

## **Report 00.110**

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Report to the Hutt River Floodplain Management Advisory Committee  
From Brendan Paul, Manager, Flood Protection (Strategy and Assets)

### **Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan (HRFMP) Regional Council Long-term Financial Strategy (LTFS) Proposals for HRFMP Design Standard Implementation**

#### **1. Purpose**

Following the passage of Advisory Committee recommendations through the Regional Council's LTFS process, to inform the Advisory Committee of the Regional Council's 2000–2010 LTFS public consultation proposals for expenditure on:

- the HRFMP Design Standard implementation
- other Hutt scheme expenditure

#### **2. Background**

The Advisory Committee, at its meeting on 20 September 1999, recommended to the Landcare Committee a Design Standard priority list of capital works projects (\$78.1 million) and an implementation period of 20-25 years for the HRFMP. This implementation period corresponds to a capital spend of approximately \$4 million per annum over the Western Region.

**Attachment 1** shows the project priorities. On 12 October 1999 the Landcare Committee passed the recommendations to Council and noted "*The Advisory Committee's recommended timeframe of 20-25 years... for implementing the Design Standard*" and requested that they "... be considered along with all flood protection in the region and other Council priorities through the Long-term Financial Strategy review"

At the 6 December 1999 Advisory Committee meeting, Councillor Macaskill undertook to:

- bring to the Advisory Committee (March 2000) meeting the Regional Council's LTFS proposals for capital expenditure on western rivers, and specifically the Hutt scheme.
- consult with the regional community on both the Regional Council's preferred \$2 million per annum Western Region expenditure and the Advisory Committee's preferred \$4 million per annum.

Because of concern over the combined effects of the implementation timeframe and funding policy on regional rates and flood protection debt, along with the impact of its other functional responsibilities, the Regional Council asked the Landcare Committee to reconsider its 12 October 1999 recommendations.

On 9 December 1999 Council accepted a 23 November 1999 Landcare Committee recommendation of \$2 million per annum Western Region expenditure, for consideration through LTFS. Other recommendations made links to plan completion and non-structural implementation. The full recommendations made by the Landcare Committee and adopted by Council are:

- (1) *Note the express desire of the Hutt River Floodplain Management Advisory Committee, following consultation with Hutt Valley residents, for a modified Risk Based 2300 cumec Design Standard (LC99.541) for the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan.*
- (2) *Recommend to the Policy and Finance Committee that through the Long-term Financial Strategy process, the Council considers expenditure on Floodplain Management Plan implementation for the Western Region based on an average capital works expenditure of \$2 million per annum through the life of the plans.*
- (3) *Note that for the Hutt River, the above recommendation (2) is premised on:*
  - *Completing the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan by June 2001;*
  - *Appropriate non-structural measures are incorporated into district plans;*
  - *The need to review the Plan over time to accommodate Climate Change, and other developments in hazardscape measurement, understanding, and land use patterns generally;*
  - *Regional affordability and the intergenerational benefit of progressively enhanced flood mitigation systems, past and present.*
- (4) *Recommend to the Policy and Finance Committee that it supports the above recommendations, for community consultation through the Long-term Financial Strategy process.*

### 3. Landcare Committee Meeting 23 February 2000

#### Western Region Capital Works Spend and Funding

The Landcare Committee, at its meeting on 23 February 2000, considered the LTFS proposals and budgets. In relation to flood protection expenditure on capital works it recommended to the Policy and Finance Committee:

*“That the Landcare Committee support the proposed \$2 million per annum capital spend for flood protection in the western region, for consultation through the draft Long-term Financial Strategy”* and

*“... should the community through the Long-term Financial Strategy consultation process favour the \$4 million per annum option, the WRC consider funding above the \$2 million per annum through an additional special rate on the communities that directly benefit.”*

The indicative impact on rates for the two options will be reported at the meeting.

### 4. Remaining LTFS Process

The LTFS public consultation process has further opportunities for the community to provide input for changing the priority or the implementation rate. The critical dates are:

- 7 & 21 March 2000 Policy and Finance Committee considers LTFS proposals for public consultation
- 13 March 2000 Hutt River Floodplain Management Advisory Committee reviews LTFS proposals
- Mid April 2000 LTFS public consultation commences
- Mid May 2000 LTFS public consultation closes
- June 2000 WRC receives public submissions on LTFS
- by 30 June 2000 WRC adopt the 2000-2010 LTFS

### 5. Works Proposed for Consideration through LTFS

The total cost of Hutt River operating and capital expenditure works proposed through the 2000-2010 LTFS is approximately \$29.7 million over the ten years.

