

Report 15.105
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Committee Strategy and Policy Committee
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Report on the Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga River Floodplain Management Plan Subcommittee meeting 10 March 2015

1. Purpose

To inform the Strategy and Policy Committee of Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga River Floodplain Management Plan Subcommittee (the Subcommittee) meeting of 10 March 2015.

2. Reports

2.1 Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga Floodplain Management Plan – Phase 2 Community Engagement

The Subcommittee discussed the community engagement strategy for Phase 2 of the floodplain management plan. Phase 2 of the process is focused on prioritisation of objectives, identification and assessment of flood risk management options. Community engagement during this phase is intended to set up a dialogue between the project team and community at risk. This process allows communities to participate in the process of floodplain management planning and contributes to capacity building and flood awareness among participants.

The project team attended the Masterton A+P show on the 21st of February and showcased two parts of the project. The first part of the stand showed values and land use across the catchment, and asked people to consider these when they allocated resources across five categories of aims. There was strong community interest in rivers and water quality issues, and the results of the survey were overwhelmingly weighted towards environmental outcomes. The second part of the stand included the two options developed by the subcommittee for flood protection in Masterton. This showcased issues and opportunities with each approach and encouraged people to add comments to the posters about their thoughts.

2.2 Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga Floodplain Management Plan- Visions and Aims

The Subcommittee approved the vision and overarching aims of the Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga Floodplain Management Plan. The development of the overarching aims feeds down from the overall vision for the floodplain management plan and draws on the Phase 1 investigations and includes consideration of the flooding and erosion issues, the values within the catchment and discussions with stakeholder groups about what they want to see come out of the floodplain management plan.

The five overarching aims for the floodplain management plan are: working together to develop a sustainable floodplain management plan, supporting sustainable economic development, protecting and improving the cultural values of rivers, recognising community needs and building resilient communities and protecting and enhancing our natural spaces. The aims encompass the way in which the community at a regional, district and individual level currently use and value the floodplain, and incorporate consideration of future uses and needs.

2.3 Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga Project Manager's Report

The Subcommittee discussed the Masterton flood protection option development and noted that the geotechnical survey of current stopbanks is complete, however, the modelling is still ongoing and the costing work is due to be completed at the end of the week. The results of the survey will be presented to the Subcommittee at its next meeting.

Flood Protection officers have been working with Victoria University of Wellington Landscape Architecture students on conceptualising options for the Masterton reach of the Waipoua River. Case studies will look at flooding and possible solutions to address it and linking it to development opportunities.

3. Communication

No external communication is required.

4. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

4.1 Engagement

Engagement on this matter is unnecessary.

5. Recommendations

That the Committee:

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

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Report approved by:

Cr Donaldson
Chair, Strategy and Policy
Committee