

Wairarapa

SCHEMES



AUGUST 1999

Welcome to this issue of the Wairarapa Schemes Newsletter.

Information for the 1998/99 year is presented on the 28 community schemes managed in Wairarapa by the Wellington Regional Council.

This past year has been one of contrasts. The serious drought of the previous year lingered on well into 1999 in parts of the eastern hill country, while large floods (up to 80 years return period), occurred in the western rivers during September and October. These caused significant damage.

A total \$1,122,000 of flood damage was identified. By the year's end, flood damage repairs totalling \$1,054,000 had been completed. The Wellington Regional Council provided half of the funds needed for repairs. The completion of this flood damage work and the normal scheme work programmes was a significant achievement.

It's worth noting that a number of river schemes have raised their rates markedly. An analysis of our Asset Management Plans suggests that to maintain current assets, other schemes may also have to increase their rates. Funding of essential maintenance works will not be deferred in the event of flood damage.

A Waiohine River Floodplain Committee has been formed and includes representatives from district and regional councils, and residents of the district. The Chairperson is Viv Napier. The Committee's objective is to consider options and develop long term strategies for the continued management of the floodplain. This is proving to be an interesting and worthwhile process.

Willows and Poplars

A number of lessons were learnt from the drought of 1998. Species selection and planting site selection were two key elements that have been targeted in the last year. Results of monitoring completed to date indicate that very good establishment rates have been achieved in what was a very dry season.

Sawfly

All landowners need to be vigilant about the threat that sawfly presents.

Monitoring of the migration of the willow sawfly from the initial findings in Auckland would indicate that it has reached Manawatu and Hawkes Bay. Research shows that although some willow trees can be partially defoliated, there have been no reported instances of tree death. The sawfly has a fondness for matsudana willow clones. However, there is some evidence to suggest that our climate may be too cold for the pupae to survive.



Rick Long

Stock on Riverbanks

A number of schemes have considered the issue of stock on river stopbanks. Landowners adjacent to rivers are urged to take all reasonable precautions to prevent stock damage to both river edge vegetation and stopbanks. It would be appreciated if you could report any observed incidents of such damage to Council staff.

Soil Plan

The Regional Soil Plan is about to be notified. It covers a number of land based activities such as roading and tracking, and soil disturbance. The Plan will have an impact on those landowners wishing to harvest forest woodlots. The new Plan is more permissive than the previous bylaws. Landowners wishing to harvest woodlots on erosion-prone land are permitted to do so as long as they adhere to a number of standard conditions. Principally, these are: to notify Council in advance, replant the site within two years, adhere to forest industry guidelines, and remove slash from watercourses.

Contact Dave Cameron, Regional Soil Conservator on (06) 378 2484 should you require further information.

Councillor Rick Long
Chairperson
Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee

Wairarapa River Management Schemes

Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme

Advisory Committee Chair - Tony Draper

Last year's Programme

The works programme for the 1998/99 year had an initial budget of \$460,900 for scheme operation and maintenance, plus an additional provision of \$175,000 for painting the barrage gates, reconstructing of the Handeyside stopbank, and rock protection at the Butcher site. After the October 1998 floods the programme was re-prioritised and increased by \$100,000 to cover the necessary repairs.



Painting of Barrage Gates, Lake Wairarapa

Excluded from the re-prioritised programme were the planned boulder groynes for the Riddiford frontage and the Oporua Floodway, and willow clearance work at Pa Creek. The main areas of flood damage were bank erosion at the Herrick and Barton sites on the Ruamahanga River; at Burts on the Tauherenikau River; on Cross Creek, Bockets Stream, and the Waiorongamai River.

The works programme was completed at a total cost of \$694,342 with half the cost met by the Wellington Regional Council. Also, the scheme reserve fund was increased to the healthy sum of \$911,330. These reserves are held for flood damage repairs, and for the maintenance of fences and the Barrage Gates.

This year's Programme

The 1999/2000 programme has a cost of \$593,900.

The significant works scheduled are the Mahaki floodgate improvements, Pukio berm restoration at Butcher's, and Whakawiriwiri Stream improvements. Estimated costs are \$86,000, \$25,000, and \$22,000 respectively. Other works include:

- bank protection
- river bank planting
- Tauherenikau River channel alignment
- Turanganui and Tauherenikau river flood protection and delta management

- maintenance of minor western and eastern streams
- maintenance of Lake Onoke opening
- operation of barrage gates
- stopbank, floodgate, and fence maintenance
- control of Old Man's Beard

Half the works programme will be funded by the Wellington Regional Council, and scheme rates will be increased by 1.6% as recommended by the advisory committee.

