

Wairarapa

SCHEMES



AUGUST 2000

Welcome.....

This newsletter contains information for the 1999/2000 year on the 28 community flood protection schemes managed in the Wairarapa by the Wellington Regional Council.

The year has been marked by a lack of large floods for which we are all thankful. Conditions for both the growth of trees and grass, have been exceptional. The impact of the long drought is still being felt in some locations with pole planting being held back in some drier areas.

Scheme Status Review

A comprehensive review on the current status and financial health of all the Wairarapa schemes has recently been completed. The review was initiated because of concerns about the long-term viability of some schemes following the ongoing flood damage that incurred during the 1990s. This was compounded by the requirement for schemes to increase their percentage of funding. Previously the Government had funded up to 75 percent of the expenditure. Currently the Wellington Regional Council contributes 50 percent of the funding.

The review considered the asset management plans prepared for the five largest river schemes, the history of flood damage and the schemes' target reserves. Other factors affecting the viability of the schemes include:

- fairness of current rating classifications
- ratepayers' acceptance of the scheme rates
- state of the economy
- current funding policy
- size of any scheme deficits
- extreme climatic events.

The review concluded that all the schemes appeared to be in reasonable financial health except for the Waiohine, Upper Ruamahanga and the Waipoua schemes.

Rating classification reviews will be completed in the following order:

- Waiohine Scheme – well underway
- Waipoua and Upper Ruamahanga Schemes – to be commenced this coming year
- Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme
- Mataikona-Whakataki Scheme
- Awhea-Opouawe Scheme

Asset management plans need to be prepared for all the pump drainage schemes as most pumping station buildings and equipment is 20-25 years old.

Appropriate scheme reserve balance targets will be developed in the year 2000.

When schemes go into deficit, the Wellington Regional Council will expect the deficit to be paid off within three years of incurring the debt.



Rick Long

Sawfly

Sawfly, which defoliates willows, has been observed in the Wairarapa late in the summer. The sawfly has a taste for specific willow clones. The Council is now gathering information on the long-term effect of the sawfly. Landowners are requested to be vigilant and to report any sightings to Peter Cameron at the Akura Conservation Centre, phone 06-378-8440. Information sheets on the sawfly are available from the Council offices in Masterton.

Gravel Extraction

Many of you will be aware that the Operations Department has applied for a resource consent to manage the extraction of gravel from the Ruamahanga River system. This application is currently before the Environment Court. Thus, in the short term, individual gravel extraction resource consents are still required.

Regional Soil Plan

The Regional Soil Plan is still to be notified. Rules in the proposed plan do have status and they apply to activities such as roading, tracking and soil disturbance. When harvesting woodlots on erosion prone land, please contact Dave Cameron (06-378-2484). This activity is now permitted as long as the Council is notified in advance, the site is replanted within two years, forestry industry guidelines are complied with, and slash is removed from watercourses.

Councillor Rick Long
Chairperson

Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee

Wairarapa River Management Schemes

Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme

Advisory Committee Chair - Tony Draper

Last year's Programme

The works programme for the 1999/2000 year had a budget of \$594,000 for scheme operation and maintenance, which included an additional provision of \$133,000 for the Mahaki culvert upgrade, Whakawiriwiri Drain improvements, and berm restoration at Butcher's.

The works programme was completed at a total cost of \$640,520 with half the cost met by the Wellington Regional Council. Also, the scheme reserve fund was increased to the healthy sum of \$1.09M. These reserves are held for flood damage repairs, and for the maintenance of fences and the Barrage Gates.



Mahaki culvert upgrade.

This year's Programme

The 2000/01 programme has a cost of \$656,000. The most significant works programmed are further berm restoration on the Butcher frontage at Pukio West, and the upgrade of the Tauanui stopbank, with estimated costs of \$35,000 and \$30,000 respectively.

Other works include:

- bank protection
- river bank planting
- Tauherenikau River channel alignment
- Turanganui and Tauherenikau River flood protection and delta management
- maintenance of minor western and eastern streams
- maintenance of Lake Onoke opening
- operation and maintenance of the Barrage Gates
- stopbank, floodgate, and fence maintenance
- control of Old Man's Beard

Half the works programme will be funded by the Wellington Regional Council, and the scheme rates will be increased by 3.0 percent as recommended by the advisory committee.

