

Flood Protection Manager's report for period ending 20 July 2007

1. Manager's comments

1.1 General

The Department materially completed the 2006/07 programme of works within budget. This was a good achievement given the size of the capital works programme, and the extent of the flood damage repairs required as a result of the 2006 Wairarapa floods.

Our main focus over the last month has been to wrap up last year's projects, prepare the annual reports and get the 2007/08 works programme planning underway. The coming year has a particularly large capital works programme but hopefully the necessary landowner agreement and approval work is now in place and the major effort will be in managing the construction.

A recent workshop to discuss the works and investigations programme over the next 8 years has shown that there are a number of major projects, particularly in the Wairarapa, that will stretch existing staff resources. Consideration of how this work is best managed and what additional staff resources may be required is underway.

2. Kapiti floodplain management [Kees Nauta]

2.1 Friends of the Waikanae River (FOWR)

During June the Department was able to assist the FOWR with about \$7,000 worth of tree removal and site preparation work (prior to planting) from existing maintenance budgets. Graham Winterburn and John Bissell worked with the FOWR to identify the sites and manage the work. The Friends were very happy with the outcome and wrote a letter of appreciation to Greater Wellington stating this. Two planting sites for the next planting season were cleared and a number of exotic trees were removed.

John Bissell and Kees Nauta attended a FOWR Executive meeting on 12 June 2007.

The FOWR held their AGM on Wednesday 18 July. Kees Nauta gave a presentation on work carried out by Greater Wellington Flood Protection on the Waikanae River during the 06/07 financial year. This was well received and GW officers were formally thanked for their efforts over the past year. The meeting was attended by 25 people and once the business was attended to there was an informative talk by Professor Lionel Carter on climate change.

2.2 Friends of the Otaki River (FOOR)

The FOOR held an Arbor Day planting on Saturday 9 June 2007. The site for this year was the entrance to the newly opened Otaki walkway. The event was well attended by 30 people and the plants were in the ground very quickly.

John Bissell and Kees Nauta attended a committee meeting on 6 June 2007.

2.3 Chrystalls Extended Stopbank

The Notice of Requirement and Resource Consents have now been granted or recommended. Appeals close by mid-August.

The detailed design and tender documents have now been completed. Advertisements for tenders are expected to commence on 4 August 2007 with tenders closing by the end of the month.

2.4 South Waitohu stopbank

A detailed site survey to complete the geotechnical investigation has been completed. We believe all material for the proposed stopbank is available onsite. We are also progressing the detailed design and resource consent application.

3. Hutt River floodplain management [Daya Atapattu]

3.1 Ava to Ewen project

Ava Rail stopbank contract works are on track for completion by February 2008. Rock supply to site is continuing and by mid July 2007, the contractor had supplied and placed about 7100 tonnes of rock out of a total of 15,000 tonnes. Earthworks have been suspended because of the prevailing wet weather and the contractor has now started concrete works under the Ava Rail Bridge. Installation of the stormwater pipe at the Rail Bridge is about 50% complete and the foundation works for the 20mx10m concrete slab under the bridge have commenced. Opahu pump station testing started on 23 July 2007.

Repairs to stormwater manholes adjacent to the Alicetown stopbank are now progressing. These works are required to be done in between tides and will go on until August 2007.

3.2 Boulcott/Hutt stopbank

Phase 2 of the feasibility study to determine a preferred alignment for the Boulcott/Hutt stopbank is now nearing completion. An officers' workshop to review the outcomes of Phase 2 is scheduled for 26 July 2007. The feasibility study outcomes will then be presented to a workshop of the Hutt River Advisory Committee on 13 August 2007 followed by a presentation to the Hutt City Council. We expect to recommend a preferred alignment to the Advisory Committee on 6 September 2007.

3.3 Whirinaki Crescent stopbank

Tenders for Stage 2 works closed on 23 July 2007. We expect to complete the tender analysis during the week and assess the total budget requirements to complete the Stage 2 works and Stage 1 floodwall by 1 August 2007.

3.4 Maoribank Riverbed stabilisation

Brendan Paul from Dam Watch was appointed to complete the risk assessment and produce the technical report. The risk assessment report is scheduled for completion by September 2007.

3.5 UHCC District plan changes

Upper Hutt City Council planning officers have now informed us that the plan change process to include the Hutt River flood hazard will begin in September 2007. It is proposed to include the Mangaroa flood hazard also in this plan change.

4. Western Operations [Jeff Evans]

All programmed works in the western operations area have been completed, including a number of extra jobs, which weren't originally budgeted for. These jobs were funded from savings in other areas.

Over the last year operations staff also helped with a number of capex jobs, including the Whirinaki Crescent stopbank raising through the Wellington Golf Club, and work associated with the Chrystall's extended stopbank.

