greater WELLINGTON
REGIONAL COUNCIL
Te Pane Matua Taiao

Report	**2014.195**
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Committee	**Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga Floodplain Management Plan Subcommittee**
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Project Manager's Report

1. Purpose

To provide the Subcommittee with background information which lead to the establishment of the Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga River Floodplain Management Subcommittee.

2. Background

Greater Wellington Regional Council develops floodplain management plans for the major rivers and streams within the Wellington Region. To date there are floodplain management plans being implemented on Te Awa Kairangi/Hutt River, Otaki River, Waikanae River. There are floodplain management plans in development for the Waiohine River, Pinehaven Stream and Waiwhetu Stream. The process of floodplain management planning is guided by international best practice, and is set out in the Greater Wellington Regional Council Guidelines for Floodplain Management Planning [WGN#1230541]. In summary the documented process of floodplain management planning occurs over three phases, Phase 1 – Establish the context, Phase 2 – Understand Risk and Treatment Options, Phase 3 – Implement sustainable solutions.

Scoping for the development of Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga Floodplain Management Plan commenced in October 2012 due to an identified need in terms of flood risk vulnerability within the upper Ruamahanga floodplain; expiration of consents which allow for current river and flood management; and alignment of floodplain management practices across the region.

Phase 1 investigations commenced in March 2013, and are anticipated to be complete in April 2014.

2.1 Current Flood Protection in the Wairarapa

Flood protection in the Wairarapa is carried out through river management schemes. These schemes operate through river scheme committees which report to the Policy and Strategy Committee within GWRC. The committees are comprised of landowners adjacent to the river reaches included within the

schemes. Each scheme is funded through a combination of land and asset owner contribution and general rate. Most frequently this is a 50%/50% split, however, there are some exceptions.

Towards the end of each financial year scheme committee meetings are held. At these meetings GWRC's Area Engineers report on work completed during the past year, report on the financial health of the schemes, and discuss forward work programmes for the coming year.

Graeme Campbell, Flood Protection Manager, will provide an overview of Flood Protection's activities in the Wairarapa and our approach to Floodplain Management Planning in a presentation at the 15th April 2014 Subcommittee meeting.

2.2 Establishment of the Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga River Floodplain Management Subcommittee

The nature of the work required for the renewal of all of the Wairarapa River Scheme resource consents was such that it made sense to group together all of the schemes for this work, rather than undertake separate floodplain management plans for each scheme. To this end, the Council decided to establish the Subcommittee to overview this process. Report 2014.16, included as Attachment 1 to this report, gives some background to this matter.

3. Current Status of Investigation

Phase 1 - Establish the context aims to build a picture of the floodplain. It identifies hazards and values, effectively taking a snapshot in time of the study area. For the purposes of this floodplain management plan the Phase 1 Investigations were split into nine parts:

- Hydrology – Understanding of the weather systems and predicting river flows.
- Hydraulic Modelling – Understanding the way flooding occurs and mapping how this interacts with the floodplains.
- Geomorphology – Understanding how the river affects and is affected by the natural landform it exists within. Generally focused on the river corridor, its bed and banks.
- Flood and Erosion Damages – Understanding what is affected by the modelled floods in terms of bank erosion losses, flooded buildings and houses, at risk infrastructure and quantifying these in dollar terms.
- Current Flood Risk Management – Understanding how the river and risks are currently managed and some of the reasoning behind what led to these practices.
- Cultural Values – Understanding values and sites of cultural significance to Tangata Whenua.
- Landscape, Heritage and Recreation Values – Understanding of social amenity values within the floodplain.
- Ecological Values – Understanding the environment in context of aquatic, avian, terrestrial ecosystems, covering birds, to fish to plants.
- Planning and Landuse – Understanding current policy and planning frameworks within which the community and floodplain exists.

These are all developed and assisted through engagement with the community who have particular expertise in specific areas.

3.1 The Subcommittee

The Subcommittee was established on a model which includes representation for a full spectrum of floodplain values. This includes elected representatives to convey the views and opinions of their broad spectrum electorate, river scheme representatives to convey the views and opinions of those landowners directly affected by the rivers due to adjacent landownership, iwi representatives to covey the views and opinions of Tangata Whenua, community representatives to convey views and opinions of community interest groups who represent values ranging from heritage to recreation to ecology and environment.

Together the Subcommittee will ensure that consideration of a full spectrum of values is an integral part of the development of Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga Floodplain Management Plan.

Alistair Allan, Project Manager for the Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga Floodplain Management Plan, will present our progress to date and discuss the role of the Subcommittee further in a presentation at the 15 April 2014 Subcommittee meeting.

4. Communication

Officers have met with officers of both Masterton and Carterton District Councils in relation to this project and future meetings are scheduled.

Officers have had a number of meetings with interest groups and values representatives to collect information related to these and ensure their inclusion in Phase 1 reporting.

5. The Decision-Making Process and Significance

No decisions are being recommended in this report.

6. Next Stages

The next stage of work will be for the Subcommittee to consider and agree the findings of the Phase 1 investigation work, and will then proceed into the Phase 2 investigations.

Phase 2 investigations are currently being scoped. This is occurring in parallel to the completion of Phase 1 development of a project plan for Phase 2. This will be detailed in a separate report to a future meeting of this Subcommittee.

Future Subcommittee meeting dates are detailed in a separate report.

7. Recommendations

That the Subcommittee:

1. ***Receives** the report.*

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

Report prepared by:	Report approved by:	Report approved by:	Report approved by:
Alistair J N Allan Senior Projects Engineer, Investigations	**Mark Hooker** Team Leader Investigations, Strategy and Policy	**Graeme Campbell** Manager Flood Protection	**Wayne O'Donnell** General Manager Catchment Management