Asset Management Plan

An Asset Management Plan has been prepared for the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme. The plan indicates that the scheme is in good physical condition, and long term financial projections are very encouraging.

Stopbank Damage

Publicity of the scheme advisory committee's policy that "the cost of repairing stock damaged stopbanks should fall on the farmer responsible" has reduced the incidence of stock damage to stopbanks. This result is pleasing. Farmers are requested to continue to take particular care to prevent stopbank damage due to overgrazing, pugging, and stock tracking.

Donald's Creek Flood Protection - Featherston

The Donald's Creek flood protection project has been successfully completed. It included the construction of a flood detention dam on the outskirts of Featherston, and the enlargement and stopbanking of the stream channel through the residential area. This construction work was funded jointly by Wellington Regional Council and Featherston residents. Responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of Donald's Creek is now with the scheme, and the rating classification will be extended to capture the beneficiaries from this work.



Retaining wall construction – Donald's Creek, Featherston

Waiohine and Mangatarere River

Advisory Committee Chair – Bruce Slater

Last year's Programme

The original works programme for the 1999/2000 financial year had a budget of \$143,000. The expenditure was increased to \$548,361 to fund repairs of damage caused by the September and October 1998 floods.

Programmed works included:

- pole planting
- willow lopping
- rock groynes
- rail groynes
- fairway debris clearance
- willow clumps and cabling
- stopbank maintenance
- channel alignment

Flood repair works included:

- rock groynes at the Cullinane, Ticehurst, Wong, Druzianic, and Bicknell sites
- stopbank reconstruction and realignment at the Van Den Bosch, Ticehurst, and Bicknell sites
- channel alignment and stopbank repair at Brazendale's and Basset's
- willow cabling at the Van Den Bosch, Basset, Craig, Quinn, and Bentley sites
- channel alignment at Van Den Bosch's and Quinn's

Half the cost of these repairs were met by the Wellington Regional Council, with the remaining funds coming from an increase in the scheme deficit to \$242,497, and from special contributions from benefiting landowners.

This year's Programme

Following the scheme advisory committee's recommendation, a 60 per cent rate increase has been approved to both repay the scheme deficit, and to increase the scheme maintenance programme to a sustainable level of \$225,000 per year.

The cost of the 1999/2000 programme will be half met by the Wellington Regional Council. It will consist mainly of consolidation

work after last year's flood damage, including:

- pole planting
- beach clearance and herbicide spraying
- willow clearing and lopping
- rail groynes
- willow cabling and clumps
- stopbank maintenance
- channel alignment, bank battering, and debris removal
- rock protection repairs and rock groynes



Rock groynes – Waiohine River

Floodplain Management Study

It is intended over the next 12 months to complete the consultation phase of the Waiohine Floodplain Management Study, and to determine the future approach for management of the river channel and floodplain. Other key components of this study will include the overhaul of the scheme rating classification, and a re-assessment of the current proportions of urban to rural rating contribution.

The Waiohine Floodplain Management Committee has been established to provide feedback and assist with this process. This committee includes representatives of rural ratepayers, urban Greytown, Carterton District Council, South Wairarapa District Council, and Wellington Regional Council.

Upper Ruamahanga River

Advisory Committee Chair – Richard Ashby

Last year's Programme

The programme for the 1998/99 year was completed at a total cost of \$468,303 with costs half met by the Wellington Regional Council. The September and October 1998 floods were considerable and very damaging, with return periods of 7 years and 60 years respectively. A re-prioritised programme, including flood damage repairs, was approved after consultation with the scheme advisory committee.

This programme included the following flood repair works:

- willow cabling at Rathkeale College
- rock stub groynes at the Masterton Cemetery and Oxidation Ponds

- channel alignment, willow clumps, pole planting, and stopbank realignment at Forbes
- channel alignment and stopbanking at Te Whiti
- channel alignment at the Percy and Buchanan sites

The local share for the flood damage repair works undertaken in addition to the original works programme of \$126,000 was partially funded by the scheme rating district. This funding depended on the level of community benefit, and from special contributions from the beneficiaries themselves. The special contributions were obtained mainly from the Masterton District Council and totalled \$126,529.

