

Report to the Hutt River Floodplain Management Advisory Committee
from Derek Wilshere, Consultant, Landcare

Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan Public Consultation : Report on Progress and Scope and Strategy

1. Purpose

- To report on progress on Consultation for the completion of the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan.
- To obtain Advisory Committee endorsement to the Draft Public Consultation Scope and Strategy

2. Activities and Meetings

2.1 The Technical Liaison Group

The Technical Liaison Group (TLG) met on 4 February and 11 March. The main points discussed at the 4 February meeting were:

- Bridge waterways – some are inadequate and opportunities to upgrade or replace should be taken.
- Storm water removal at Black Creek is a problem.
- The impact of desired channel alignments on assets in the river corridor.
- The programme and opportunities to further accelerate it.

The main points discussed at the 11 March meeting were:

- Clarification of points on programme raised by Hutt City Council representatives.
- Detail on channel management investigations and options.

- Detail on the flood defences study. Major deficiencies in the system have been identified.
- The March newsletter.

Attendance, at the March meeting of members representing facility owners and infrastructure, was not good. It is expected that attendance will improve as we move into the policy setting stage of the process. Some policy areas of specific interest to these organisations will be discussed at the next TLG meeting on 15 April.

2.4 Meetings with Councils

On 24 March 1999 the Chairperson of the Regional Council's Landcare Committee, Councillor Dick Werry, supported by Flood Protection Group staff, met with the Works and Services Committee of the Upper Hutt City Council. On 25 March 1999 Councillors Werry, Macaskill, Laidlaw and Thomas and Flood Protection Group staff met with Hutt City Councillors.

These were the first of the meetings which Advisory Committee members had requested take place on a regular basis, generally prior to the meetings at which the Advisory Committee was considering major issues.

The meetings were useful and the information presented was well received by Councillors. Follow-up meetings were requested by both Councils.

The next meetings will be programmed when information on the design standard is available.

2.3 Meeting with Combined Hutt Rotary Clubs

Project Manager Daya Atapattu and consultant Derek Wilshere met with representatives of the eight Rotary Clubs of the Hutt Valley on 3 March. Ross Jackson from Regional Parks also attended.

The combined Rotary Clubs, some time ago, adopted the Hutt River Trail as an ongoing project and work with Regional Parks to develop and maintain it. The River Trail is seen as an example of community involvement in a project with strong potential links to the Hutt River Environmental Strategy. Club representatives were given an introduction to the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan and opportunities for club involvement in the plan were discussed. It is likely that there will be invitations for staff to address individual clubs in the future.

3. Publicity

3.1 Newsletter

The first newsletter *Living with the River - March 1999* was published as a centrefold in the Hutt News and Upper Hutt Leader on 24 and 25 March respectively. The total print-run of these papers is 58,500 (Hutt News, 40,000, Upper Hutt Leader, 18,500). This newsletter has been recast into A4 format and will be distributed widely to the target audience (identified in the appendix to the Scope and Strategy).

A news release to the Hutt News, Upper Hutt Leader and the Evening Post, on 23 March 1999, supported the newsletter. Members have received this release.

3.2 **Feedback**

This first newsletter provided background to the project and sought feedback on the Draft Objectives and Options. A verbal update on public response will be given to the Committee at the meeting. Initial feedback on the newsletter has been favourable and some valuable responses have been received.

4. **Programme**

The March newsletter prepares the ground for the next newsletter, programmed for May. The main topic for the next newsletter is the *Design Standard* which is a crucial component of the project. A major consultation effort will be based on the May newsletter.

5. **Public Consultation, Draft Scope and Strategy**

The report, Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan Public Consultation Draft Scope and Strategy, is included with this report (Attachment 1). The report contains detail on the components of the public consultation programme, the methodology to be used and the programme. An indicative budget is provided and impediments to successful achievement of the programme are noted.

The strategy is primarily based on providing information to the community through newsletters and seeking feedback on crucial issues. An extensive programme of direct consultation with interested and affected parties will also be carried out. Key issues and newsworthy items will be publicised through press releases.

While there is currently an emphasis on the process through to the recommendation of the *Design Standard*, the strategy to completion is expected to be similar. A review of the adequacy of the strategy is programmed after the *Design Standard* is adopted.

6. **Recommendations**

That the Hutt River Floodplain Management Advisory Committee:

- (1) *Receive this report and note its contents.*
- (2) *Recommends that the Landcare Committee endorse the draft scope and strategy for the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan Public Consultation.*

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Attachment 1 : Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan, Public Consultation, Scope and Strategy, March 1999