

Report 00.111
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Report to the Hutt River Floodplain Management Advisory Committee
From Daya Atapattu, Project Leader, Flood Protection Group

Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan : Project Leader's Report

1. Purpose

To update the Advisory Committee on the status of investigations for the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan (HRFMP).

2. Background

The HRFMP Phase 2/3 investigations are on track for completion by June 2000. The emphasis is now on non-structural and environmental enhancement measures; the programme is extremely tight and compressed, as was the case for the design standard. The target date for completing the plan is June 2001.

At the 6 December 1999 Advisory Committee meeting, Councillor Macaskill gave a verbal account of the Regional Council's consideration of Advisory Committee Design Standard recommendations (the issues are covered fully in Report 00.110 on this order paper).

Other reports on the 6 December order paper covered:

- An introduction to non-structural floodplain management planning measures.
- National and international approaches and options that are broadly applicable to the Hutt Floodplain.
- Draft River Corridor plans for the Hutt River.
- Public response to the vision, objectives and options for the Hutt River Environmental Strategy.

At the 13 March 2000 Advisory Committee meeting, reports will be presented which cover:

- The Regional Council's Long-term Financial Strategy proposals for Design Standard implementation.
- Design Standard "local area" investigations – outcomes and recommendations.

- An update on the Environmental Strategy.
- Non-structural measures – an update and setting the scene for the Advisory Committee Workshop on 27 March 2000.

3. **Design Standard Implementation**

A prioritised list of works for Hutt scheme implementation was included for evaluation through the Regional Council's LTFS process. The list followed the Advisory Committee's recommended "design standard" priority list, and was based on a Landcare Committee recommendation of a \$2 million per annum spend over the Western Region. Report 00.110 covers the situation up to 23 February 2000 when the Landcare Committee considered the LTFS proposals.

4. **"Local Area" Investigations**

The additional "local area" investigations requested by the Landcare Committee are complete. Officers held discussions on the outcomes with the relevant communities. Meetings were held at Belmont and Birchville (Bridge Road/Gemstone Drive). Report 00.131 contains a summary of the meetings and recommends modified implementation proposals for the "local areas".

5. **Non-structural Measures**

Investigations for developing appropriate non-structural measures for the upper catchment, floodplain and river corridor are proceeding. The Regional Council's emergency management team, together with their Hutt City and Upper Hutt City Council counterparts, are reviewing the current Flood Emergency Procedures to determine whether improvements are required. The Advisory Committee will consider the outcomes of these investigations at a workshop on 27 March 2000, before endorsing them for public consultation. Report 00.133 outlines what has been achieved so far and sets the scene for the workshop.

Public consultation on non-structural measures will commence in early April 2000 and the Advisory Committee will receive a report on the outcomes at its meeting in May 2000. The target date for recommending a suite of non-structural measures appropriate for the Hutt Valley is June 2000.

6. **Environmental Strategy**

Public consultation on objectives and options for the Environmental Strategy is complete. Submissions received after the 6 December Advisory Committee meeting confirmed the preference for the "linear park" option. Consultants have completed conceptual designs for the linear park. Preparation of the report, which will cover the park concepts as well as management and operational arrangements, is well underway. The target for completing the draft Environmental Strategy is April 2000. Report 00.118 provides a full update.

7. **HRFMP Expenditure**

The total December 1998 budget for the accelerated HRFMP Phases 2/3 and 4 is \$1.305 million. Expenditure up to December 1999 is \$724,000. An estimate for the accelerated HRFMP (at January 2000) is \$1.34 million. The \$35,000 increase is the net of \$97,000 worth of additional investigations completed and savings made in other areas of the project. There is also a desire to conduct further investigations on the effects on the floodplain of various earthquake fault movements; possible additional costs for these investigations may be in the order of \$40,000. Estimates will be reviewed in April 2000 as part of the Council's third quarter financial review.

8. **Recommendation**

That the report be received and the contents noted.

Report prepared by:

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