Tauherenikau River Investigation

The build-up of gravel in the section of the Tauherenikau River downstream of SH53, particularly just upstream of the Lake Wairarapa delta, is becoming a serious problem. The gravel build-up is causing more frequent overflow of floodwaters onto adjoining farmland and Lake Reserve areas, as well as expensive damage to stopbanks. Options for managing this problem are currently being developed in consultation with the advisory committee and affected landowners. A preferred long-term management approach is expected to be developed over the coming year.

Blundell Barrage Gates

The Barrage Gates are a key component of the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme, and regulate the levels of Lake Wairarapa for both flood protection and environmental enhancement purposes. The resource consent for the operation and maintenance of these gates has been renewed for an extended term of 20 years. The new resource consent will retain the lake's flood detention capability, protect the interests of lakeside landowners, as well as enhance fish passage and wading bird habitat, and help protect valued lake edge vegetation.

Asset Management Plan

An Asset Management Plan has been prepared for the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme. The plan indicates that the scheme is in good physical condition, and long-term financial projections are very encouraging. The plan did, however, identify the need for a higher level of basic maintenance. The 2000/01 works programme has been increased in line with the long term maintenance needs identified in the plan.

Stopbank Damage

Publicity of the scheme advisory committee's policy that "*the cost of repairing stock damaged stopbanks should fall on the farmer responsible*" has reduced the incidence of stock damage to stopbanks. This result is very pleasing, but farmers are urged to continue to take care to prevent stopbank damage due to overgrazing, pugging, and stock tracking.

Waiohine and Mangatarere Rivers

Advisory Committee Chair – Bruce Slater

Last Year's Programme

The works programme for the 1999/2000 financial year was completed at a cost of \$225,920. Half the cost of this programme was funded by Wellington Regional Council.

Significant construction items were as follows:

- rock groynes at the Brazendale, Cullinane, Wong/Bentley, and Bicknell sites
- willow cabling at the Platform Farm, Vine, and Quinn/Saywell sites
- willow removal at the Bicknell/Herrick site and in the lower Mangatarere
- channel alignment and willow groynes at Pearce's in the Mangatarere
- gravel extraction in the Kaipatangata Stream at Dalefield Road
- fairway debris clearance and channel alignment
- willow pole planting and lopping

This Year's Programme

Following the scheme advisory committee's recommendation, a nil rate increase was approved for the current financial year, and the scheme maintenance programme was retained at \$225,000. The scheme deficit stands at \$198,460 and is expected to be repaid in three years' time.

Half the cost of the 1999/2000 programme will be met by the Wellington Regional Council. The programme will consist mainly of consolidation and maintenance work such as:

- pole planting
- beach clearance and herbicide spraying
- willow clearing and lopping
- rail groynes
- willow cabling and clumps
- stopbank maintenance
- channel alignment, bank battering, & debris removal
- rock protection repairs and rock groynes

The most significant items on the programme are:

- rock groynes and willow clumps at Wongs and Bassets
- bank protection repair and channel alignment at Fuller's Bend
- stopbank maintenance from Tui Glen to SH2
- rail groynes and bank battering at the Moroa water race intake
- debris clearance and beach ripping as required on the whole river



Willow cabling – Waiohine River.

Floodplain Management Study

The Waiohine Floodplain Management Study has been progressing well, with a preferred long-term flood protection approach being selected, and the overhaul of the scheme rating classification largely completed. Public consultation has been ongoing, and will be increased over the next year.

The Waiohine Floodplain Management Committee has been assisting with this process. This committee includes representatives of rural ratepayers, urban Greytown, Carterton District Council, South Wairarapa District Council, and Wellington Regional Council.

Upper Ruamahanga River

Advisory Committee Chair – Richard Ashby

Last year's Programme

The programme for the 1999/2000 year was completed at a cost of \$189,620, with half the cost funded by the Wellington Regional Council. With no major floods the year was one of consolidation and reinstatement after the very large floods of October 1998. The flood damage reserve balance has been increased to \$26,450.