This year's Programme

At the scheme advisory committee's recommendation, the Council has approved a 7 per cent rate increase to fund the increased works programme. No additions are planned to the flood damage reserves which currently stand at \$28,032.

The planned 1999/2000 programme has a cost of \$178,000 in line with an increase in Wellington Regional Council's current 50 per cent funding contribution. The local share for maintenance works with a high level of community benefit will be funded by the scheme rating district up to a level of \$130,000. The local share for the remaining work will be funded partially by the rating district, and partially by the beneficiary depending on the level of community benefit.

The works programme consists of the following:

- willow cabling and clumps
- channel alignment
- pole planting
- rock stub groynes
- herbicide spraying of fairway scrub
- control of Old Man's Beard
- rail groynes
- willow clumps
- willow lopping

Stock Damage to Willows

At the last advisory committee meeting a resolution was passed "That the Committee expects Council to apply enforcement provisions under the Resource Management Act to prevent damage to river edge willows caused by poor stock control". Landowners

Waingawa River

Advisory Committee Chair - Richard Butler

Last year's Programme

The cost of last year's works programme was \$259,439 and consisted of a reprioritised original works programme, plus an additional \$133,439 for repairs as a result of the September and



Rail groyne construction – Waingawa River

October 1998 floods. Half the cost for the total programme was met by the Wellington Regional Council, and the scheme flood damage reserve fund was reduced to \$12,386.

Main activities were:

- channel alignment and gravel groyne work on the Stolte to Butler reach

are urged to take all reasonable precautions to prevent stock damage to river edge vegetation, and to report any witnessed instances of damage.



Island clearance – Ruamahanga River

Scheme Review

The "Phase 2, Options" report will provide the basis for public consultation over the next two years. Provision has been made for Council's expenditure in the annual Scheme to increase to \$205,000 from the next financial year. Ratepayers will have to decide if they wish to increase the scheme rates to fund their proportion of the increased works programme. A key component of this review will be the overhaul of the scheme rating classification.

- channel alignment and bank battering on the water supply pipeline and Wouters frontage, and on the rail bridge to Presow reach
- rock groyne work at SH2 bridge
- willow clumps on the Griffith frontages
- flood debris and beach clearance
- willow pole planting
- herbicide spraying of fairway scrub
- control of Old Man's Beard

A special contribution of \$9,870 was obtained from Transit NZ for SH2 bridge work, and a \$3,375 special contribution was obtained from Powerco for power pylon protection work at Butler's. Also, Bruce Buchanan Ltd and Oldfield Asphalt Ltd jointly funded \$8,120 of the channel alignment work near SH2 Bridge, while the Masterton District Council funded \$12,414 of pipeline protection work.

This year's Programme

The planned expenditure for this year is \$170,000 with costs to be half met by the Wellington Regional Council. Emphasis will be on willow pole planting, channel alignment and gravel groyne work, and essential maintenance such as fairway vegetation control and debris clearance. Scheme rates will be retained at existing levels, and it is planned to increase the scheme reserve fund to \$28,000 assuming satisfactory progress with the buffer zone land retirement programme.

Waipoua River

Advisory Committee Chair - Alan Buick

Last year's Programme

The 1998/99 works programme of \$93,541 consisted mainly of repairs following the September and October 1998 floods, with costs half met by the Wellington Regional Council. The September and October floods were considerable, having estimated return periods of 40 years and 80 years respectively.

The original works programme had a cost of \$20,400 and included stopbank maintenance, rail groynes, flood debris removal, and channel alignment. The additional flood damage repair programme cost \$73,141 and was approved in consultation with the scheme advisory committee. The works consisted of stopbank repairs and willow cabling at Gold's, channel alignment work at Buick's, rail groyne work at Massey Farm and Jackson's, and willow cabling at Haynes.

The local share for the flood damage repair works was funded partially by the scheme rating district depending on the level of community benefit, and by special contributions from benefiting landowners totalling \$14,213. The end of financial year scheme deficit stands at \$9,887.

This year's Programme

Following the scheme advisory committee's recommendation, the Council has approved a 12 per cent rate increase to fund the increased works programme, and to enable an annual contribution of \$5,000 to flood damage reserves.

