrated Concept Designs for the City Centre Upgrade Project

### 2. Background

In 2013, the Subcommittee endorsed the preparation of an Integrated Concept Design that combines components of other public projects in the river corridor with the proposed flood protection works. These other projects include the Hutt City Council's Making Places Project, NZTA's Melling Intersection Project and other service and utility improvement projects.

A Management Group (MG), comprised of senior management from GWRC, HCC and NZTA, is managing the process to prepare the Integrated Concept Design.

### 3. Melling Gateway

The flood capacity of the existing Melling Bridge is well below the required standard and needs replacement to achieve the full benefits of the flood protection works. The bridge and intersection are also constraints in terms of vehicle movement.

A decision on the timing for replacing the Melling Bridge will enable the three agencies to develop and co-ordinate appropriate plans for the implementation of flood protection and *Making Places* activities.

A strategic assessment completed in November 2014 has confirmed that there is a compelling case for the investment in the current infrastructure at the Melling Gateway, to improve the resilience, accessibility and safety of Hutt City. Following the strategic assessment, the Management Group agreed to progress to the next stage of the NZTA business case process; preparation of a Programme Business Case (PBC).

The Working Group commenced the preparation of the PBC in February with the aim of completion by April 2015. The PBC expects to develop the programme options and sequencing to achieve optimum benefits from the Melling Gateway Project.

#### **Transport Assessment**

The Working Group has also commenced a transport assessment to assess the economic benefits of a new Melling Bridge. This study will provide inputs to support the PBC.

### **4. Option Development**

The Working Group is progressing with option development, with the aim of community consultation in mid - 2015.

Officers are currently developing a number of river corridor concepts to a level that allows comparison of the pros and cons in regard to *Making Places* objectives, traffic and roading connectivity, public transport, resilience, economic impacts, public and open space amenity, ecological opportunities, Melling Bridge, and infrastructure networks.

Concept plans are being prepared to show the integration of various project components.

### **5. Climate Change Adaptation**

GWRC officers are currently in discussions with NIWA, to develop a study to update the Hutt River flood frequency using the most up to date hydrological data for the Hutt River.

The study will also include modelling of climate change impacts on the Hutt River flood frequency. This will involve the downscaling of the most recent climate change predictions for New Zealand to the Wellington Region, and then to the Hutt catchment using most appropriate methods.

Information currently available on climate change impacts will be updated following this study.

The developed options would be considered for the adaptive management of changing flood risk resulting from the predicted climate change. In order to demonstrate the use of the adaptive planning approach, a workshop on 'Adaptive pathways – Delta Game session' has been planned for the Subcommittee on 24 February 2015 (preceding the scheduled meeting).

### **6. Option Evaluation**

The Working Group is currently developing an evaluation process which allows the options to be evaluated and reported on their relative benefits and costs, and which is sufficiently robust to satisfy testing under the RMA for statutory approvals for the preferred option.

Officers are currently working with consultants to look at evaluation methods, as used in the UK and the Netherlands, to evaluate climate change adaptation options. These methods will be in addition to the traditional methods, such as cost benefit analysis, cost effectiveness analysis and Multi Criteria Analysis.

Following an initial evaluation, the Working Group expects to recommend a short list of options to the Subcommittee in June 2015 to proceed with community consultation.

## **7. Community Engagement and Consultation**

Community consultation is planned to commence in mid-2015.

The first stage of community consultation would be direct communication and engagement with potentially affected parties under various options, to ensure that they are aware and fully informed of the options under consultation and are encouraged to make submissions.

The Working Group is working with communications officers of the three agencies to develop the consultation programme.

A student research survey, supported by GWRC and HCC, to investigate 'Flood and Climate Change Perception in the Hutt Valley' commenced in February 2015. It is expected that this survey would promote public discussion on flooding and climate change, and help raise awareness of the flooding risk to the Hutt Valley.

## **8. Communication**

Communication initiatives, such as newspaper articles and the student survey, will proceed until the community consultation commences in mid-2015. A wide range of communications, marketing and engagement tools will be used during the community consultation to ensure that a robust and transparent consultation process is undertaken.

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

No decision is being sought in this report. This report provides an update on the development of the Integrated Concept Design options and is for information only.

### **9.1 Engagement**

Engagement on the matters contained in this report aligns with the level of significance assessed. The engagement process is set out in section 7 of the report.

## **10. Recommendations**

*That the Subcommittee:*

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

Report prepared by:

**Daya Atapattu**  
Team Leader  
FMP Implementation

Report approved by:

**Graeme Campbell**  
Manager  
Flood Protection

Report approved by:

**Wayne O'Donnell**  
General Manager  
Catchment Management