This programme included the following main items:

- willow clumps at Budd/Watters
- willow lopping downstream of Gladstone Bridge
- island clearance at Henderson's
- willow trenching and channel block at Lambs

- rock stub groynes at Holmes/Wardells
- channel alignment at Forbes
- rail groynes at Olivers and Izards
- channel alignment at Stuart/Springlea
- pole planting

This year's Programme

At the scheme advisory committee's recommendation, the Council has approved a 4.7 percent rate increase to fund the works programme, and to increase the flood damage reserves to \$45,000.

The planned 2000/01 programme has a cost of \$173,000 and will be funded half by the Wellington Regional Council. The local

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share for maintenance works with a high level of community benefit will be funded by the scheme rating district up to a level of \$127,000. The local share for the remaining work will be funded partially by the rating district, and partially by the beneficiary depending on the level of community benefit.

The works programme consists of the following:

- willow cabling and clumps
- willow lopping
- pole planting
- rail groynes
- channel alignment
- bank battering and gravel groynes
- beach clearance and herbicide spraying
- control of Old Man's Beard

Stock Damage to Willows

The advisory committee has passed a resolution: "That the Committee expects Council to apply enforcement provisions under the Resource Management Act to prevent damage to river edge willows caused by poor stock control." Landowners are urged to take all reasonable precautions to prevent stock damage to river edge vegetation, and to report any instances of damage that are witnessed.

Waingawa River

Advisory Committee Chair - Richard Butler

Last year's Programme

The cost of last year's works programme was \$175,260 with half the cost funded by the Wellington Regional Council. Also, the scheme flood damage reserve fund was increased to \$7,210. With no major floods, the year was one of consolidation after the floods of October 1998.



Channel alignment and gravel groyne construction – Waingawa River.



Rock groyne construction – Ruamahanga River.

Scheme Rating Review

A review of the scheme rating classification is planned for completion during the 2001 calendar year. Also, provision has been made for Council's expenditure in the annual Scheme to increase to \$202,000 from next financial year. Ratepayers will have to decide if they wish to increase the scheme rates to fund their proportion of the increased works programme.

The main activities were:

- channel alignment and bank battering at Wouters
- channel alignment and bank battering at Macauley/Richards
- channel alignment and gravel groyne work on the Hyde to Candy frontages
- channel alignment and rail groynes at Tullochs
- buffer zone retirement at Denholms
- flood debris and beach clearance
- willow pole planting and lopping
- herbicide spraying of fairway scrub
- control of Old Man's Beard

This year's Programme

The planned expenditure for this year is \$174,000 with half the cost funded by the Wellington Regional Council. Emphasis will focus on willow pole planting, channel alignment, bank battering, gravel groyne work, and essential maintenance such as fairway vegetation control and debris clearance. Scheme rates will be increased by 4.7 percent as recommended by the advisory committee, and it is planned to increase the scheme reserve fund to \$21,600 assuming satisfactory progress with the buffer zone land retirement programme is made.

Waipoua River

Advisory Committee Chair - Alan Buick

Last year's Programme

The cost of last year's works programme was \$81,704 with half the cost funded by the Wellington Regional Council. Also, the scheme deficit was reduced to \$8,080. There were no major floods during the year, which was one of consolidation after flood damage in previous years.



Willow clumps – Waipoua River.

The main activities were:

- stopbank repair and willow cabling at Paytons
- rail groynes downstream of Paierau Road Bridge
- channel alignment and gravel groynes at Massey Farm and Connells
- flood debris and beach clearance
- willow pole planting and lopping
- herbicide spraying of fairway scrub

Lower Taueru River

Advisory Committee Chair - Hamish Buchanan

Last year's Programme

The total expenditure for last year was \$9,900 of which half was funded by Wellington Regional Council. The works programme consisted of the removal of debris blockages, and the herbicide spraying of willow re-growth over the entire scheme length. The scheme deficit was reduced to \$46,080 and is expected to be repaid by the end of this financial year. Following this, rates are expected to reduce to 15 percent of the existing level.

