



Report 06.278
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Committee Landcare
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Divisional Manager's Report - Catchment Management

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about the activities and progress of matters relevant to the Landcare Committee's responsibilities since the Committee's last meeting.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Managers Report

The Flood Protection Manager's report is attached.

4. Comment

Since my last report in May my focus has been even more on my new Divisional role. However I still remain directly involved in a number of western flood protection projects as follows:

- The Waiwhetu project. On the 15 June the Waiwhetu Stream Advisory Committee will be presented with initial cost estimates and cost/benefit analysis for the various structural options for the lower Waiwhetu Stream and the Awamutu Stream. Needless to say these initial cost estimates for the range of possible solutions are substantially higher than I anticipated. Quite a bit more work is required before the project team will be in any position to recommend a solution for inclusion in the plan for the stream.

I will shortly be working with John Eyles to finalise the scope of work for the remainder of Phase 2. In this phase of work we need to look at whether any channel improvements are required upstream of the Whitesline East bridge, potential non-structural options to provide some source control (for example infill development controls, status of the

catchment headwaters reserve areas, stormwater storage at source) and to recognise residual risks, and we need to integrate the maintenance and environmental objectives into the plan.

- The Hutt/Boulcott stopbank feasibility study. I managed to attend the community consultation meeting on 24 May. I thought this was a very successful meeting which has set a good foundation for the further discussions required as the study results become available.
- I attended the asset management plan workshop on 23 May. We are currently working on preparing a “second generation” set of asset management plans for flood protection assets (western and Wairarapa). This workshop to sort out the base document was valuable with both teams (western and Wairarapa) working well together.
- I also took part in a workshop facilitated by consultants DamWatch Ltd over the work required following the recent safety reviews completed on the two Porirua detention dams. The big issue that has arisen is that the new estimate of the maximum likely rainfall event is outside the original design parameters of both dams. A likely outcome is the need to improve emergency procedures for extreme storm events. The workshop was very useful and has clearly established the additional investigations required.

I have also largely finalised the proposed changes to the Division’s structure. The biggest change for the flood protection activity is the formation of a new Department with responsibility for the whole of the region (western and Wairarapa). I have worked with staff from both sides of the hill to develop a model structure that will allow the benefits of the whole of region approach to happen (eg the combined approach to asset management) while allowing independence of action for day to day activities such as scheme maintenance which will always have a geographical factor.

Quite a lot of work remains to get the new Department underway including recruiting a manager and finalising the team leader structure. Existing staff from both sides of the hill are generally supportive of the change and are valuably contributing to setting up the new Department.

5. Communication

No communication is required.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

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

Report prepared by:

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Attachment 1: Flood Protection Manager's report for the period ending 28 April 2006