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Report to the Hutt River Advisory Committee
from Daya Atapattu, Project Engineer, Flood Protection

Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan (HRFMP): Ava to Ewen Improvements

1. Purpose

To update the Advisory Committee on progress with the Ava to Ewen improvements.

2. Project Status Summary

Ava to Ewen final designs have progressed well and the preparation of tender documents has commenced. Overall we are on track for inviting construction tenders by the end of October 2002. However, we expect a delay in starting the tendering process due to difficulties effecting the Strand Park land transfer.

The status of key project components is as follows:

- All resource consents have been obtained.
- Ministry of Education (MOE) is seeking Ministerial approval to proceed with a land transfer method agreed with us.
- Opus consultants have completed the draft Final Design Report for the Strand Park river realignment, Alicetown stopbank upgrade and environmental enhancement works.
- A total of ten contractors and rock suppliers have expressed interest in the Ava to Ewen channel realignment contract.
- Hutt City Council's Long-Term Financial Strategy has incorporated funding for the Ava to Ewen stormwater upgrades and Opahu Stream pumping station design and construction.

3. Detailed Design

Opus International Consultants have progressed well with the detailed design. We received a draft design report on 30 September 2002. This report includes the draft final design for the Strand Park river realignment, Alicetown stopbank and environmental enhancement works. Opus have started preparing the construction tender documents for the river realignment. We expect the tender documents to be ready by the end of October 2002.

4. Tendering Process

Registration of Interest for the Strand Park river realignment contract closed on 27 September 2002. We received ten applications. From these applications we will pre-qualify a short list of four or five contractors who will be asked to tender for the works. This short list will be ready by the end of October 2002.

A key component of the construction contract is the supply of about 30,000 tonnes of good quality rip-rap grade rock for the river alignment. We need a total of about 77,000 tonnes of rock during the next eight years. Currently there are no rip-rap grade rock quarries operating locally and the nearest source of good quality rock is Palmerston North. We hope the Registration of Interest will generate sufficient impetus among the contracting community to start a local quarry.

A number of rock suppliers have expressed interest in the project. We will exchange the information between the pre-qualified contractors and rock suppliers to encourage alliances to be developed to supply our rock requirements.

5. Stormwater Upgrades

The proposed Ava to Ewen improvements include extending four stormwater pipes on the western berm. Hutt City Council (HCC) is currently considering upsizing three of these pipes to cater for future development. HCC has engaged Opus Consultants, through the Ava to Ewen contract, to complete the upgrade designs. HCC has also incorporated funding in their Long-Term Financial Strategy for upgrading the pipes.

6. Resource Consents

The resource consent process went smoothly and we have now obtained all resource consents required for the Ava to Ewen project.

7. Strand Park Land Purchase

We have obtained MOE and Hutt Valley High School agreement in principle for the Strand Park land transfer. However, crown land transfer is a complex process and may take more than six months to complete.

Our property consultant and MOE solicitors have considered a number of methods that could expedite Strand Park land transfer. MOE has started the process to seek Ministerial approval to proceed with a land transfer method agreed with us. This process will involve the Minister of Education declaring the land to be Crown Land and then the Minister of Lands alienating the land to the Regional Council. Land valuation processes are underway to agree on a purchase price for the land. The land transfer could take up to six months to complete.

We are exploring options for interim access to the site. However, MOE will not grant 'access for work' until all uncertainties of the land transfer process are removed. We need at least the 'access for work' approval from the MOE before issuing tender documents to the pre-qualified contractors. At this stage we expect a delay of some months in appointing a contractor.

8. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Tranz Rail

We are working with Tranz Rail to develop a MOU acceptable to both parties. Tranz Rail is currently reviewing the second draft of the MOU. We hope that the MOU will be agreed by December 2002.

The proposed MOU will record the agreed improvements for reducing the flood hazard at Ava Bridge as well as the programme and responsibilities for implementing those improvements.

9. Project Budget

The table below shows the expenditure against the four implementing packages.

Project Package	When Implemented	Project Budget	Expenditure to September 02
Channel Realignment	July 2002 to June 2004	\$4.6 m	\$373,400
Alicetown Stopbank	July 2004 to June 2006	\$2.4 m	\$55,600
Ava Bridge Stopbank	July 2006 to June 2008	\$5.0 m	\$212,600
Strand Park Stopbank	July 2008 to June 2010	\$2.6 m	\$12,800
	TOTAL	\$14.6 m	\$654,400

10. Communication

The adjoining property owners and stakeholders were informed of the project's progress through a Newsletter in August 2002. A press release will be issued and the next newsletter will be published once a contractor is appointed. A project liaison group will be formed by March 2003.

11. Recommendations

That the Committee:

- (1) **Receive** the report.
- (2) **Note** the contents of the report.

Report prepared by:

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