



NEWSLETTER 8

October 2005

Ava to Ewen flood protection improvements: Stage Two Alicetown stopbank upgrade

Building the new stopbank

Work is well underway on the Alicetown stopbank. The reconstruction will be done in stages that will include the upgrade of the stormwater system, the raising and strengthening of the stopbank, building floodwalls and the landscaping and finishing of the project.

Upgrade to the stormwater system

The first stage is the work currently being done to upgrade the stormwater system. You will have noticed some strange looking extensions that the contractors have built. These are temporary stopbanks that will provide flood protection to the Alicetown community while the stopbank around the stormwater pipes is dismantled.

The stormwater pipes passing through the stopbank at the ends of Mudie, Wakefield and Montague Streets, will be upgraded so that they are of a larger size. They will link into the pipes in the Alicetown river berm that were upgraded when the Strand Park job was done.

When the stopbank is dismantled the opportunity will be taken to lay a concrete slab over the Hutt Valley Sewer that runs through the section of the stopbank near Tama Street. This will provide it with extra protection.

Raising and Strengthening

To construct the new stopbank, the contractor will build it onto the river side of the old stopbank. They will then dismantle the old stopbank behind it. This will ensure that if there was a flood while the work is being done, the same level of flood protection is still provided.

The material from the old stopbank plus additional material brought on to site will be used to construct the new stopbank. It will be built on top of a trench filled with impermeable (waterproof) material that has a high clay content. You will notice it on site as being quite yellow in colour. This clay filled trench will stop water getting underneath the stopbank in a flood. This layer will be ten metres wide and one metre deep.

On top of this a layer of compacted material will be placed that will form the core of the stopbank. Then a blanket of the impermeable clay will be placed over the top to seal the stopbank from floodwaters. The stopbank will then be topsoiled and grassed. When finished the Alicetown stopbank will be higher and wider, and will be further away from houses. It will increase protection from the current 100-year return period flood, to 440-year return.

Key dates

September 2005 – September 2006

- Access through Wakefield Street to the river bank and along the top of the Alicetown stopbank is not available during this period. The lower river path will remain open for recreational users.

October 2005 – January 2006

- The stopbank between Ava Rail Bridge and Ewen Bridge is reconstructed. A floodwall is built at the Ewen Bridge end of the stopbank. Construction will be done in stages throughout this time.

May 2006 – September 2006

- Landscaping and planting of native plants. Reinstating walkways.

September 2006

- Stage Two of the Ava to Ewen flood protection improvements is finished.

Flood walls

The section of the stopbank closest to the Ewen Bridge was recently constructed and will not be rebuilt. However to increase protection from a large flood the contractors will be building a concrete wall around one metre high on top of the stopbank. It will be set deep into the bank to achieve a watertight seal.

A similar floodwall will be built on top of the stopbank downstream at Ava Park.

Opahu Pumping Station (Hutt City Council)

Starting in December 2005 there will be construction works on the Strand Park side of the river next to the Ava rail bridge.

These works will include the construction of a pumping station and the rebuilding of the section of the stopbank close to it.

The works will be done by Hutt City Council in conjunction with Greater Wellington.

More information

The Viewing Platform at Ewen Bridge has an interpretation sign with more detail about the Ava to Ewen flood protection improvements.

You will receive another newsletter in January 2006 with an update on the Alicetown stopbank upgrade, and more information about the landscaping and finishing of this project.

Site issues

With the large scale machinery operating at the site, and the type of construction taking place, there will be some effects on local residents and users of the river corridor.

Fences have been put up around the edge of work sites to restrict public access for safety reasons. Please keep out of these areas and keep your eyes open for potential hazards.

Hours of work are 7.00am to 7.00pm Monday to Saturday.

- **Heavy traffic**

Trucks will continue to deliver material to Ava Park and will be using Wakefield St frequently. Contractors are doing regular road cleaning, but will do a major clean up when the number of trucks delivering material to site decrease.

There is also heavy machinery operating on the site. Please take extra care around the area throughout the length of this project.

- **Vibration and noise**

Compacting rock and soil requires large machines that cause a lot of vibration. This is necessary to ensure that the stopbank becomes watertight. At times you may feel these vibrations for short periods of time. If you believe the vibration levels are unacceptable please talk to us and we will have them tested.

- **Dust**

With the onset of dryer weather, the exposed soil on the construction site may cause periods of dust. This is especially so in windy conditions. When necessary the contractors will spray the site with water to reduce the dust problem. Again, please talk to us if you experience dust levels that you believe are unacceptable.



Showing the temporary Stopbank during an early stage of the works

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Greater Wellington –
The Regional Council
Wellington
P O Box 11646
T 04 384 5708
F 04 385 6960
W www.gw.govt.nz

James Flanagan
Flood Protection Department
P 04 801 1048
E james.flanagan@gw.govt.nz

Kim Wall
P 04 801 1042

Publication date October 2005
Doc # 292617