



Report 07.79
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Committee Hutt River Advisory Committee
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Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan: Project Manager's report

1. Purpose

To update the Advisory Committee on progress made with implementing the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan (HRFMP).

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. Ava to Ewen project

The Ava to Ewen project is currently on programme, under budget and is scheduled for completion by 2010. The project reached another major milestone with the appointment of Dixon & Dunlop Ltd for the \$3 million Ava Rail stopbank project.

Opahu pump station

Opahu pump station works are currently progressing well with the target to commission the pumps in March 2007. The contractor has installed the pumps and currently progressing on the control building and the electrical works.

Ava Rail stopbank reconstruction and waterway upgrade

Construction works on the Ava Rail stopbank reconstruction and waterway upgrade contract commenced on 18 December 2006. The contractor has cleared the site and is currently constructing the section of stopbank downstream of the bridge. A section of the Opahu Stream outlet channel was realigned to make way for the new stopbank. Top soil and material excavated from the foundation have been stockpiled on the Barber Grove river berm. All suitable materials from this stockpile will be re-used for stopbank construction. Most of the remaining materials not suitable for stopbank construction will be used for landscaping the site.

About 15,000 tonnes of rock required for this contract will be supplied from Fernbrae Quarry in Takaka. Didiymo was recently detected in the Takaka River and Biosecurity New Zealand, through Tasman District Council, has assessed and found that the risk of spreading Didiymo to the North Island on rock supplied from Fernbrae quarry to be negligible. The first barge with 250 tonnes arrived on 8 February 2007.

Alicetown stopbank reconstruction

The contractor is currently progressing with the tidying up works in accordance with a list of items identified by the Engineer. These tidying up works will be completed in March 2007 and comprise the reshaping and grassing of a few areas of the new stopbank.

Strand Park stopbank design

The detailed design for the Strand Park stopbank is now complete. Draft tender documents are due to be delivered next month. Reconstruction of the Strand park stopbank is scheduled to commence in July 2008 so the design and tender documents are well ahead of schedule.

4. Whirinaki stopbank upgrade

The Whirinaki Crescent stopbank project will now be constructed in two stages. Report 07.61 in this Order Paper provides details of the new programme and a revised cost estimate.

5. Boulcott/Hutt stopbank project

We are now working on 3 alignment options in detail to provide the Advisory Committee with more information to select a preferred alignment. Report 07.78 provides details of the extended programme for selecting a preferred alignment.

6. Gravel extraction

Wet extraction commenced in mid November 2007 and 5,300 m³ was extracted before the site was closed on 22 December for recreational use. Extraction operations recommenced on 15 February 2007 and the contractor expects to remove a total of about 60,000 m³ by June 2007.

7. Implementing non-structural measures

The Upper Hutt City district plan change to include the Hutt River flood hazard areas remains to be done. This project was scheduled to commence in February 2007. However, this is now delayed because of major changes in the UHCC Planning team. We expect to meet the new UHCC Planning team in late March 2007 to discuss a programme for the proposed plan change.

8. Maoribank Riverbed stabilisation

This project commenced on 23 January 2007 with a workshop to develop the project scope. The first stage of the project is to understand the cause of the degradation trend in the Maoribank reach of the Hutt River. This will involve analysing historic river cross section information, aerial photography and geo-technical information. The next stage of the project is to develop options for dealing with the ongoing bed degradation in this reach of the river.

9. Budget

Attachment 1 provides the total expenditure forecast to project completion for current structural projects excluding the Boulcott/Hutt stopbank. The total forecast is shown in current dollars and in 1999 dollars. The allocations provided in the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan (HRFMP) are in 1999 dollars.

The capital works budgets are annually adjusted to reflect the inflation applicable to the construction industry. These adjustments are now made on the basis of information published by Statistics New Zealand. Construction prices have gradually increased over the years and the index used for converting 1999 prices to 2006 prices is 1.37. The indices for 2001 to 2005 vary from 1.13 to 1.26.

The total HRFMP budget for the current projects is \$16.2 million (1999 dollars). The total expenditure forecast to project completion is \$17.5 million in current dollars or \$13.3 million in 1999 dollars. The major savings are in the Ava to Ewen project. The savings in the Belmont project is due to the adoption of the floodgate option instead of house raising. However, Whirinaki stopbank project total costs are forecast to exceed the HRFMP allocation by about \$205,000 (1999 dollars). Reasons for this increase are explained in report 07.61 of the Order Paper. As shown in the expenditure table this increase can be absorbed within the savings from the Ava to Ewen project.

We also expect significant cost increases in the Boulcott/Hutt project. This issue will be addressed separately, once the refined costs are known.

10. Communication

Each HRFMP project has its own communication initiative. A newsletter was distributed to Woburn and Moera residents and a press release was issued to announce the award of Ava Rail stopbank reconstruction and waterway upgrade contract.

11. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*

Report prepared by:

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Attachment 1: Budget and Expenditure Forecast