

Report 99.541

20 September 1999

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Report of the Meeting of the Hutt River Floodplain Management Advisory Committee held in the Council Chamber, The Regional Council Centre, 142-146 Wakefield Street, Wellington, on Monday, 20 September 1999, at 4.30pm

Present

Councillors Macaskill (Chairperson), Thomas and Werry (Wellington Regional Council)

Mayor Terris, Councillor Baird and Councillor Cousins (Hutt City Council)

Councillor Guppy and Councillor Harris (Upper Hutt City Council)

Officers Present

Messrs Annakin, Atapattu, Cross, Darroch, Dick, Minson, Ms Newell, Messrs Paul and Wilshere, (Wellington Regional Council)

Mr Garlick (Hutt City Council)

Mr Wallach (Upper Hutt City Council)

Public Business

Procedural Items

HRF53 Apologies

There were no apologies.

HRF54 Public Participation

There were no members of the public who wished to participate in the meeting.

HRF55 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved

(Cr Macaskill/Cr Guppy)

That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 1999 be confirmed.

Matters for Consideration

HRF56 Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan: Project Leader's Report

Report 99.510

File: N/3/13/25

Informal Carpark off Block Road (just before Firth Site)

Councillor Cousins said there was confusion whether the Regional Council, Hutt City or Transit New Zealand had responsibility for the above area and asked officers to clarify the position.

Resolved

(Cr Macaskill/Cr Harris)

That the report be received and the contents noted.

HRF57 Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan: "Design Standard" Outcomes of Public Consultation

Report 99.519

File: N/3/13/25

Storm Water Management

Referring to a written submission, members acknowledged that during a flood event citizens made no distinction between river water and storm water and trusted there were appropriate measures in place to deal with the damage caused by stormwater overflows during any future flood event.

Mr Paul said the Joint Technical Officers' Group were developing a stormwater policy for inclusion in the Floodplain Management Plan.

Looking Ahead – Future Consultation Opportunities

Members noted that the public response to the consultation programme had been small. Councillor Macaskill noted the extensive schedule of consultation meetings.

Funding issues for flood protection were complex and members trusted the communication and consultation process would be developed and refined for better communication with citizens. Councillor Harris said Hutt City included an Information Sheet with the rates assessment notice which ratepayers understood.

Councillor Macaskill said there will be further opportunities for participation and understanding when the Regional Council consulted the community about its Long-term Financial Strategy Funding issues early next year and on the draft Floodplain Management Plan the following year.

Resolved (Cr Macaskill/Cr Thomas)

(1) *That the report be received and the contents endorsed.*

(2) *Agree that a letter of thanks be sent to all submitters and meeting attendees.*

HRF58 Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan: “Design Standard” Decision

Report 99.526

File: N/3/13/25

At 5.20pm the meeting resolved as follows:

Resolved (Cr Macaskill/Cr Cousins)

The Standing Orders be suspended to enable a ‘workshop type discussion’ on design standards to take place.

Mr Atapattu, Project Leader, Flood Protection, gave a presentation. Mr Paul then summarised the issues for the Committee.

Councillor Werry left at 5.40pm

Councillor Guppy left at 5.45pm

Supper: 6.00pm

Resumption: 6.20pm

Workshop Discussion

Following supper, Councillor Macaskill vacated the chair and led a discussion on the Design Standard for the Hutt Floodplain Management Plan and the following consensus was reached:

Lower Valley

- Risk Based 2300 + Stopbanks to 2800

Five members of the Committee noted a preference for this standard. There was no dissent.

- Other Locations
 - Belmont edge protections noting the prevailing Upper Valley Standard to 2300

Councillor Baird remained concerned at the level of protection recommended for the estuary area.

Upper Valley

- Risk Based 2300 + Main Stopbank to 2800

Three members of the Committee noted a preference for this standard. There was no dissent.

- Other Locations
 - Whirinaki Cres stopbank to 2800
 - Bridge Road Edge Protection to 2300
 - Gemstone Drive stopbank and edge protections to 2300

Members acknowledged the criticality of the Ava Railbridge and noted the political implications.

Acknowledging members' desired modifications to the "Hot Spot" recommendations, Mr Paul noted the need for officers to report back to the Committee on the technical, economic and residual risk issues.

Mrs Mellish left at 6.55pm

Standing Orders

At 7.10pm the meeting resolved as follows:

Resolved (Cr Macaskill/Cr Cousins)

That the suspension of Standing Orders be lifted and be applied for the remainder of the meeting.

Costs

Mr Paul said the additions from the workshop discussion resulted in the following costings:

Additions

- Local areas	\$1.5 million
- Lower Valley	\$3.8 million for principal stopbanks to 2800
- Upper Valley	\$0.23 million for principal stopbanks to 2800

Total **\$78.03 million** (\$72.50 million previous total)

Rivers and Rates Schemes 1990/2000 and General Rate Contribution to Flood Protection

Councillor Macaskill showed two overheads to members listing the contribution from constituent districts for the past 10 years for Flood Protection, for rivers rates and general rate contributions.

