

Report 15.553
Date 2 November 2015
File CCAB-14-56

Committee Hutt Valley Flood Management Subcommittee
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Hutt Valley Flood Management Project Manager's Report - November 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. Hutt River City Centre Upgrade Project

The community feedback on Integrated Concept designs closed on the 14 September with 279 written responses. A Hearing Panel of the Subcommittee met on 15 October to consider all written responses and hear 28 oral presentations. The Panel recommended Option A to the Subcommittee for consideration and recommendation to the Environment Committee. The Hearing Panel recommendations are in the Report 15.547 of this Order Paper.

Council is expected to consider the Committee recommendations on 9 December 2015.

4. Boulcott/Hutt Project

The boundary surveys are complete and the draft Survey Office plans prepared by survey consultants are currently under review. The Golf Club is continuing with the course development works.

Safeway Storage Limited's claims against GWRC remain to be resolved.

5. Hutt River Environmental Strategy

The Hutt River Environmental Strategy (HRES) developed in 2001 sets the vision and guidance for the use of the river corridor. Current estimates of the visits to the Hutt River corridor are in the vicinity of 2 million per year making it one of the most visited parks in the Wellington region. Rapidly increasing visits and the demand for a wide range of uses, sometimes conflicting with the original vision, have resulted in the consideration of a review of the strategy. A scope for the proposed review is currently being developed with the aim of completing the review in 2016, in consultation with the key stakeholders and the wider community. This matter is considered in report 15.514 of this order paper.

6. Waiwhetu Stream Flood Management Plan

Recommencement of work on Waiwhetu Stream FMP had been deferred until 2015/16. With delays and challenges in programmed work completing Pinehaven FMP, Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga FMP and Waiohine FMP, staff may not be available to recommence Waiwhetu FMP this year. We will bring a more detailed update to a future HVFM Subcommittee meeting once the resourcing requirements of the above FMPs in 2015/16 are clearer.

7. Pinehaven floodplain management

The second round of community consultation on the Floodplain Management Plan closed on 16 October 2015. Report 15.561 in this order paper provides a summary of feedback received and the process for consideration of the submissions.

8. Mangaroa FHA and Upper Hutt City Council proposed plan change 15

GWRC consultants have completed the flood hazard remodelling for the Mangaroa River flood hazard to include an allowance for climate change and address the peer reviewer's comments around the Mangaroa River modelling that were raised during the Plan Change 15 process. They are currently completing the report and mapping the flood hazard zones for the draft District Plan maps. UHCC will be holding a Councillors workshop on 23 November to discuss the information before initiating a new plan change to put the flood hazard information into their District Plan.

9. Maintenance and recreation activities

Recent flood events have caused significant bank erosion at a number of locations along the Hutt River. The planned 2015/16 edge protections works programme will address the erosion upstream of Kennedy Good Bridge (KGB) at the Dog Club site and at Ebdentown below Totara Park Bridge. Two areas below KGB are significantly affected by bank erosion. These areas are located within the City Centre project reach and the edge protection designs for these areas have not been completed. The bank erosion in these two areas will be managed by temporary works until the design for the whole reach is completed.

The river berms are now getting busier with casual use and community events. A women's only marathon and a dog walking event were held recently. Ongoing improvements along the River Trail included a squeeze barrier replacing large concrete blocks at Birchville and the installation by Hutt City of an impressive pedestrian/cycling bridge over the Horokiwi Stream just south of Manor Park. The Ranger addressed two organisations and dealt with a number of compliance issues involving rubbish dumping, motorbikes and vehicles doing motorsports on the berms. There had been an accident on the river berm, which sadly was fatal. An incident report has been prepared and no further action is required by GWRC staff. Grant Timlin has resigned as the Hutt River Ranger.

10. Communication

Communication initiatives, including newsletters, meetings with residents and other stakeholders, are in place for all projects. The City Centre Upgrade Project has received wide publicity through the local and national press.

11. 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.

11.1 Engagement

Engagement on these matters is unnecessary. Major projects have their own engagement initiatives.

12. Recommendations

That the Subcommittee:

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

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