Staff in both Wellington and Kapiti have been busy preparing sites for the upcoming planting season. On the Hutt River a large number of old crack willows and silver poplars have been removed to ease constrictions in the channel and new hybrid Moutere willows have been planted back on the correct alignment. A number of areas have been cleared for the Waikanae and Otaki friends groups in preparation for native planting, and willow stock is being cut from river side plantings for infill planting on all the major river systems.

4.1 Hutt River

Wet extraction has continued at Belmont. Fish and Game NZ have been supportive of the works and wrote a very good article in their magazine supporting the methodology used and the works undertaken.

Maintenance of survey markers used for bed level surveys has been completed along with some channel shaping in both Upper and Lower Hutt.

4.2 Hutt River Trail

The cutting back of vegetation has been ongoing and gravel has been used to top a number of pot holes on the trail surface.

Events on the trail have been steady. Maidstone Intermediate had a rubbish clean up day on the river berms and Fergusson Intermediate took part in a planting day at Poets Park.

4.3 Hutt River ranging services

Ranging has included the usual patrols and enforcement, in particular the misuse of vehicles on the riverbanks. We have been liaising with Hutt City Council in relation to the redevelopment of Sladdon Park. We recently made a presentation to the Wellington Tramping Club on the Hutt River and its surrounds and also spent some time with Fish and Game on signage placement for recreational anglers.

4.4 Watercourses

Gravel extraction has continued in the Waitohu Stream, and clearing runs have now been completed in the Porirua Stream, Kenepuru Stream, Takapu Stream, Korokoro Stream, Pinehaven Stream, Hulls Creek and Waiwhetu Stream. An annual drain clearing run was also completed on all the major rural drains under our responsibility in the Kapiti area.

4.5 Otaki River

Beach re-contouring has been completed opposite Wallace-Lutz. A small area of rock wall was topped up on the Chrystall's bend rock line, and native planting has been undertaken with the Otaki friends groups.

4.6 Waikanae River

A large number of redundant willow trees have been removed from Jim Cook Park and this area will be replanted with natives by the Waikanae friends. Several large and dangerous silver poplar trees have been removed from behind private property at Greenaway Road, after complaints of branches falling onto houses.

4.7 Gravel extraction

Gravel extraction figures to the end of June 2007 are set out below.

River	Area	Contractor	Period Year 2006/07 (cubic metres)		Year 2005/06 (cubic metres)
			Period	Year	Full Year
Hutt	Estuary	Winstones	6,566	46,100	49,154
	River	Horokiwi	12,369	46,890	60,680
Otaki	River	Winstones	0	40,929	41,442
Waikanae	Above Greenaway Road	Various	0	3,330	9,210
	Below Greenaway Road	Gary Holland Earthmoving	0	5,360	5,040
TOTALS			18,935	142,609	165,526

5. Wairarapa Operations [Mike Longworth]

5.1 Wairarapa River Schemes

5.1.1 Annual Works Programmes

The annual work programmes have been completed. The 9 annual river scheme meetings were held over the period April and May to review the year and set the 2007/08 years programme and rates. Most schemes accepted rate increases in the order of 5.9% except for the Whangaehu, Gladstone and Lower Wairarapa Valley Development schemes which held their rates at last year's level. The Waiohine River Scheme reduced its rates by 30% because it has significant reserves.

5.1.2 Flood Damage Repairs

The July 2006 flood damage repairs of \$1.24m are now completed except for some work on the Hikinui sill. The old sill was retained to provide protection for the new sill until grass cover was established and the new sill consolidated. The removal of the old sill and installation of the debris barrier will be done over the summer 2008. Funds of \$120,000 have been carried forward to the 2007/08 financial year for this work.

5.1.3 Drainage Schemes

A combination of factors including a very wet winter, power price increases, and a catch up on some deferred maintenance resulted in drainage scheme reserves being significantly depleted. At year end there was a deficit of \$42,000 in the scheme reserves. To rectify this

situation the drainage scheme committees that have schemes in a deficit, have agreed to the rates being increased, some of them up to 77% in the coming year. The increase in scheme rates should see the deficit recovered by 2009/10. The drainage schemes are fully funded by the benefiting farmers and not from the Regional Council.

5.2 Kopuaranga River Enhancement Project

The committee to develop a scheme on the Kopuaranga have completed their work and the Kopuaranga community have agreed on a scheme covering the lower 27 km of the river from the confluence with the Ruamahanga up to the road bridge immediately below Mauriceville. The community had earlier failed to adequately support a scheme over the entire 50km of the river. The shorter scheme will have a development phase of 8 years at a total cost of \$240,000 and then revert to a maintenance phase from then on.

5.3 Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme Review (LWVDS)

The LWVD Scheme review was presented to the community at a series of public meetings in April. Legal advice has indicated that the Council will need to follow a special consultative procedure before the new rates for the scheme can be adopted. This requirement, and a couple of outstanding minor issues from the consultation phase to resolve, have meant that the adoption of the final classification will occur in 2007/08 financial year.

