



JULY 2009

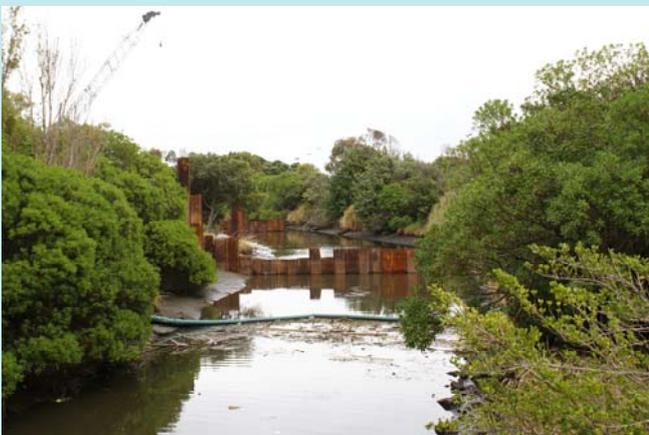
Waiwhetu Stream clean-up and flood protection works

Introduction

Work is about to begin on the Waiwhetu Stream. The project has four goals: the removal of contaminated sediment, the improvement of flood protection measures, an infrastructure upgrade and the ecological enhancement of the Waiwhetu environment. It is a joint venture between Greater Wellington Regional Council, the Ministry for the Environment and Hutt City Council.

Early last year, a trial was conducted to test the clean-up process and to get an idea of what we can expect from the full-scale project. This was very successful, and construction company Brian Perry Civil has been selected to perform the works.

They will take place in two main stages. The flood protection works will be undertaken first with the second stage, the clean-up, beginning later on this year. As we are currently in the season when flooding is the most likely, the risk will be reduced as soon as possible. The clean-up, which involves isolating sections of the stream, will be undertaken in the drier months when the flow is at a seasonal low. Hutt City Council's various infrastructure improvements and native planning will take place alongside the works process.



Sheet metal piles are used to isolate sections of the stream during the February 2008 clean-up trial.

Why is all this being done?

The Waiwhetu Stream has a legacy of contaminated sediment from undiluted and untreated industrial discharges being pumped into the stream up until

1978 when a trade waste sewer was installed. Heavy metals such as lead, zinc, copper and cadmium as well as pesticides are found in the contaminated sediment.

The 2004 floods highlighted the need to increase the stream's capacity (*see above image*). There is a risk that if the sediments are not removed, a major event such as an earthquake or a flood larger than the 2004 event could cause the contaminated sediments to end up in Wellington harbour causing significant environmental harm.

The stream channel from Bell Rd Bridge south will be widened and deepened to allow a greater volume of water to be conveyed. These changes will allow the Hutt City Council to easily upgrade related infrastructure, such as stormwater channels, at the same time.

Native trees and shrubs will be planted along the banks to increase the biodiversity of the area and encourage the development of a healthy ecosystem.

When will it be happening?

The first stage of the works is scheduled to take place between July 2009 and February 2010.

- *Site possession and setup:*
6 to 27 July 2009
- *Erosion protection work at Port Road Bridge:*
July to September 2009
- *Hutt Park Pump Station and sewer crossing:*
July to September 2009
- *Stormwater upgrades between Seaview Rd Bridge and Bell Rd Bridge:*
July to September 2009
- *Retaining wall construction on true right bank:*
August 2009 to January 2010
- *Retaining wall construction on true left bank:*
September 2009 to February 2010



What will I see?

We will do our best to minimise the impact on the local residents, however you may still see many aspects of the project. These could include:

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How will this affect me?

Hopefully very little, but you may experience:

- Traffic delays
- Noise from diggers, trucks and water pumps
- Slight vibrations from the installation of the sheet pile walls
- Slight odour from the exposed stream bed.
- contaminated sediments to end up in Wellington harbour causing significant environmental harm.

Your understanding for this important project is appreciated.

For more information go to www.gw.govt.nz/waiwhetucleanup

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