Councillor Macaskill said Regional Councillors had requested these figures for when they next discussed the proposed Funding Policy for flood protection within the context of the Long-term Financial Strategy.

Rating Impacts

Councillor Macaskill also showed overheads giving the impacts on ratepayers for Wellington City, Hutt City and Upper Hutt City for:

- (a) \$2 m spend per year: Peak Year: 2007/2008
- (b) \$4 m spend per year: Peak Year: 2008/2009

The overheads gave a breakdown in costing for 50/50, 60/40 and 70/30 funding scenarios. The breakdown covers the situation where the local authority area benefiting directly from the scheme pays 50%, 60% or 70% of the cost respectively and the corresponding ratepayers of the region pay the balance, of 50%, 40% and 30% of the cost.

Councillor Macaskill said Regional Councillors had not yet seen these figures and noted they would be considered during the upcoming Regional Council's policy review discussions on funding for flood protection.

Councillor Macaskill said the Regional Council was reviewing all its funding policies under their Long-term Financial Strategy and the impacts of any new policies would be presented to the community early next year. Flood protection spending would be included in the process and then the financial implications for ratepayers, resulting from decisions made at this evening's meeting, would be explained.

Mayor Terris said that he would like a copy of the information contained in the overheads. Councillor Macaskill said the figures were still ‘raw’ and the information would be circulated once Regional Councillors had had an opportunity to assess the information during their policy discussions.

Mayor Terris left at 7.05pm.

Resolved to Recommend

(Cr Baird/Cr Harris)

That the Hutt River Floodplain Management Advisory Committee recommend to the Landcare Committee:

- (1) That the Risk Refined 2300 cumec “Design Standard”, with a requirement that all bridges and other key structures are upgraded on replacement to the 2800 cumec standard, be adopted for long-term flood protection for the Hutt Valley, but with modifications resolved as follows:**

Lower Valley

- **Risk Based 2300 + Stopbanks to 2800**
- **Belmont edge protections to 2300**

Upper Valley

- **Risk Based 2300 + Main Stopbank to 2800**
- **Whirinaki Crescent stopbank to 2800**
- **Bridge Road Edge Protection to 2300**
- **Gemstone Drive stopbank and edge protection to 2300**

- (2) That an expenditure rate of \$4 million per year over 20 to 25 years for implementation of the capital works comprising the recommended “Design Standard” be adopted.**

Councillor Macaskill again stressed that the overall level of expenditure recommended, and the speed of implementation would be for the Regional Council to determine through its Long-term Financial Strategy review.

HRF59 Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan: Environmental Strategy

Report 99.512

File: N/3/13/16 & N/3/13/25

Resolved

(Cr Thomas/Cr Baird)

- (1) That the report be received and the contents noted.*
- (2) Endorse the purpose and objectives of the Environmental Strategy as outlined in Options 1 and 2 of Report 99.512 and, where appropriate, as listed in Option 3, for public consultation.*

Councillor Baird was concerned to ensure expectations were not raised unnecessarily over activities previously deemed inappropriate for the River corridor eg a skateboard park.

Mr Paul said some areas covered by the Environmental Strategy were outside the confines of the river corridor and this would be clarified in material issued during the consultation phase to ensure the community were not given a false impression about the viability of some of the proposals.

There was a request to also consult with Service Clubs eg Rotary who had had a close involvement with the Hutt River. Mr Puketapu also asked to consult the wider community of Hutt River users eg Wellington residents.

HRF60 Hutt River Gravel Analysis Update

Report 99.527

File: N/3/13/6 & N/3/13/25

Gravel Management

Members noted there was still a public perception that there was a gravel buildup occurring in parts of the river which in turn increased the flood risk.

Mr Dick, Manager, Flood Protection (Operational) said that, based on present survey information, the gravel management policy for the river is still appropriate.

Resolved

(Cr Macaskill/Cr Thomas)

- (1) That the report be received and the contents noted.*
- (2) Endorse the continuation of the existing river management policies.*

HRF61 **Questions**

Railway Embankment East and West of the Ava Bridge

Councillor Cousins asked whether sluice gates, opening onto natural water courses, for disposal of water that ponded behind the railway embankment east and west of the Ava Bridge, would alleviate flooding in that part of the valley?

Mr Paul said there were no suitable natural water courses and culverts through the embankments would simply transfer the problem elsewhere.

HRF62 **General**

Members noted that next meeting would take place on Monday 6 December 1999 commencing at the Regional Council Centre at 4.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.07pm

Chairperson

Date

Landcare Committee – 12 October 1999

To be moved:

<p>That the report of the meeting of the Hutt River Floodplain Management Advisory Committee meeting held on 20 September 1999, Items HRF53 to HRF62 inclusive, and the recommendations contained therein, be adopted.</p>
