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**Committee** Rural Services and Wairarapa  
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## River Scheme Asset Management Plan Performance

### 1. Purpose

- 1.1 To present the Committee with Performance Statements for the Asset Management Plans produced for five river management schemes within the Wairarapa.
- 1.2 To inform the Committee of the outcome of the recent audit of Wairarapa river management works carried out by the Council's Flood Protection Group.

### 2. Background

- 2.1 The Local Government Amendment Act (No. 3) of 1996 requires Strategic Financial Plans to be prepared for the infrastructure assets under Council control. Asset Management Plans provide the basis for preparation of credible financial plans.
- 2.2 Basic Asset Management Plans have been prepared for 5 river management Schemes serviced by the Wairarapa Division as listed below.
  - Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme
  - Waiohine-Mangatarere
  - Upper Ruamahanga
  - Waingawa
  - Waipoua
- 2.3 These plans are "live" documents, and will be improved and updated on an ongoing basis. In particular the asset registers and condition assessments are updated annually, and provide a basis for developing sustainable ongoing Scheme maintenance programmes.
- 2.4 Each year Performance Statements are prepared reporting on plan performance indicators. A special feature of this year's Performance Statements is the reporting on 5yearly performance indicators which are

reported for the first time since the Asset Management Plans were prepared in 1998. The 2002/03 Scheme Performance Statements are attached.

- 2.5 An annual audit of Wairarapa Scheme maintenance standards is carried out by staff from the Flood Protection Group of the Council's Landcare Division. A report summarising the results from the July 2003 audit is attached.

### **3. Scheme Status**

#### **3.1 Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme**

The LWVDS is in very good financial and physical condition. The remaining Scheme loans have been paid off, and the Scheme reserve fund currently stands at a very healthy \$1.3m. Overall asset condition ratings are favourable. However in this year priority needs to be given to replacing the remaining rail and timber grade control structures in the Manganui Stream with rock weirs, drainage floodgate maintenance, and repairs to damaged stopbanks at Onoke.

A review of the LWVDS is now underway, and will be completed by June 2005. Among other things, the review will assess long term Scheme maintenance, renewal, and capital work requirements.

#### **3.2 Waiohine-Mangatarere River Management Scheme**

The current level of annual programme is seen as adequate to meet ongoing Scheme maintenance needs.

The physical condition of the Waiohine-Mangatarere Scheme has continued to improve. Durable repairs have been completed at the most vulnerable sites, and Asset Management Plan performance criteria have been largely satisfied, with the exception of two 5 yearly criteria relating to flood damage and channel fairway maintenance. Poor maintenance resulting from under funding of the Scheme in the 90s was the reason for the unsatisfied criteria. This situation has now been rectified with the review of the Scheme and increased funds are now allocated for maintenance.

The Scheme deficit which stood at \$250,000 after the year 2000 floods has now been reduced to \$6,500. On clearance of this small deficit, focus will be on the building up of satisfactory flood damage reserves.

#### **3.3 Waingawa River Management Scheme**

The Waingawa Scheme is in good overall financial and physical condition. Asset Management Plan performance criteria have been satisfied, including the 5 yearly criteria relating to the buffer zone and the channel fairway.

The current annual programme of \$174,000 is adequate to meet the Scheme's ongoing maintenance needs. Scheme assets are in good condition, deferred maintenance is manageable, and the Scheme has accumulated a small surplus of \$12,713.

A review of the Waingawa Scheme is planned on completion of the LWVDS review.

### **3.4 Upper Ruamahanga River Management Scheme**

Although the former Upper Ruamahanga Scheme has been divided into three new Schemes since the review completed in 2002, these are being considered as one Scheme for the purpose of this report. It was necessary to do so in order to get meaningful outputs especially from the 5yearly performance indicators. However, hereafter each Scheme will be reported on separately. Separate asset management plans will also be prepared for the three new Schemes.

With the exception of two five yearly criteria, Asset Management Plan performance criteria have been satisfied. Those that were not satisfied indicate the poor funding and maintenance standards that prevailed prior to the Scheme Review in 2002.

Increased works programmes and rating levels of the new Schemes is expected to improve the overall maintenance standards and enable the deferred maintenance to be carried out over the next two years. The combined annual works programme currently stands at \$280,000 in comparison to the previous level of \$164,000. An upgrade of the Te Whiti stopbank is planned for early 2004.

### **3.5 Waipoua River Management Scheme**

The Waipoua Scheme is in a satisfactory physical condition, and the Asset Management Plan performance criteria have been achieved with the exception of one five yearly criteria relating to flood damage. This again reflects the inadequate funding and maintenance levels that existed prior to the Scheme being reviewed in 2001 and which had resulted in heavy damage to Scheme assets in 1998 and 2000 floods. The Scheme has benefited substantially from the increased works programme since the Scheme review and doubling of rates. The Scheme deficit has now been reduced to \$29,115 and is expected to be repaid within the next two years.

## **4. Audit of Maintenance Standards**

An audit of Wairarapa Scheme maintenance standards was carried out by river engineering staff from the Council's Landcare Division in July 2003 (see Attachment). A total of eight sites were inspected within the Lower Valley Scheme and the Waiohine-Mangatarere Scheme in Southern Wairarapa area.

Within the LWVDS Scheme the Manganui weirs, Onoke stopbanks, Oporua Floodway- 'Duckbill' structure and Butcher's stopbank sites were inspected.

Within the Waiohine-Mangatarere Scheme bank protection works at Pears and Wongs, Tui Glen stopbank and Bicknell sites were inspected.

The auditors endorsed the management approaches adopted at these sites with the exception of the Onoke stopbank, and considered that overall maintenance was being carried out to appropriate standards. An appropriate maintenance strategy for the Onoke stopbanks will be considered as a priority item under the Scheme review. Auditors noted the significant progress made in the Waiohine-Mangatarere Scheme considering its history of being under funded and inadequate maintenance.

## **5. Summary**

- 5.1 The Wairarapa River Scheme Asset Management Plans have been updated, and the 2002/03 Performance Statements for these Plans are attached.
- 5.2 The Schemes are generally in good physical condition, with any deferred maintenance to be addressed over the next few years.
- 5.3 Adequate regional funding has been approved in the Council's Long Term Council Community Plan to support satisfactory Scheme maintenance programmes.
- 5.4 The financial deficit in Waiohine has been almost cleared while that of Waipoua will be repaid within the next two years.
- 5.5 A policy has been developed setting target levels and annual contributions for both Scheme Flood Damage Reserve and Major Flood Damage Recovery Funds. Scheme ratepayer buy-in to this policy will be sought over the next two years.
- 5.6 The Flood Protection Group audit has endorsed Wairarapa river scheme maintenance standards.

## **6. Communication Requirements**

The Asset Management Plan Performance Statements and copies of the Flood Protection Group's audit report will be presented to the Scheme advisory committees for their information.

## 7. Recommendations

*That the Committee:*

- (1) *Receive the Asset Management Plan Performance Statements prepared for the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme; and the Waiohine-Mangatarere, Upper Ruamahanga, Waingawa, and Waipoua River Management Schemes.*
- (2) *Receive the July 2003 Audit of River Management Asset Maintenance Standards for the Wairarapa.*

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