



Report 06.57
Date 27 February 2006
File N/03/18/01

Committee Hutt River Advisory
Authors Kim Wall, Environmental Planner
Daya Atapattu, Project Manager

Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan: Boulcott/Hutt stopbank feasibility study

1. Purpose

- To update the Advisory Committee on progress made with the Boulcott/Hutt stopbank feasibility study
- To obtain the Advisory Committee's endorsement of the proposed consultation process and programme for the feasibility study

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

In the 2 November 2005 meeting, the Advisory Committee considered a scope and programme for the Boulcott/Hutt stopbank project. The project will be implemented in three phases: feasibility, design and construction. The Advisory Committee asked officers to proceed with the indicated work with as little delay as possible and report back on implications of achieving a construction start date in July 2008. The Committee also asked officers to report back on the possibility of construction being staged from the northern end.

4. Accelerated programme

We have now revised the feasibility, design and consents programme to complete the detailed design and obtain resource consents by June 2008. This would enable construction to commence in July 2008. The Flood Protection, 2006-2016, draft Operating Plan provides for completing the design and consents by June 2008. However, at this stage, the construction budget is not

available until July 2009. We propose to present the draft Operating Plan at the 16 March meeting.

Phase 1 of the design process is the feasibility study. The purpose of the feasibility study is to determine a preferred stopbank alignment from at least three possible alignment options. The possibility of staging construction starting from the northern end will be investigated as part of this study. We expect to complete the feasibility study by December 2006.

5. Project Team

The project team for this feasibility study includes a principal consultant and four specialist advisors in the areas of golf course design, river morphology, hydraulic modelling and property management.

We have already selected the four specialist advisors. The golf course designer was selected in consultation with the Hutt and Boulcott Golf Clubs. We believe that the direct appointment of the specialist advisors will expedite the process while ensuring quality services are obtained for the study.

Professional services tenders for the principal consultant closed on 1 March 2006. Proposals were received from five reputable consultancy firms. We expect to appoint the principal consultant before the end of March 2006.

6. Feasibility study

The process for completing the feasibility study is given below.

- Identify at least three stopbank alignment options in consultation with affected parties and the local community.
- Refine the selected stopbank alignments considering opportunities to enhance golf course features and minimise effects on land owners.
- Develop criteria and methodology for evaluating options
- Evaluate options using the developed criteria
- Seek the Advisory Committee approval to consult with affected and interested parties on the evaluation outcomes
- Refine the alignments and the alignments evaluation by integrating any reasonable outcomes from the public consultation and prepare the feasibility report recommending a preferred alignment
- Seek the Advisory Committee approval of the preferred alignment. At this stage the Advisory Committee may consider a public submission and 'hearing' process depending on issues raised during the second round of public consultation.
- Announce the preferred alignment and publish the final report.

7. Consultation process and programme

The proposed consultation process for the Boulcott/Hutt stopbank feasibility study will begin in early April 2006, immediately after the appointment of the principal consultant.

The purpose of the consultation in the feasibility phase is to provide opportunities for the two golf clubs and affected residents to actively participate in the process of selecting a preferred alignment. The Advisory Committee adoption of the preferred alignment will complete the proposed consultation process.

We propose two rounds of consultation and the tasks for each consultation round include;

Round 1

- announce the start of the feasibility study,
- overview the broader stopbank alignment options with the community and identify issues,
- outline how the alignment options will be evaluated

Round 2

- advise the opportunities and benefits that have evolved from the alignment options and the methods applied to mitigate the effects of the options,
- receive feedback on evaluation outcomes

A third round of consultation is possible depending on the issues raised during the second round of public consultation. This may be in the form of a public submission and 'hearing' process.

We will consult with all parties identified as directly affected by and interested in the Boulcott / Hutt stopbank. Affected parties include residential and commercial landowners and occupiers adjacent to the proposed works, and in particular the Hutt and Boulcott Golf Clubs.

Consultation with the two golf clubs will form a major part of the proposed consultation process. A number of meetings, in addition to the two rounds of consultation explained above, will be held with the two golf clubs. Most of the land on which the proposed new stopbank is to be built is owned by the Hutt and Boulcott golf clubs. Our aim is to obtain entry agreements and purchase the required land on a 'willing seller – willing buyer' basis and so avoid the formal 'designation' process.

We will also consult with key stakeholder organisations including Iwi, Department of Conservation, Fish and Game, Hutt City Council and Greater Wellington Consents. Other interested parties include the wider Hutt community, recreational clubs using the river corridor and local residents groups.

We will use press releases to inform the wider community of the project and newsletters delivered to directly affected parties and the local community. This communication will advise how and when parties can engage in the consultation process and provide feedback on the alignment options. A number of meetings will be held with stakeholder organisations, key directly affected parties and with neighbouring property owners. These meetings will range from smaller focus group sessions to direct communication with individuals. Each round will be completed with a public meeting held close to the site.

The following table shows the proposed timeline for public consultation.

Description of task	Time
HRAC endorsement of consultation process and programme	March 2006
Round 1	
Press releases and Newsletters	April 2006
Meetings with affected parties	April/May 2006
Public meeting	May 2006
Round 2	
HRAC approval of evaluation outcomes for public consultation	October 2006
Press releases and newsletters	October 2006
Meetings with affected parties	October/November 2006
Public meeting	November 2006
HRAC adoption of the preferred alignment	30 November 2006
Round 3	
At the 30 November meeting, the HRAC may consider a public 'submission and hearing' process depending on issues raised during the second round of public consultation	

8. Communication

Once the consultation process and programme has been adopted and the principal consultant appointed, we will start the communication process by issuing a newsletter and a press release.

9. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***
3. ***Endorses the proposed consultation process and programme for the feasibility study***

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Kim Wall
Environmental Planner

Sharyn Westlake
Acting Manager, Flood Protection

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:



Daya Atapattu
Project Manager

Geoff Dick
Divisional Manager, Catchment
Management