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**Committee** Catchment Management  
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## **Waiwhetu Stream cleanup project update**

### **1. Purpose**

To provide:

- A brief summary of the clean up trial of the Waiwhetu stream completed in April 2008.
- An outline of the next steps in the project.

### **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**

The lower section of the Waiwhetu stream is considered to be the most contaminated waterway in New Zealand. The main contaminants are heavy metals (lead, copper, zinc and cadmium) and DDT. A preliminary design of a technique to remove the contaminated material was completed in August 2006 based on a method approved by the US EPA for the Little Scioto River in Ohio USA.

The Waiwhetu Stream Advisory Subcommittee, at its meeting on 10 December 2007, recommended that Greater Wellington proceed with a full scale trial of the remediation technique during the summer of 2007/08 at an estimated project cost of \$500,000.

The objectives of the trial were to:

- Confirm if the clean up methodology would achieve the desired result
- Refine cost estimates for the full clean up
- Establish resource consent conditions for the full clean up

A full update and presentation of the trial report will be given at the WSAS meeting on 24 June 2008.

#### **4. Comment**

##### Clean up methodology

The clean up trial was successfully completed by contractors Brian Perry Civil Limited in April 2008.

Validation testing showed that the stream bed clean up achieved a very high standard, below the ANZECC ISQG "low" levels. This is a higher standard of clean up than was consented to achieve. The measured water quality in the stream during the trial was also below the ANZECC guidelines for protection of aquatic species.

We are confident that the methodology used in the trial can be refined during detailed design and successfully applied to the full clean up works.

##### Cost estimate

The final cost of the trial is being finalised but will be below \$500,000.

The estimated cost of the full clean up is \$5.9M. The trial showed that we should be able to increase the size of the cells used, reducing costs, but the estimate was prepared in 2006 and there has been a considerable increase in construction costs since then. The costs of the full clean up will be confirmed during the final design stage in September/October.

##### Resource consent

A non notified resource consent was granted for the trial to carry out the works between 30 January and 1 April 2008 and all the main conditions were able to be met.

A number of improvements will be made to the full consent application and assessment of environmental effects as a result of lessons learned during the trial. We will be seeking to modify some of the consent conditions as well.

A presentation will be delivered at the meeting.

#### **5. Next Steps**

Key milestones for the next stages of the project are:

Jun- Oct 2008	complete detailed stream channel design and remediation design, confirm project costings
Oct 2008	lodge resource consent application
Nov 2008- Feb 2009	contract tendering, assessments and negotiation

Mar 2009 consent granted, award contract, start clean up and widening and deepening

Jun 2010 clean up completed

On 23 April, Greater Wellington invited expressions of interest from nine selected local consultants to provide professional services to complete the detailed design, consenting and implementation of the clean-up, widening and deepening of the Waiwhetu Stream. A short list of three consultants was prepared and presentations received by the Waiwhetu Steering Group on 23 May.

The services required are broadly:

1. Detailed stream channel design (widening and deepening) from Bell Road to the mouth
2. Finalising clean up design, using the lessons learned from the trial.
3. Resource consenting for channel excavation and remediation
4. Implementation (contracting) arrangements and
5. Other services required to complete the project.

An update will be provided at the meeting.

## 6. Communication

Trial updates were published regularly during the project to keep stakeholders informed. Positive coverage of the trial was received in the Hutt News and the Dominion Post. The local community strongly supported the trial, with no complaints received.

## 7. Recommendations

*That the Committee:*

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

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