



Report 09.214
Date 3 March 2009
File N/06/23/09

Committee Catchment Management
Author Jacky Cox, Engineer

South Waitohu stopbank

1. Purpose

To seek approval from the Committee to defer the construction of the South Waitohu stopbank until the 2010/11 financial year, enabling it to be implemented in conjunction with other works proposed for the Convent Road area.

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 South Waitohu stopbank is one of four structural measures proposed by the Otaki River Floodplain Management Plan (ORFMP) to provide flood protection to the Rangiora and Waitohu communities. The three other measures proposed are:

1. enlargement of the Mangapouri stream channel;
2. raising of houses in the Waitohu area; and
3. raising of the Old Coach Road Bridge and construction of a deflector stopbank.

The Waitohu Stream links with the Otaki River, with overflows between the two systems occurring via the Mangapouri and Rangiora Streams. The ORFMP did not, however, deal explicitly with the flood and erosion hazard in the Waitohu Stream. A separate study that proposed a whole stream approach to the management of the Waitohu Stream was undertaken and endorsed by the then Landcare and Environment Committees (Report 06.491, dated 29 August 2006). The study covered the flood and erosion hazard inherent to the stream, reviewed water quality and ecosystem health, and proposed a number of mitigation measures. Extensive consultation with the local community was also a significant component of this study.

The Waitohu Stream Study summary report (refer Attachment 1) recommended further investigations around the Convent and Bennett's Roads area and the Mangapouri Stream. As this work was significant and had financial and staffing implications for the Catchment Management and Environment Divisions than could be undertaken in 2006 it was agreed that this work would be considered in more detail at a later date. This was consistent with the ORFMP proposal for work in the Convent Road area programmed for the 2010/11 financial year.

4. The South Waitohu stopbank

The South Waitohu stopbank project commenced in 2004, with the stopbank to be constructed this financial year. A draft resource consent application was prepared and sent to affected parties in 2008.

After consulting with key stakeholders including Kapiti Coast District Council (KCDC), the Waitohu Stream Care Group, and directly affected landowners it became clear that the community was concerned about the effects of a stopbank in an area already subject to frequent flooding.

The proposed stopbank will increase flood levels, particularly downstream of the stopbank. The local community is concerned that given the existing flooding in the Convent and Bennett's Road area the construction of a stopbank to prevent flooding in Rangiruru will exacerbate the existing situation.

KCDC in a recent letter (refer to Attachment 2) have also requested that the stopbank be deferred. While KCDC do not necessary oppose a stopbank they would like to see this project integrated with the stormwater aspect of the Greater Otaki project, and that wider consultation is undertaken on both matters.

Given the community's concerns about the proposed stopbank and KCDC's request, the best option is to defer the construction of the South Waitohu Stopbank until the 2010/11 financial year. This will allow the stopbank to be considered in conjunction with both the proposed Convent and Bennett's Roads investigations, and the stormwater aspect of KCDC's Greater Otaki project.

During development of the proposed LTCCP a decision was made to re-budget funds for the construction of the stopbank into the 2010/11 year. This decision followed a review of concerns raised by staff about potential negative effects.

5. Proposed Lower Waitohu Stream project

Greater Wellington already has budget allocated, and work is programmed to commence, in the 2010/11 financial year to investigate the frequent flooding that occurs in the Convent and Bennett's Roads area. What is now proposed, given the recent feedback on the South Waitohu stopbank, is a new project, called the Lower Waitohu Stream project that will consider four key elements:

1. The South Waitohu Stopbank;
2. The Convent and Bennett's Road flooding, and the solutions proposed in the ORFMP;
3. The Waitohu Stream Study recommendations; and
4. The stormwater aspect of KCDC's Greater Otaki project.

The first phase of this project is essentially an information gathering exercise to accurately identify and describe the flood hazard. A portion of this work has been completed through the South Waitohu stopbank project in the development of a detailed hydraulic model to accurately define the before and after flood hazard related to the proposed stopbank.

Phase two of the project would identify options, both structural and non-structural, to mitigate the flood risk. These would be assessed on a number of criteria and refined in consultation with key stakeholders and the wider community. We are proposing to work with KCDC to develop a consultation strategy that would consider both the flooding and stormwater issues.

If the recommendations of this report are accepted then a more detailed programme will be developed and reported back to this Committee.

6. Communication

Those key stakeholders and directly affected parties, who were consulted with as part of the South Waitohu stopbank project, will be contacted and sent a letter informing them of the stopbank deferment. Discussions on the proposed programme for the Lower Waitohu Stream project will be subject to the Committee's approval of this option.

7. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***
3. ***Endorses the deferral of the construction of the South Waitohu stopbank, with the necessary budget adjustments until the 2010/11 financial year.***
4. ***Endorses the proposed outline for the Lower Waitohu Stream project.***
5. ***Notes that a copy of this report will be sent to Kapiti Coast District Council and the Waitohu Stream Care Group.***

Report prepared by:



Jacky Cox
Engineer

Report approved by:



Graeme Campbell
Manager, Flood Protection

Report approved by:

Wayne O'Donnell
Divisional Manager,
Catchment Management

Attachment 1: Waitohu Stream study recommendations 5.10– 5.16

Attachment 2: Letter from Kapiti Coast District Council

Attachment 3: Map including proposed stopbank site, current flooded areas, road names