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Committee	Te Kāuru Upper Ruamāhanga River Floodplain Management Subcommittee
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Project Manager's report

1. Purpose

To update the Subcommittee regarding the Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga Floodplain Management Plan.

2. Waipoua Hydrology Update

At the meeting on 7 September 2015, the Subcommittee indicated that it wanted to see better alignment between Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) and Masterton District Council (MDC) regarding the flood risk affecting Masterton, and the associated development of flood risk management options.

2.1 Hydrology Report

The hydrology report is substantially complete, officers from MDC and GWRC are yet to meet to accept the findings of the report. A verbal update will be provided to the Subcommittee.

2.2 Model Re-run

The model re-run will not be carried out until the reviewed hydrology information is accepted and endorsed by both GWRC and MDC.

2.3 Flexible mesh model

Additional topographical survey work has now been completed and the information is being incorporated into the higher resolution flexible mesh model, as previously noted.

LiDAR review has been completed to ensure that it meets requirements for this model. Additional LiDAR has been obtained to build on the accuracy of the flood model.

2.4 Officers Working Group update

GWRC and MDC have continued to hold officer group meetings to advance this piece of work. The work continues to be funded under a 50/50 share arrangement between GWRC and MDC.

2.5 Key messages

There have been media enquiries received regarding this and other floodplain management plan work. The following remain the key messages used to address enquiries related to the hydrology updates:

- MDC and GWRC are collaborating on the refinement of flood hazard information for Masterton
- This refinement work will improve the level of detail of flood hazard information available to the community
- As part of this work a second, more detailed flood model is being built using the latest generation of flood modelling software
- The work includes: some additional new survey data specifically collected to improve the model; more detailed hydrology estimates; and finer resolution of detail in the flood model
- Flood hazard information releases use the best available information at the time of release or when requested. Future information releases will be done when new or improved information becomes available, such as when this collaborative refinement is completed
- For further information about flood risk please email info@gw.govt.nz

3. Masterton option development

Continued development of the Masterton options will only occur once agreement is reached with MDC regarding the flood risk to Masterton. This will be dependent upon completion of the Waipoua Hydrology Refinement work.

4. Rural option development

A series of workshops to further develop rural options for flood and erosion risk management have been held. They have proved to be very useful and productive. A summary of these workshops and their outcomes is presented in the Option Development Report, 16.271, included in this order paper.

Date	Option development river
15 Mar 2016	Waingawa River + Common Tools
14 Apr 2016	Ruamahanga River + Common Tools
17 May 2016	Waipoua River + Common Tools

Each fieldtrip/workshop included other stakeholder representatives who generously gave their time to meet with the Subcommittee to share their particular interests and knowledge of the rivers and to discuss the issues. They

helped to bring valuable insight and knowledge to site visits and workshops. Those who gave their time included; Phil Teal (Fish and Game) Ross Cottle, (Waingawa Scheme Chair), David Hopman (Masterton District Council), Garry Baker (Carterton District Council), Ron Garrod (Waipoua Scheme Chair) Alistair Miller (Waipoua Scheme member), Derek Neal (Mt Bruce and Kopuaranga Scheme member).

Options for managing the flood and erosion risk at Rathkeale College will be presented for discussion at the workshop session on 17 June 2016.

5. Media Coverage

There continues to be an increased level of interest relating to gravel extraction, gravel management and ground water levels within the Wairarapa Rivers.

6. Operations maintenance

Operations work in the fourth quarter of the 2015/16 financial year has included digger/dumptruck maintenance works in the Waingawa and Waipoua rivers.

Gravel groynes were placed at a number of locations to maintain river alignment and prevent erosion on private property, including the site where the Masterton water supply line is most vulnerable to erosion. Bulldozer channel work continues, mainly in the dry river bed areas controlling pest-plant vegetation.

Stopbank maintenance was undertaken in the Ruamahanga and Waipoua schemes which involved large and small vegetation clearance work.

Looking forward, we will soon begin our planting planning and collection of willow poles for the winter planting season where we typically plant around 15,000 willows in the river buffers. We are also planning a few native planting sites and looking for landowner commitment to create more river enhancement opportunities.

6.1 Scheme Meeting

The annual round of river management scheme meetings was held during May. This involved holding three separate meetings including all eight of the schemes covered by the TKURFMP.

1. Ruamahanga Schemes (Mt Bruce, Te Ore Ore, Gladstone)
2. Eastern Schemes (Kopuaranga, Whangaehu, Taueru)
3. Waipoua and Waingawa Schemes

A key point of discussion at all meetings was the concept of river scheme amalgamation and river scheme governance restructure across the Wairarapa.

During the recent annual meeting of the River Management Schemes (RMS) a number of key messages were presented;

- (a) Scheme Governance and Funding is being considered as part of the development of the FMP, and a discussion document prepared outlining GWRC's thoughts on future structure. **Attachment 1** to this report.
- (b) Officers will advise RMS when the discussions are going to occur so that they can have input
- (c) The FMP Subcommittee will seek RMS input to their deliberations
- (d) The next Scheme Chairs' Meeting will be the next opportunity for discussion
- (e) Questions for RMS
 - What is it about the current structure that really works for them?
 - How much input do they want?

