

Report 03.611
Date 13 October 2003
File N/03/15/03

Committee Hutt River Advisory
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Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan: progress report on implementing non-structural measures

1. Purpose

To update the Committee on progress made towards implementing the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan (HRFMP) non-structural measures.

2. Background

A preliminary work programme for the 2003/04 year was presented to the Hutt River Advisory Committee on 26 June 2003. This programme includes Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) assisting Hutt City Council (HCC) and Upper Hutt City Council (UHCC) with preparatory work and supporting documentation for their proposed plan change processes, progressing work on six emergency management enhancement projects and completing a flood hazard sheet for the Hutt floodplain.

We are pleased to report that the initial phase of the plan change process was completed in July when a set of officers' draft District Plan provisions was forwarded to HCC and UHCC.

The Non-structural Measures Working Group and Emergency Management Officers Group met separately in September and October 2003 to finalise their 2003/04 work programmes.

3. Progress on measures

3.1 District Plan provisions

As anticipated the 2003/04 year has seen GWRC's responsibilities in the plan process decrease considerably, as both HCC and UHCC officers determine the most appropriate way to progress toward a plan change.

The timing for this is also something that both City Councils will consider in line with their existing work programmes. To date the feedback we have received from HCC and UHCC is very supportive of proceeding with plan changes as soon as practicable.

Upper Hutt City Council

UHCC have indicated a strong commitment to undertake a plan change that incorporates the draft flood hazard provisions, as soon as they have an operative plan. Currently UHCC still has outstanding District Plan references which officers are seeking to resolve by December 2003. The timeframe for their plan to become operative will become clearer over the next few months.

Hutt City Council

The HCC District Plan is operative. Officers are currently working through a review of some aspects of their District Plan's residential provisions. Current thinking is that the draft flood hazard plan provisions can be notified as a plan change at the same time as the proposed residential plan change is notified. Officers intend to seek Council approval to notify these plan changes in approximately March 2004.

Greater Wellington's ongoing role

Major tasks for Greater Wellington include:

- completing a draft section 32 RMA analysis¹, in consultation with HCC and UHCC. This work has started and will be completed in time to be included with the respective plan changes when they are notified.
- providing additional detail for specific provisions where required.
- providing comment on any pre plan-notification editing of draft provisions.

In addition, GWRC needs to consider how we will support the statutory process for the proposed plan changes. Officers are working through these issues and will report in more detail at the February Hutt River Advisory Committee meeting.

¹ Refers to section 32 of the Resource Management Act 1991, requiring the process for considering initial mitigation options and forming draft district plan provisions to be documented, as well as establishing the costs and benefits of the draft provisions.

3.2 Emergency management programmes and procedures

Work on the six emergency management projects scheduled for 2003/04 is progressing well. Emergency management officers of the three Councils met on 1 October 2003 to finalise their programmes. **Attachment 1** shows the status of each project. Emergency management officers of the two City Councils manage these projects with the overall work programme co-ordinated by GWRC emergency management officer, Debbie Cunningham.

3.3 Voluntary actions

Work has begun on producing a flooding hazard fact sheet for the Hutt floodplain. This is one of the four flooding hazard fact sheets planned for the region by GWRC. The aim of the fact sheet is to provide technical information on flooding hazard and mitigation measures to a level everybody can easily understand.

Derek Wilshere was appointed to prepare the Hutt fact sheet. We expect to complete a draft by February 2004.

4. Communication

There are no direct communications with the community stemming from this report. The main communications will happen through any plan change process and flooding hazard fact sheets.

5. Recommendations

That the Committee:

- 1. receive the report.*
- 2. note the contents of the report.*

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Attachment 1: Status of Emergency Management Projects