This Year's Programme

This year's programme has an estimated cost of \$7,500, half of which will be funded by the Wellington Regional Council. The programme consists of ongoing herbicide spraying of willow regrowth and removal of debris blockages.

This Year's Programme

Following the scheme advisory committee's recommendation, the Council has approved a 4.7 per cent rate increase to fund a works programme of \$54,000, and to reduce the scheme deficit to \$5,000.

The planned works programme includes the following:

- willow cabling and trenching
- willow lopping
- channel alignment
- beach scrub spraying
- bank battering and gravel groynes
- pole planting
- channel debris clearance
- stopbank maintenance

Half the cost of this programme will be met by the Wellington Regional Council. It includes a total of \$9,000 set aside for river works within urban Masterton, to be partially funded by Masterton District Council.

Stopbank Damage

The advisory committee has passed a resolution "*That the costs of repair of any damage to stopbanks caused by stock grazing be recovered from the person responsible*". Landowners are urged to take all reasonable precautions to prevent stock damage to riverbank vegetation and stopbanks, and to report any instances of damage witnessed.



Debris clearance – Taueru River.

Lower Whangaehu River

Advisory Committee Chair - Jim Williams

Last Year's Programme

The total expenditure for last year was \$7,670, half of which was funded by the Wellington Regional Council. The works programme consisted of the removal of debris blockages, and the herbicide spraying of willow re-growth. The advisory committee has approved a five percent rate increase so that the \$50,800 scheme deficit can be paid off over a ten-year period.

This Year's Programme

This year's programme has an estimated cost of \$7,000, half of which will be funded by Wellington Regional Council. The programme consists of ongoing herbicide spraying of willow regrowth and removal of debris blockages.

Tree Planting on Riverbanks

During the advisory committee meeting, concern was expressed about the number of trees being planted at inappropriate locations on riverbanks as, on maturity, these trees can fall into the river channel and obstruct flood flows. Landowners are urged to plant trees out of the main overland flow paths, and with adequate set-back from the river bank. The scheme supervisor, Maia Kawana, can be contacted for advice.

Disposal of Tree Stockpiles

Landowners are asked to please burn or otherwise dispose of their tree stockpiles as soon as possible. Some of the trees are re-growing and, in the event of a major flood, the trees could float downstream causing fence damage and littering paddocks.

Drainage Schemes

Pump Schemes

The pump drainage scheme operation and maintenance programmes generally met their budget targets. This year's maintenance programmes and reserve levels were approved by the scheme spokesperson after consultation with the ratepayers.

Agreed rate levies are:

Scheme	\$	% increase
Papatahi	8,000	0
Te Hopai	26,000	0
Moonmoot	6,840	0
Onoke	23,940	0
Pouawha	26,447	0



Drain clearing with long-reach excavation.

Gravity Schemes

The gravity scheme maintenance programmes generally met their budget targets. The programmes are based on herbicide spray control every year and a mechanical clean every two to three years. This year's maintenance programmes were approved by the scheme spokesperson after consultation with the ratepayers.

Scheme	\$	% increase
Okawa	0	-100
Taumata	0	-100
East Pukio	0	-100
Longbush	4,200	0
Otahoua	0	0
Te Whiti	512	0
Ahikouka	1,935	0
Battersea	9,800	0
Manaia	5,600	0
Whakawiriwiri	8,270	0

Catchment Management Schemes

Awhea Scheme

Advisory Committee Convenor - Ian Hunter

Last Year's Programme

The total expenditure for last year was \$35,136 of which half was funded by Wellington Regional Council. The works programme focused on Stoney Creek, and protection of Tukurumuri School from the threat of course change. A start was made on the construction of a stopbank as a primary flood protection measure. Ancillary works were carried in the creek bed to complement this work.

This Year's Programme

This year's programme has an estimated cost of \$32,000, half of which will be funded by Wellington Regional Council. The programme consists of further stopbank construction to works begun in 1999/00, ongoing pole planting and rail cabling for road protection, and lupin seeding on slips within the Stoney Creek catchment.

The Advisory Committee approved a rate increase of 2.0 percent.

