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Report to the Hutt River Floodplain Management Advisory Committee
from Alistair Cross, Resource Planner, Flood Protection Group

Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan : Non-structural Measures Progress Report and Non-structural Measures Workshop

1. Purpose

- To inform the Advisory Committee of progress on the non-structural measures programme.
- To set the scene for the non-structural options workshop on 27 March.

2. Background

2.1 Progress on Non-structural Measures Programme

The Advisory Committee at the December 1999 meeting received reports on investigations of national and international non-structural procedures, and the development of river corridor hazard plans.

This report updates progress on the development of policy guidelines and measures for the range of non-structural sub-projects. Those sub-projects are:

- River Corridor policy guidelines and recommended measures.
- Floodplain policy guidelines and recommended measures.
- Upper Catchment policy guidelines and recommended measures.
- Emergency Management opportunities.

2.2 The Non-structural Options Workshop

This report also sets the scene for the Non-structural Options Workshop. The workshop, scheduled for 27 March, represents a critical step to obtain guidance and refine the non-structural measures prior to public consultation.

3. The Non-structural Options Workshop : Setting the Scene

3.1 Purpose of the Workshop

- Provide the Advisory Committee with information on the range of method options that could be applied to the Hutt River corridor, floodplain, and its catchment.
- Obtain guidance from the Advisory Committee regarding the breadth and level of information to be presented to the public during consultation on the non-structural measures; along with any suggested changes, additions, and omissions.

3.2 Need for Non-structural Measures

The introductory session of the workshop will demonstrate the relevance of non-structural measures to management of the flooding hazard. This will be done by putting the non-structural measures approach in perspective with the nature and scale of the residual flood risk, and minimising increases in future damages to property.

The concept of annualised damages¹ will form the basis of our presentation on the potential for future damages. It is used to evaluate the economic efficiency of non-structural measures; also used to demonstrate the economic benefits of the various design standard options.

The wider policy relevance of the Wellington Regional Policy Statement and the objectives of the HRFMP will also be discussed.

3.3 Information to be Presented : Forming a Picture

The main workshop session will present the four non-structural option sub-projects, the range of measures options that are proposed to go forward to public consultation through April and early May. Measures include both regulatory and non-regulatory methods.

For each option the information presented will inform the Advisory Committee on:

- the purpose of the measures option, i.e. how the flood hazard effects can be avoided or mitigated.
- how the option will be applied.
- the advantages and pitfalls of each option.
- implications in terms of benefits and costs.
- the level of priority.

¹ Annualised damages are a measure of the damages from flooding that can occur in an event that breaches the design capacity of the flood defence system. The total damages from that single event are calculated on an annual basis, depending on the probabilities of the respective events occurring.

The information will be presented to enable the Advisory Committee to:

- be aware of the implication of each option on its own, and as part of a wider options suite.
- identify the interrelationship between the options being proposed.
- appreciate how the suite of options fits in with the recommended design standard.

A workshop format will provide the time to present the full range of measures options in a flexible manner.

4. Progress on Non-structural Measures Programme

The project team and Non-structural Options Working Group (NSOWG) are developing a range of measures options for all sub-projects. These options will be finalised during mid March for the workshop.

There are a number of key tasks, covered below, being working through related to each of the sub-projects.

4.1 Floodplain Measures

Draft measures options include both regulatory and voluntary methods, and draft policy guidelines are being developed to support these methods. The initial viability of a number of regulatory options will be reliant on the outcome of an economic analysis, which will be completed in early March.

4.2 River Corridor Plans and Measures

Draft policy guidelines and river corridor plans are nearing completion, although the measures options require some work. The measures will focus on an approach to land use activities in the river corridor, which balances the needs of private landowners with the security of the flood defence system.

4.3 Upper Catchment Measures

Land use trends in the upper catchment that have been identified affect only Upper Hutt City. An analysis of existing policy and methods in the district and regional plans has been undertaken to determine the nature and extent of the flood hazard issue. Policy and measures options are currently being determined.

4.4 Emergency Management Opportunities

The Regional Council's Emergency Management Section is reviewing current procedures and measures carried out by the Regional Council and Hutt City and Upper Hutt City Councils. The review is leading to the formulation of opportunities to enhance existing procedures and measures. A workshop involving officers from the three councils will be held in mid March to determine these opportunities (presently involving emergency management specialists from the two city councils).

The diagram, **Attachment 1**, shows progress developing non-structural options.

5. **Communication**

The 27 March Workshop is a critical step to develop non-structural options for public consultation during April and early May 2000. Following guidance from the Advisory Committee, policy and method options will be presented to the community of the Hutt Valley. The nature and extent of public consultation is likely to be similar to that of the design standard consultation, although final details are yet to be determined.

6. **Recommendation**

That the report be received and the contents noted.

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Attachment 1 : Development of Non-structural Measures : Progress to Date