This is made of:

Asset maintenance	\$10,450,000
Ongoing management	\$ 937,000
HRFMP Phase 2/3 and 4 completion	\$ 325,000
Design Standard capital works implementation	\$17,000,000
Hutt River ranger (from 2002/03)	\$ 922,000
Habitat enhancement	\$ 34,000
Environmental Strategy implementation	\$ 50,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$29,718,000</b>

## 5.1 Asset Maintenance and Ongoing Management

Current budget provision of \$840,000 per annum for Hutt River Asset Maintenance is below what is required to maintain the scheme. This deficiency was identified through the Hutt River Asset Management Plan “zero based” maintenance assessments. The assessments identified a maintenance funding deficit of \$205,000 per annum (lower valley \$10,000 and upper valley \$195,000). The proposed LTFS 2000-2010 provision of \$10.45 million for asset management for the ten year period is an increase of \$2.05 million for asset management over previous budgets.

Estimated ten year expenditure for ongoing management services is \$937,000. These services include asset management, channel surveys, photography, emergency management advice and property consultancy input for the Hutt River Scheme.

## 5.2 HRFMP Completion

The target completion for the Hutt River floodplain management planning process is June 2000, investigations are progressing reasonably well. Principal activities for 2000/01 are plan drafting, consultation and publishing although the latter may be transferred to the 20001/02 year; budgeted expenditure is \$325,000.

## 5.3 HRFMP Design Standard Implementation

Overall cost estimates for Hutt River Design Standard capital works implementation are \$78.1 million. The Regional Council’s preferred \$2 million per annum capital spend over the Western Region provides an average \$1.7 million per annum expenditure for Hutt, \$17 million for the ten year period (2000-2010).

**Attachment 2** shows the Regional Council’s proposed LTFS \$2 million per annum Western Region capital expenditure programme. In summary, the ten year \$17 million HRFMP expenditure will complete the Ava to Ewen reach (including the Strand Park river realignment, the Alicetown and Strand Park stopbank upgrades, and provision for the Ava Railway Bridge replacement), and it will commence the Hutt/Boulcott golf clubs stopbank and the Ewen to Melling reach designs.

The Advisory Committee’s preference for a \$4 million per annum implementation rate over the Western Region provides \$3.4 million per annum for Hutt, \$34 million for the ten year period (2000-2010). **Attachment 3** shows a capital expenditure programme for this implementation rate. The ten year \$34 million expenditure will complete the Ava to Ewen and Ewen to Melling reaches, and the stopbanks at Boulcott/Hutt golf clubs and Whirinaki Crescent, Upper Hutt. Construction will also commence on the Connolly Street stopbank. Table 1 shows the relative completion of the capital works programme by key reaches, for the \$2 million and \$4 million per annum Western Region capital works spends over the ten years.

**Table 1 : Ten Year Capital Works Completion**

Hutt River Reach	\$2 million per annum spend	\$4 million per annum spend
Ava to Ewen (including Ava Bridge)	100%*	100%*
Ewen to Melling	2%	100%
Melling to Kennedy Good Bridge	20%	70%

\*Ava Bridge completion depends on Tranz Rail co-operation

#### 5.4 New Environmental Initiatives

The Regional Council's proposed LTFS contains a new Hutt River ranger service from 2002/03, subject to the need being confirmed through the environmental strategy. This service will provide public safety, surveillance, education and environmental enhancement services over the Hutt River floodway and corridor. The budget comprises \$159,175 for the first year (2002/03) and \$109,000 per annum for the next seven years. Total budgeted expenditure for the ten year period is \$922,000.

All capital works budgets include a 5 percent allowance for environmental enhancement works. In addition \$34,000 (2003/04 to 2006/07) has been provided for a whitebait habitat enhancement programme in the lower reaches of the river. This enhancement work will complement the whitebait research project promoted through the Regional Freshwater Plan habitat enhancement programme. A further \$50,000 for environmental strategy implementation is budgeted for 2007/08.

## 6. Recommendation

*That the report be received and the contents noted.*

Report prepared by:

Approved for submission:

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**Attachment 1** : Priority List of Works for the Modified RB2300 Design Standard

**Attachment 2** : Western Region Capital Expenditure Programme 2000-2010 – \$2 million per year

**Attachment 3** : Western Region Capital Expenditure Programme 2000-2010 – \$4 million per year