

Report	15.593
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Committee	Te Kauru Upper Ruamahanga River Floodplain Management Subcommittee
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Project manager's report- December 2015

1. Purpose

To update the subcommittee regarding the Te Kauru Upper Ruamahanga Floodplain management plan.

2. Waipoua hydrology refinements

At the meeting on 7 September 2015 the Subcommittee indicated that they wanted to see better alignment between Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) and Masterton District Council (MDC) regarding the flood risk affecting Masterton, and the associated development of flood risk management options.

2.1 Correspondence with MDC

The chair of this subcommittee and the chair of GWRC have been in contact with the Mayor of MDC to discuss concerns about the flood mapping raised by MDC. As a result of these meetings the CE's of the organisations have agreed a forward course of action to resolve the outstanding concerns, and an officers working group has been established to work through these concerns.

2.2 Officers Working Group update

CE's at both councils have agreed to put on hold the further development of flood risk management options for the urban reach of the Waipoua River. While this is on hold additional investigations will be completed by a recently established MDC/GWRC Waipoua Officers Project Group. This work will include:

- Agreement of the principles underpinning the modelling and peer review processes
- Development of a new and independent rainfall run off and hydrology model for the Waipoua catchment (*50% funded by GWRC, 50% funded by MDC*)

- Independent review of the calculations that were carried out by an MDC officer that contest the existing hydrology and flood model. *(50% funded by GWRC, 50% funded by MDC)*
- Re-run of the existing flood model with the new hydrology
- Construction of a new finer grid model for the urban extent of Masterton that will use the agreed hydrology and additional survey data
- Preparation of a communications and information update strategy

The total cost for this work is expected to be up to an additional \$100,000. This work will be completed in stages to ensure agreement is reached at each stage before commencement of the next stage occurs. Outputs are expected to be presented back to the subcommittee in mid-2016. Updates will be provided on progress with this work at each subcommittee meeting as part of this project managers report.

2.3 Key messages

There have been a number of media enquiries received regarding this matter. The following are key messages being used to address these:

- MDC and GWRC are collaborating on the refinement of flood hazard information for Masterton
- This refinement work will improve the level of detail of flood hazard information available to the community
- As part of this work a second, more detailed flood model is being built using the latest generation of flood modelling software.
- The work includes; some additional new survey data specifically collected for to improve the model; more detailed hydrology estimates; finer resolution of detail in the flood model.
- Flood hazard information releases use the best available information at the time of release or when requested. Future information releases will be done when new or improved information becomes available, such as when this collaborative refinement is completed.
- For further information about flood risk please email info@gw.govt.nz

3. Masterton option development

The project team has completed preparation for community engagement regarding option development for the Masterton Urban Area. Engagement regarding Masterton options will occur once we reach agreement with MDC regarding the flood risk upon completion of the Waipoua Hydrology Refinement work.

A trial run of this event was held at GWRC's Masterton office on 2 December 2015, this involved only GWRC staff.

4. Three Rivers Trail

Trails Wairarapa Trust has approached the Subcommittee to discuss ideas about a bridge across the Waipoua River adjacent to Villa Street and connecting to Oxford Street.

This links in to a Three Rivers Trail recreation outcome being considered as part of the option development. This trail concept creates a trail linking the Waipoua River to the Waingawa River and the Ruamahanga River as a loop. Feasibility work for this is being completed by two Engineering Interns employed by GWRC for the summer.

5. Rural option development

The project team has further developed the rural options for flood and erosion risk management. The subcommittee workshop held on 20 October 2015 developed an MCA tool to assist the subcommittee with the selection, improvement and refinement of flood and erosion risk management options for the rural reaches.

5.1 Engagement – Rural Options

Drop in sessions are planned for the rural rivers. These will focus on one river at a time, and invite adjacent residents to discuss the options with the project team.

6. Wairarapa A+P Show

GWRC attended the Wairarapa A+P show at the end of October 2015. At this event the project teams for the Te Kauru Upper Ruamahanga, Waiohine and Lower Wairarapa Floodplain Management Plans presented a high level summary of each project. Over 500 people passed through the stand and we had a broad spectrum of questions and collected information on each of the projects. Community feedback was positive and acknowledged the good work that is going on identifying flood risk and ways to manage it.

We shared the stand with the Wellington Region Emergency management office who presented information and practical methods of being prepared for disasters.

7. Dakins Road Erosion

During a small (annual) flood event in October, a portion of the river bank adjacent to Dakins Road collapsed into the Ruamahanga River. A temporary fix for this has been put in place to address risk over the summer. This work will be reinforced with some additional planting later in this financial year.

As a long term fix Carterton District Council (CDC) wish to extend the existing rock groyne protection upstream. GWRC have agreed to complete the design aspects of this work with construction proposed to commence in mid 2016.

8. Scheme Chairs Meeting – 04 September 2015

The Wairarapa river scheme chairs met on 4 September 2015. This meeting included a presentation on updated climate change predictions for the region, a discussion of future governance models for the Wairarapa Valley, an update on the regional resource consents project and a summary and round up of the scheme conditions and the issues they have tackled over the past year and will need to tackle in the future.

9. Overall Programme

Further progress on developing options for flood risk management for Masterton will be delayed until the Waipoua Hydrology refinement work is complete. This will mean that the Masterton urban part of the project will not restart until April/May 2016.

Development of rural options continues to progress, however progress with development of these has been impacted by diversion of resources onto the resolution of the Waipoua Hydrology refinement.

At present we have completed and are reviewing option combinations for the Taueru, Kopuaranga, Whangaehu and Waingawa Rivers. We will work next on the Ruamahanga River, before commencing on the Waipoua River once the hydrology refinement work is complete.

10. Communication

Advertisements have been placed in local newspapers advertising the project. These were run in place of advertisements booked for the World Café event to further develop options for Masterton flood risk management.

Letters will be sent to residents and landowners adjacent to the eastern rivers inviting them to GWRC's Choice Room to discuss flood risk management options appropriate to that part of the catchment.

11. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

This report updates the Subcommittee regarding the Te Kauru Upper Ruamahanga Floodplain management plan, and is for information only.

11.1 Engagement

Engagement on this matter is unnecessary.

12. Recommendations

That the Subcommittee:

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

Report prepared by: Report approved by: Report approved by: Report approved by:

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Attachment One: Letter from Bob Francis to Lyn Patterson