It is anticipated that this will be an important topic at the upcoming Scheme Chairs' Meeting in early September.

Feedback on the scheme amalgamation topic ranged from strong support to clear dissatisfaction for the proposals laid out in the discussion document. This topic will require ongoing engagement between the Te Kāuru Subcommittee and the existing river scheme Advisory Committees.

6.2 Dakin's Road erosion maintenance planning

Investigation work has been completed to identify options to manage or mitigate the effects of ongoing bank erosion along Dakins Road. The appointed consultants Cardno have produced a draft report with a recommended rock groyne design. Some discussion is also being given to potential movement of the road.

It is proposed to meet with Carterton District Council staff shortly to discuss the findings of the report and to confirm what the next step should be in implementing a preferred solution.

7. Waiohine FMP

The Waiohine FMP has reached a significant milestone. A draft FMP document prepared by the Waiohine Floodplain Management Plan Advisory Committee (WFMPAC), and supported by South Wairarapa and Carterton District Councils has been approved by GWRC for release to the community for public consultation. A six week period of consultation on this document has begun this month and will close around the middle of July. After this any submissions made will be presented to a hearing panel which will then assess and make recommendation to the Advisory Committee.

To support the consultation phase a range of engagement activities will be taking place ranging from one-on-one meeting with potentially affected parties to public meetings and attendance at local events.

There is likely to be a higher level of interest around flood and river management in the Wairarapa during this period of intense consultation which may result in added interest in the TKFMP.

More details and access to the draft plan can be found at the following link;

<http://haveyoursay.gw.govt.nz/waiohine>

8. Whaitua and Regional Plan Update

8.1 Ruamāhanga Whaitua

An opportunity for the Te Kauru Upper Ruamahanga Subcommittee to informally meet the Ruamāhanga Whaitua committee has been organised for 20 June 2016 between 3pm and 4pm.

The Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee (RWC) has been considering a wide range of information and finding out what the people who live, work and play in the Ruamāhanga Whaitua value about the water and land they share. They have created a community vision for land and water management following discussions with the community across the catchment.

The Whaitua committee is working towards establishing how it can achieve its vision. This is being done through a series of frequent workshops, focusing on different aspects of the community engagement and modelling outcomes.

More information can be found at the following links:

- <http://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/Environment-Management/Whaitua/Ruamāhanga/Collaborative-Modelling-Resources-BrochureA4WEB.PDF>
- <http://www.gw.govt.nz/presentations-and-reports-5/>

8.2 Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua

Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Committee was established in December 2015 and begun by considering the geographic, cultural, scientific and economic aspects of the catchment. The Committee is now talking with the community about what's important to them about their land and water to determine a set of community values which will underpin their future decision making.

8.3 Proposed Natural Resources Plan

The Summary of Decisions Requested on the Proposed Natural Resources Plan (PNRP) for the Wellington Region was publicly notified on Friday 26 February. The further submission period was open for 20 days and closed on the 29 March. A further 96 Submissions were received. During the Further Submission period some errors were identified in the Summary of Decisions Requested, and also two submissions that were omitted. There were

subsequently publicly notified as an Errors and Omissions Addendum on 11 April and Further Submissions on the Addendum were called for. Five further submissions on the addendum were received, all from groups who had already lodged a further submission in the first round.

In the second half of May submitters were invited to information days to ask any questions they had about the hearing process or any clarification on provisions in the PNRP that were causing confusion. The purpose of these sessions was to allow submitters who were not familiar with the Schedule One hearing process to gain a better understanding of the steps going forward. Meetings were held at four locations to make it easier for submitters to attend: Porirua, Paraparaumu, Wellington and Carterton. There was good turnout, and submitters had the opportunity to ask as many questions as needed.

The next step in the process is the pre-hearing meetings. These meetings will be topic based and will be held July – September. Some topic areas have already been identified, such as regionally significant infrastructure, farm drains and community drinking water supply protection areas. Officers are still working to identify topics that would benefit from pre-hearing meetings and are hoping to finalise these soon. The pre-hearing meetings will be used to clarify issues raised in the submissions and to look for mutually acceptable solutions. One of the desired outcomes of pre-hearing meetings is that they can allow the hearings to be more focused and less adversarial. Not everyone will have a pre-hearing meeting, but it is a useful tool if there are issues that can be resolved before it goes before the panel. Pre-hearing meetings are invitation-only to those submitters who submitted on the issue.

More information is available on the GWRC website:
<http://www.gw.govt.nz/proposed-natural-resources-plan/>.

9. Wairarapa Water Use Project

A verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

10. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

10.1 Engagement

Engagement on this matter is unnecessary.

11. Recommendations

That the Subcommittee:

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

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Attachment 1: Discussion Document; Upper Ruamāhanga Scheme Governance and Funding