Contributions will come from:

Wellington Regional Council	50%
South Wairarapa District Council	13%
Scheme Ratepayers	37%

Maungaraki Scheme

Advisory Committee Chair - Michael Blundell

Willow Clearing Programme

Ground conditions prevented the clearing of the third section of willows in the main river. This work has been programmed for the coming year. The Carterton District Council will provide additional contribution for this work because of its proximity to the Ngatapa and Wainuioru bridges. The balance of the programme was completed to budget.

This Year's Programme

The programme has a budget of \$11,800, half of which will be funded by Wellington Regional Council. As well as the willow-clearing programme, unstable silver poplars will be removed from the roadside, and the pole-planting programme will continue at Kowhai and on slopes adjacent to the road.

The Advisory Committee has approved a rate increase of 3.67 percent. Contributions will come from:

Wellington Regional Council	50%
Carterton District Council	10%
Scheme Ratepayers	40%

Kaiwhata and Homewood Scheme

Advisory Committee Chairs – Brian Cameron, John Le Grove

Scheme Meetings

Meetings were held with each Advisory Committee to review last year's achievements and consider programmes for 2000/01.

Kaiwhata Programme

Poles and seedlings are well established following a favourable season. Major work for the coming year will centre on Sullivan's Creek where fairway clearance and stopbank reconstruction will take place. The programme will also include river edge protection using willow poles at Kummerstein, and the completion of the Acacia melanoxylon planting at Waipapa.

The budget for 2000/01 is \$6,200, half of which will be funded by the Wellington Regional Council. The Advisory Committee

approved a nil rate increase. Carterton and Masterton District Councils will continue to contribute \$1,300.

Homewood Programme

Pole establishment rates have been very good. Maintenance of two gully control structures has been completed at Fernglen. One area required a rebuild using limestone boulders.

Pole planting will continue to be the focus of this scheme. Ongoing maintenance will be carried out to gully control structures at Fernglen. Specifically, this will include more tyres, and willow silviculture.

The budget for 2000/01 is \$7,600, half of which will be funded by Wellington Regional Council. The Advisory Committee, which comprises all the ratepayers, approved a rate increase of 3.1 percent.

Mataikona and Whakataki Scheme

Advisory Committee Chair - Alan Schofield

Five Year Review – General Meeting

A meeting of all scheme ratepayers was called to consider a review of progress over the last five years and to consider future directions.

The meeting was well attended and this enabled very worthwhile discussion on scheme objectives and future priorities. It was decided to significantly alter the relative ratepayer contributions between local ratepayers and the Masterton District Council. Local ratepayers' contribution would drop from 43 percent to 25 percent and Masterton District Council contribution would rise from 7 percent to 25 percent. This reflected the focus on road protection contained in any annual works programme.

This Year's Programme

Roadside stabilisation works will be strengthened this year with additional planting at Waio Hill, Okau reef, and alongside the Whakataki stream at Mt Pleasant. A small works programme will be undertaken at the mouth of the Mataikona River. Critical catchment areas on Pukeamuku, Te Mai, Sugar Loaf and Pakowai will be assisted with riparian plantings.



Critical riparian reserves have been retained during land clearing operations. Production forestry in the headwaters of the Whakataki River.

The budget for this year is \$9,660. Contributions will come from:

Wellington Regional Council	50%
Masterton District Council	25%
Scheme Ratepayers	25%

Whareama Scheme

Advisory Committee Chair - Len French

Five Year Review – General Meeting

A meeting of all scheme ratepayers was called to consider a review of progress over the last five years and to consider future directions.

As background information to the meeting, attendees were reminded that a rate increase of 50 percent was introduced in 1993 to enable a greater focus on willow clearing and channel maintenance. A resolution was passed to reduce the local rate collection by 20 percent.

This rate reduction will not effect the 2000/01 annual works budget because of a scheme cash surplus of some \$4,000. However, it could reduce the budget for future years.

This Year's Programme

- Follow-up willow spraying over 65km
- Strategic poplar and willow clearing
- Four hectares of riparian planting

This year's budget is \$25,000, half of which will be funded by the Wellington Regional Council.

For information and advice, please contact:

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