



Report 06.661
Date 21 November 2006
File E/06/16/03

Committee Landcare
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Divisional Manager's Report - Catchment Management

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about western Flood Protection activities, and progress of matters, since the 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

Staff

Its great to have Graeme Campbell on board and taking on responsibility for the many and varied flood and river related activities this Council is responsible for across the region. You will also see from Graeme's report that we have been successful in filling the vacant area engineer vacancies for both the upper Ruamahanga schemes and in Kapiti.

A big thank you goes to Ian Gunn and Sharyn Westlake who both did great jobs as acting Managers over the change period.

Flood Manager's report

You will see in Graeme's report that we have included a section from Mike Longworth on the various activities occurring in the Wairarapa. Graeme and my intention from this point on is to produce a consistent region wide report, in an updated format, that can be considered by both the Rural Services and Landcare Committees during the normal Committee round.

Flood Protection matters

- Thankfully we appear to have escaped significant flood damage for the storm that crossed the region on 16 – 18 November. While a lot of rain fell over this period it was spread out over a longer period than forecast and this limited flood levels.
- Capital projects with a land agreement/acquisition component remain a high priority. We have three projects where construction is, or may be delayed, while we work through the land negotiation phase. At Whirinaki Crescent, Upper Hutt hopefully the land negotiations are close to conclusion. However we have made little recent progress with the South Waitohu, Otaki stopbank negotiations. Thankfully however we appear to be making steady progress with Chrystals Extended stopbank negotiations. More detailed updates are provided in the Flood Protection Managers report.
- The Waiwhetu Stream Advisory Committee meeting on 14 November went well. We got good agreement that a 10 year construction timetable is the sensible shortest period over which the lower Waiwhetu works could be constructed. John Eyles and I will now arrange some rate impact modelling based on the 10-year programme to see what impact the spend would have on rates. In the meantime the 2007/08 update of the Flood Protection operating plan will only continue to include the \$4 million of spend approved by Council in the 2006-16 LTCCP.
- The team continues to make progress with the Boulcott/Hutt stopbank feasibility study. A significant paper on where to next has been prepared for the Hutt River Advisory Committee meeting on 30 November.

Waikanae and Pauatahanui catchment revegetation projects

I attended the agency working group meeting run by Peter Handford on 16 November. Peter walked us through the various projects underway in both catchments eg a farm plan for the Gray property, Pauatahanui and a stream management project on one of the Waikanae tributaries, Reikorangi. The key to the long term success of this project is ongoing funding support for a co-ordinators role, and the continued enthusiasm of the staff and agencies supporting this project.

Findlay Street, Porirua

Sharyn Westlake has had some recent discussions with officers from Wellington City Council (WCC) about this project. We now appear to have support in principle from WCC for the modified full realignment option. Sharyn attended a Tawa Community Board meeting to help answer questions about the project. We will keep the Committee advised about whether this project is ready to be put back “on the books”.

Annual Plan update

We are underway with the 2007/08 annual plan update. The significant changes for western Flood Protection relate to the timing of capital works, including the changes required following the Chrystals Extended funding approval. It is proposed that the Committee will review the update at the first meeting in February next year.

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
17 November 2006