



Report 06.306
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Committee Hutt River Advisory
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Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan: Project Manager's Report

1. Purpose

To update the Advisory Committee on progress made with implementing the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan (HRFMP).

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. Project status summary

2005/06 was another big year for the Hutt River. Good progress was made with implementing all projects. The highlights for the year were:

- Commencement of the Boulcott/Hutt stopbank feasibility study.
- Commencement of the Opahu Stream pumping station contract.
- Completion of the Alicetown stopbank reconstruction.
- Completion of the Hutt City district plan change.

We also lodged the resource consent application for the Whirinaki Crescent stopbank upgrade works.

4. Ava to Ewen project

Alicetown stopbank

By the end of May 2006, Barry Foster Contracting Ltd had completed all the structural works and environmental planting in the Alicetown stopbank contract. The stopbank walkway was sealed and the road works at the end of Montague Street completed. About 13,000 native plants were planted in the buffer zone between the stopbank and residential fences, on the river berms and on the river bank edge adjacent to Strand Park.

However, the tidying up works could not be completed as programmed because of the high rainfall during the months of May and June. These tidying up works include weed control to establish a good grass cover, reinstating damaged surfaces, and providing stormwater drainage to the buffer strip area behind the Tama Street residential properties. The contractor will complete all tidying up works during the maintenance period.

Opahu pumping station

Juno Civil Ltd is progressing well with the Opahu stream pumping station contract. However progress during the months of May and June was affected by rain. Juno is now excavating the existing stopbank to install sheet piles for the pumping station structure. Some Totara poles encountered in the foundation are causing delays to the sheet pile installation. A temporary stopbank, which will form part of the new upgraded stopbank, was constructed in front of the excavation to maintain the required level of flood protection.

Juno has completed the concrete works to extend the box culvert and its outlet structure. The existing culvert was extended by 24 metres using 2.5metre x 3 metre box culvert units. Juno has also installed three rows of 35 metre long 1200 mm diameter concrete pipes in the river berm as part of the pumping station. Installation of flood gates on the new outlet structure is now complete.

Strand Park river realignment - maintenance

Excell Corporation continues to maintain the environmental planting and the viewing platform completed with the Strand Park river realignment. Excell will replace damaged willows and native plants in Strand Park during the period July - September 2006.

Ava Rail and Strand Park stopbanks

Opus International Consultants are now well advanced with the detailed design for the Ava Rail and Strand Park stopbanks. Opus is currently seeking approval from Ontrack for the proposed works under the Ava Rail Bridge. The design needs to accommodate a crossing for the new Ava to Barber Grove sewer rising main. The detailed design is taking more time than originally expected mainly because of the complexity of the proposed works under the Ava Rail Bridge. However, at this stage, we do not expect any significant delay to the construction programme because of this delay.

Street lights and Ewen Bridge signs

HCC officers have agreed to include the installation of street lighting at the Wakefield Street end of the new stopbank footpath in their 2007/08 programme. This work cannot be taken up any earlier because their budget for 2006/07 is already allocated. We have also raised with HCC officers the need to replace the vandalised signs at the Ewen Bridge.

5. Belmont improvements

Minor landscaping works adjacent to the Norfolk Street stopbank are now complete. An operation and maintenance schedule for the flood gates and the stormwater penstock was prepared. GWRC staff at Mabey Road will operate the flood gates during a flood emergency.

6. Whirinaki Crescent stopbank upgrade design

On 22 June 2006, we lodged the resource consent application for upgrading the Whirinaki Crescent stopbank. Report 06.261 of this Order Paper provides details of the progress made to date.

7. Boulcott/Hutt stopbank project

Report 06.307 of this Order Paper provides details of the outcomes of the Round 1 consultation, the locations for the refined stopbank alignment options and the proposed evaluation methodology.

8. Gravel Extraction

The resource consent application for gravel extraction in the Hutt River below water level was lodged with GWRC's Consent Management Department on 14 June 2006. The application was advertised on 28 June 2006 and submissions close on 26 July 2006. Gravel extraction from beaches is continuing with about 29,000 m³ extracted during the period from January to May 2006.

9. Implementing non-structural measures

On 14 March 2006, Hutt City Council approved 'District Plan change 6 – Hutt River flood hazard areas'. There were no appeals and the plan change will soon be incorporated into the Hutt City district plan.

Upper Hutt City Council officers are currently preparing the draft plan change document for including the Hutt River flood hazard areas. The officers expect to commence public consultation on this document in August/September 2006 in tandem with the Upper Hutt urban growth strategy.

10. Budget and 2006/07 programme

Attachment 1 shows the 2005/06 budget and expenditure to May 2006. We expect expenditure during 2005/06 to exceed the total allocated budget of \$3.5 million.

The following table shows the approved budget and programme of works for 2006/07.

Description	Budget 2006/07	Proposed works
Non-structural measures	\$35,000	Progress UHCC district plan change
Alicetown stopbank reconstruction	\$155,000	Complete maintenance works and release retentions
Ava Railway Bridge improvements	\$2,254,000	Complete the pumping station and commence construction of stopbank upgrade to be completed by June 2008
Boulcott/Hutt stopbank	\$300,000	Complete the feasibility study and commence the detailed design and consent application
Whirinaki Crescent Stopbank upgrade	\$611,000	Complete the stopbank upgrade
Maoribank riverbed stabilization	\$50,000	Commence investigations
Total	\$3,405,000	

11. Communication

Communication initiatives including newsletters and meetings with residents are in place for all the HRFMP projects. Newsletters, providing project updates, were distributed to Whirinaki Crescent residents and Boulcott residents. Public meetings were held in Whirinaki Crescent and Boulcott in April and May 2006 respectively. A press release on gravel extraction was issued following the submission of the consent application.

12. Recommendations

That the Committee:

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

Report prepared by:

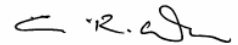
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Attachment 1: 2005/06 Budget and Expenditure YTD