The detailed works programme for 2007/08 is now being developed for the Scheme committee to consider at its first meeting on 1 August. Once the Committee has endorsed the works programme work will commence within the next two months, weather permitting.

5.4 Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme Global Consent

The LWVD Scheme Global Consent has been lodged with the Council's Consents Department. Further consultation is in progress to get sign-offs from affected parties so that it can be processed as a non notified consent.

5.5 Waingawa River Scheme Review

The Waingawa River Scheme review was not been able to be completed in 2006/07 due to resources being concentrated on the Kopuaranga project and the LWVDS review. Staff have assembled background information to be used in the review. The full scope of the review is still to be determined but once this is done then the review will proceed with the involvement of the scheme advisory committee.

6. Strategy and Technical Support [Sharyn Westlake]

The following table summarises the number of formal, written requests attended to during the year ending 30 June 2007:

	June 2007	YTD
Requests brought forward	4	4
Additional requests received	22	191
Responses provided	19	188
Outstanding requests	3	3

Responding to requests for advisory information in a timely manner is an ongoing issue with the department remaining short-staffed. There was a 30% increase in the number of requests received in 2006/07 compared to 2005/06 (191 compared to 148). Of these, 61 were received, and responded to, in the last quarter of the year.

Policy input provided over this period has included the Department's input to the review of the Regional Policy Statement, the Ministry for the Environment's Flood Management Review, the Local Government Regional Affairs Committee Flood Management Subcommittee reports, and Flood Protection's internal policy development in light of the developing framework.

We also met with Upper Hutt City Council to discuss their programme for a planned change to the Upper Hutt City Council District Plan, which is needed to reflect and convey flood hazard information for both the Hutt and Mangaroa Rivers.

We have received the final design channel alignment and report for the Wainuiomata River, and the planned winter planting will take this information into account.

The objections to Plan Change 50 of the Kapiti Coast District Plan are in the final stages of settlement through the Environment Court Mediation Process, and we are expecting a successful outcome, without needing to go to the Environment Court.

7. Investigations and Assets [John Eyles]

7.1 Waiwhetu Stream floodplain management study

The bulk of technical work to complete Phase 2 was completed by the end of June 2007. Investigations into house raising, the assessment of property easement requirements and stream sedimentation and morphology will be completed in July.

The next phase of the project is to complete option development, formal consultation, drafting the Flood Management Plan (FMP) and getting signoff from HCC and GW by the end of June 2008.

Officers are continuing to talk with Ministry officials to try to secure funding for the contaminated sediment clean up costs. Hutt City Council and Greater Wellington have confirmed a local contribution totalling 33% (estimated to be \$2M) of the total project costs. An application for the remaining 67% of total project costs (estimated to be \$4M) was made to the Ministry for the Environment on 22 June. We await the results of the latest application.

The next WSAC meeting is scheduled for 22 August.

7.2 Pauatahanui Stream (in conjunction with Porirua City Council and Transit NZ)

The flood hazard study showed this stream is heavily overgrown with willows and has many obstructions to flow which increases the risk of flooding.

Steve Murphy has been preparing individual property reports to identify stream maintenance required. He is also working on a resource consent template for individual owners to use when they wish to start work. Steve's progress on these two activities has slowed due to a recent spell of poor health. Transit has agreed to call tenders to clean up the whole stream, probably next financial year. The individual property owners have to agree to pay their pro rata share.

We will continue to liaise with PCC in developing an integrated whole of catchment approach for managing the Pauatahanui stream.

7.3 Detention Dams study, Stebbings Dam Hydrology

The Building Act 2004 defines the responsibilities that dam owners have with respect to the integrity of dams and how they should be managed to protect public safety in the event of failure.

A draft report has been received from consultants NIWA that completes a review of the hydrology of Stebbings Dam which follows similar work undertaken in 2001/02 for the Seton Nossiter dam. The review has shown that Stebbings Dam has the capacity to deal with very extreme storm events right up to PMF. The next step will be to assess our full responsibilities as dam owners under the Building Act.

7.4 Asset management

The major project to revalue the department's assets has been completed. The last asset valuation was completed in 2002. The value of Flood Protection's infrastructural assets has increased by 34%, from \$140.9 million to \$188.5 million. The increase can be mainly attributed to a substantial increase in material and construction costs, along with an increase in the number of assets since the last re-valuation. An external peer reviewer has confirmed that the revised asset values are acceptable and appropriate for financial reporting purposes.

Annual asset inspections were completed in June. The inspections continue to show, on the whole, that flood protection assets are in good condition and are being maintained appropriately.

As part of the organisation-wide asset management information system review, officers have also attended a series of vendor demonstrations. Clarification is being sought with the vendors before a recommendation can be made for a preferred supplier.



Graeme Campbell
Manager, Flood Protection