The planned 1999/2000 programme has a cost of \$46,000 and includes the following:

- willow cabling
- willow lopping

- rail groynes
- channel alignment
- pole planting
- beach scrub spraying
- channel debris clearance

Half the cost of this programme will be met by the Wellington Regional Council. It includes a total of \$6,000 set aside for river works within urban Masterton, with the local share to be funded by Masterton District Council.

Stopbank Damage

The advisory committee has passed a resolution "*That the costs of repair of any damage to stopbanks caused by stock grazing be recovered from the person responsible*". Landowners are urged to take all reasonable precautions to prevent stock damage to riverbank vegetation and stopbanks, and to report any witnessed instances of damage.



Willow cabling – Waipoua River

Lower Taueru River

Advisory Committee Chair - Hamish Buchanan

Completion of Channel Clearance

The clearing of 17km of river length from the gorge to the Ruamahanga River confluence has been completed at a total cost of \$450,000 in contrast to the original estimate of \$600,000. This is an excellent result. The lower than expected deficit of \$70,000 will be repaid over a three-year term, rather than the ten-year term anticipated.

Last year's Programme

Total expenditure for the past year was \$42,214, consisting of the clearance of the 2km channel length from the Buchanan/Freeman boundary to the Ruamahanga River confluence, and herbicide spraying of willow re-growth. Half the cost of this project will be met by the Wellington Regional Council.

Ratepayer Meeting

A Scheme ratepayer meeting was held in April 1999, at which it was decided to maintain rates at existing levels, and to repay the scheme deficit as quickly as possible. The rates are expected to reduce to 15 per cent of the existing level after the projected repayment of the scheme deficit in the 2001/02 financial year. This allows for ongoing maintenance at a cost of \$10,000 per year.

This year's Programme

Half of the cost of this year's programme will be met by the Wellington Regional Council, with an estimated cost of \$16,000, with work including herbicide spraying of willow re-growth and the removal of debris blockages.

Lower Whangaehu River

Advisory Committee Chair - Jim Williams

Completion of Channel Clearance

The 8.5km length of the Whangaehu River channel from Masterton-Castlepoint Road to the Ruamahanga River confluence has been cleared. The four-year project cost \$109,000, as compared to the original estimate of \$140,000. This has produced a scheme deficit of \$53,058 to be repaid over a ten-year term as originally proposed.

Last year's Programme

The 3.7km channel length from the Wharton/Allen boundary to

Masterton-Castlepoint Road was cleared, and herbicide spraying of willow re-growth carried out at a total cost of \$37,866. Half the cost of this work was met by the Wellington Regional Council.

This year's Programme

This is the first of a yearly ongoing channel maintenance programme consisting of herbicide spraying of willow re-growth and removal of debris blockages at an estimated cost of \$7,000. Half the cost of this programme will be met by the Wellington Regional Council, while scheme rates will be retained at existing levels.

Drainage Schemes

Pump Schemes

The pump drainage scheme operational and maintenance programmes mainly came in within budget. This year's maintenance programmes and reserve needs were approved by either the advisory committee or the scheme spokesperson.

Agreed rate levies are:

Scheme	\$	% increase
Papatahi	8000	0
Te Hopai	26000	0
Moonmoot	6840	0
Onoke	23940	0
Pouawha	26447	0

Gravity Schemes

Gravity scheme maintenance programmes mainly came in within budget, and are based on herbicide spray control every year including a mechanical clean every two to three years. The current works programmes and rating levels were approved by either the advisory committee or the scheme spokesperson. No work is required on the Otahoua scheme.

Scheme	\$	% increase
Okawa	748	0
Taumata	1739	0
East Pukio	3000	0
Longbush	4200	0
Otahoua	0	0
Te Whiti	512	0
Ahikouka	1935	0
Battersea	9800	0
Manaia	5600	0
Whakawiriwiri	8270	0



Drain maintenance by herbicide spraying

Catchment Management Schemes

Awhea Scheme

Advisory Committee Convenor - Ian Hunter

Current Programme

The major focus for the 1999/00 year is the area of Stony Creek stretching from the Stony Creek Conservation Reserve boundary to the confluence with the Awhea River. Stony Creek has been subject to a Council review that identifies priorities for future management. Works will include the construction of a stopbank to protect Tukurumuri School and other dwellings from the threat of river course change, and the creation of a design width channel using bulldozing and strategic planting.

