



Report 04.125
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Committee Landcare
Author Graeme Campbell, Consultant

Kapiti flood hazard plans – revised plans for notification

1. Purpose

- To update the Landcare Committee on progress with the review of the new flood hazard plans proposed to be incorporated into the Kapiti Coast District Council (KCDC) District Plan.
- To seek the endorsement of the Committee for the revised plans to be provided to KCDC for notification of the plan change.

2. Background

This matter was last reported to the Landcare Committee in October 2002 in Report 02.604. The report gave a background to the changes being proposed by Greater Wellington (GW). At that time the Flood Protection Department had completed an update of the Waikanae and Otaki Flood Hazard Maps and passed the information to KCDC. KCDC then used this information along with their own work on the minor streams and water courses, to prepare for a change to their District Plan.

The first step of the proposed plan change is to consult with the community. This report updates the Landcare Committee on progress with the consultation to date and highlights the issues that have arisen. It then sets out the changes that have been made as a result of the consultation and presents the flood hazard maps that we now propose to send to KCDC for them to use in the formal notification of the plan change. Copies of the revised flood hazard maps are attached as **Attachments 1 and 2**.

3. The consultation

The initial part of the consultation involved KCDC sending out around 6000 letters to ratepayers identified as being affected by flooding on the Kapiti Coast. There were approximately 300 telephone calls responding to the information and over 100 written submissions that related to GW work alone.

The largest response was from the Otaki Community who voiced two primary concerns:

1. That they believe GW is over reporting the flood risk in Otaki
2. That construction of the Chrystalls Extended stopbank (CES) should be brought forward to remove the direct flood risk to the town.

4. Otaki public meeting

KCDC organised a public meeting in Otaki on 23 June 2003 to allow GW and KCDC to provide the background to the development of the new plans and to hear the Community's concerns prior to the closing of submissions. In the order of 300 people attended the meeting chaired by KCDC Cr Eric Mathews. This is the largest turnout to a meeting related to flood issues in Otaki in recent years and showed the high level interest within the Otaki community. The meeting confirmed the two areas of primary concern detailed above. The feedback from the meeting was positive with most people talked to by Cr Mathews following the meeting voicing their appreciation for the time taken by GW to attend the meeting and that they now felt much better informed of the issues.

The closing date for the submissions was extended at the meeting from 27 June 2003 to 11 July 2003 to allow those present time to consider the information at the meeting before preparing their written submission.

5. Issues addressed as a result of the consultation

We have now addressed the primary concerns raised in the submissions as follows:

Perceived over reporting of the flood risk in Otaki

In response to the Otaki community's concerns we checked all of the underlying assumptions used to prepare the plans. We were able to confirm that a breach of the section of stopbank between Chrystalls bend and SH1 has a high enough likelihood that the flooding below the breach should be shown as a "Direct Flood Hazard". We did however undertake further work on the most likely location of the potential breach sites. The new work has enabled us to provide a more realistic breach scenario. This reduced the size of likely flood overflows from a breach from a peak of 180m³/s to approximately 80m³/s which has in turn reduced the predicted extent of the flooding paths in the town.

Priority of Chrystalls extended stopbank

The community and GW set the priorities for improvement works as part of the Otaki Floodplain Management Plan (OFMP) preparation in 1997. We have used this plan as our blueprint for implementation of capital works since that time. The priority given to CES (job number 4) is based on the added level of flood protection the bank would offer. The October 1998 floods however showed that rather than just being a capacity issue, the stopbank was also very susceptible to failure by undermining. We have subsequently allowed for this potential failure in the hazard plans by keeping significant areas of Otaki at direct risk of flooding. What we have not done is consider how the greater risk of failure by undermining would have affected the priority of the works in the OFMP had it been known at the time. The priorities of CES and the Waitohu Stopbank, the next project on the priority list, are very close. Given the greater than estimated benefit the CES may provide it would not be unreasonable to review the priority should KCDC and the community make a case to Council for a change.

In September 2003 KCDC wrote to GW seeking such a change in priority. We have provided information to KCDC on their options and they are considering a response.

Individual responses

Flood Protection has prepared written draft responses to all of the submissions that related to GW matters. The responses were written as drafts and forwarded to KCDC so that the formal response is sent out under KCDC letterhead. Responding to submissions has taken considerable time with many requiring discussions with the individual landowners as well as site visits. KCDC has decided not to send the responses out to the individual land owners until the plans have been revised. This report therefore seeks Landcare endorsement of the revised plans so that they can then be sent to KCDC who will then send the individual responses with a copy of the relevant section of the revised plans. At that point KCDC officers should also be in a position to seek approval from their Council to notify the plan change, and so start the formal plan change process.

6. Issues still to be resolved

We have revised the flood hazard plans and completed the responses to the submissions on the draft plans in order to bring this part of the plan change process to a definite close. There remain, however, a number of uncertainties that may impact on the next stage of the process with the following two being of most importance.

Firstly the issues relating to the possible bringing forward of the construction of the CES need to be considered. If construction is brought forward far enough, KCDC may decide there is no point in proceeding with a plan change at this stage. The revised information would still be used by KCDC officers as the best information available although it would not be printed on the District Plans.

The second substantive issue is the timing of the proposed public meeting in Otaki to feed back GW's response to the concerns raised at the June 2003 meeting. We believe it would be better to report back to the community once an agreed position between the two councils over the CES has been reached. The public meeting had been tentatively set for late March 2004 but this may now need to be delayed.

7. **Communication**

The review of the flood hazard information and the consultation related to the proposed district plan change is a significant communication initiative that is helping to ensure flood hazard awareness is maintained on the Kapiti Coast. Every individual who made a submission or contacted the Council in relation to the flood hazard maps will get a response. We will work with KCDC to ensure this happens. Another opportunity is at the proposed March public meeting where we can clearly demonstrate a process of listening to community's concerns, evaluating those concerns and responding.

8. **Where to from here**

There is still a considerable amount of work to be done to support KCDC in their proposed District Plan Change. The next key actions are to forward the revised flood hazard maps to KCDC, and then ensure the responses to the individual submissions are sent out.

We will then await the outcome of the discussions between KCDC and GW relating to bringing forward the CES construction before organising the public meeting to feedback the GW response to submissions.

9. **Recommendations**

That the Committee:

1. **Receive** the report.
2. **Note** the contents of the report.
3. **Approve** the forwarding of the Otaki and Waikanae River revised flood hazard maps (Attachments 1 and 2) to KCDC for their proposed District Plan, subject to any minor technical changes agreed to by the Divisional Manager, Landcare.
4. **Agree** to the delaying of the March public meeting in Otaki until KCDC and GW reach an agreed position over the timing of the construction of the Chrystalls Extended Stopbank.

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Report approved by:

Graeme Campbell
Consultant

Geoff Dick
Manager, Flood Protection

Rob Forlong
Divisional Manager, Landcare

Attachment 1: Revised Waikanae flood hazard plans dated March 2004

Attachment 2: Revised Otaki flood hazard plans dated March 2004