The review also identified sections of the streambed within the Conservation Reserve where block planting is to be established. This should enable large quantities of gravel to be stored in the upper reaches, preventing infilling of the channel adjacent to the Tukurumuri settlement.

This year's budget is \$32,000. The Advisory Committee approved a rate increase of 0.8 per cent.



Stoney Creek Bridge at Tukurumuri

Contributions will come from:	
Wellington Regional Council	50%
South Wairarapa District Council	13%
Scheme Ratepayers	37%

Maungaraki Scheme

Advisory Committee Chair - Michael Blundell

Willow Clearing Programme

A second section of river has been cleared of willows. The Carterton District Council provided additional contribution for this work because of its proximity to the Wainuioru Bridge.

Current Programme

Ongoing dry conditions have impacted on some of the new plantings. Critical areas adjacent to the main access roads will be

targeted for works in the coming year. The work programmed for 1999/00 will also seek to maintain existing works, and ensure their ongoing effectiveness.

This year's budget is \$11,600. The Advisory Committee has approved a rate increase of 0.8 per cent. Contributions will come from:

Wellington Regional Council	50%
Carterton District Council	10%
Scheme Ratepayers	40%

Kaiwhata and Homewood Scheme

Advisory Committee Chairs – Ron Southey, John Le Grove

Scheme Meetings

Meetings were held with each Advisory Committee to review last year's achievements and consider programmes for 1999/00. Both meetings were well attended, reflecting a keen interest from the community in Scheme activities.

Kaiwhata Programme

Despite the very dry season, poles and seedlings are well established. A major new work for the coming year involves the retirement of three hectares of slipping land above the Kaiwhata Hill road. The Scheme will contribute to the erection of a fence.

This year's programme will involve river edge protection at Kummerstein, and the completion of the Acacia melanoxylon

planting at Waipapa.

The budget for 1999/00 is \$6,200. The Advisory Committee approved a rate increase of 1.6 per cent. Carterton and Masterton District Councils will contribute \$1,300.

Homewood Programme

Pole establishment rates have improved considerably in spite of the ongoing dry conditions.

Pole planting will continue to be the focus of this Scheme. Ongoing maintenance will be carried out to gully control structures at Fernglan.

The budget for 1999/00 is \$7,400. The Advisory Committee, which comprises all the ratepayers, approved a rate increase of 0.8 per cent.

Mataikona Scheme

Advisory Committee Chair - Alan Schofield

Meeting Attendance

In recent years attendance at the Annual Meeting has been very low. At this year's meeting, discussion took place on the possible formation of a Scheme Advisory Committee that would liaise with Council staff on Scheme matters. The Committee would be elected at each Scheme Review. These reviews are currently held every five years. The next Review is due in the year 2000 and options will be presented to ratepayers at this meeting.

Current Programme

Roadside stabilisation works will be strengthened this year

with additional planting at Waio Hill, Okau sandblow, Okau reef and alongside the Whakataki stream. Critical catchment areas on Owahanga, Pukeamuku, Te Mai, Waio and Pakowai will be assisted with riparian plantings.

The budget for this year is \$9,660. Ratepayers approved a rate increase of 0.8 per cent.

Contributions will come from:

Wellington Regional Council	50%
Masterton District Council	7%
Scheme Ratepayers	43%

Whareama Scheme

Advisory Committee Chair - Len French

Advisory Committee Meeting

The Advisory Committee members met recently to view two contentious areas of Scheme contribution. Specifically these were the control of gorse and other regrowth in the lower reaches of the Whareama River, and the establishment of riparian plantings in new or harvested conservation woodlots. Criteria were established on both these issues to guide future use of scheme funds



Bushgrove dropstructure – Mangapakeha River

Scheme Rates

The Scheme rates were increased by 50 per cent in 1993 to assist with willow clearing operations in the main rivers following the severe floods of 1991 and 1992. The term of this increase was set at five years. A General Meeting of ratepayers in 1998 recommended that rates remain at the present level for 1998/99. The Advisory Committee recommended that the same level of rating would apply for 1999/2000.

A full review of the Scheme is due in early 2000. This will encompass works requirements, rating levels and storm damage reserves.

Current Programme

- Maintenance willow spraying over 10km
- Follow-up willow spraying over 44km
- Strategic poplar and willow clearing

This year's budget is \$25,000. The Advisory Committee approved a nil rate increase.

Contacts for Information and Advice

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