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Committee Landcare  
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## Waiwhetu Stream Advisory Committee Summary and Minutes of 7 May 2007

### 1. Purpose

To provide a summary of the key outcomes from the Waiwhetu Stream Advisory Committee meeting held on 7 May 2007.

### 2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report **do not** trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

### 3. Background

The confirmed minutes from the meeting are attached to this report. Three papers were presented to the Committee.

#### Completion of Phase 2 and the Way Forward

This paper outlined the remaining tasks and timeframe to complete the Waiwhetu Floodplain Management Plan, now that Phase 2 of the project is drawing to a close.

The original project scoping report called for a project in 3 phases, with the first two phases to take 2.25 years and the timing of the final phase to be determined by investigation outcomes. An outline programme to complete the FMP was presented as follows:

**By June 2007**, complete technical investigations for Phase 2

**By November 2007**, packages of combinations of options developed and ready for consultation

**By March 2008**, first round of consultation on selected combination of options completed

**By May 2008**, formal consultation complete, combinations of options selected, draft FMP complete

**By June 2008**, final FMP signed off by both councils

An enormous amount of technical work has been completed in the first two phases of the project. Officers from both HCC and GW require time to fully understand the technical work and to complete option development. Consultation on these options and the draft FMP will also take time to complete. These tasks are necessary to provide a floodplain management plan that both councils can sign up to.

The Committee received the report and noted its contents. However, they also requested that officers find ways to speed up the project. Opportunities for early implementation are highlighted later in this report.

### **Upper Catchment Protection and Channel Improvements**

These technical reports have identified that there are opportunities to improve upper catchment protection and implement local channel improvements. This involves such simple actions as ensuring that debris and sediment bedload do not compromise proposed structural options for the lower Waiwhetu. This can be done by installing debris traps on stormwater intakes and controlling sediment from the eastern hills. Areas at risk of flooding in the upper catchment have been identified and include Te Whiti Park, parts of Rossiter Avenue, Norton Park Avenue and Waddington Drive. Various options are proposed to alleviate the flooding risk in these areas.

### **Application to the MfE's Contaminated Sites Remediation Fund**

An update was provided to the Committee. Since then we have received a formal offer from the MfE of \$2.4M (spread equally over the next three financial years) which equates to a total contribution of 40% of the estimated cost of remediating the contaminated sediments in the lower Waiwhetu.

Officers from both HCC and GW are considering an appropriate response to the offer.

## **4. Key tasks remaining for Phase 2**

A range of technical studies are needed to complete Phase 2 of the Waiwhetu project by 30 June. These are:

### **Bridge Waterway improvements**

Options have been developed to improve the waterways around bridges that currently limit the maximum flood carrying capacity of the stream. A draft report was received from consultants URS in early June.

### **Flood Proofing Properties**

This study focuses on a limited number of low lying properties that may still require flood protection after the proposed structural options are implemented. Policy options and arrangements for supporting the flood proofing of

individual houses will need to be considered. This investigation is underway and due to be completed by 30 June.

### **House Raising**

Recognising that it could be some time before the full benefits of any flood protection scheme are realised, the advisory committee has requested that additional work be done to identify the most flood prone houses within the Waiwhetu catchment and options to raise them. The most flood prone houses have been identified and field work to identify floor levels and construction type completed. The next step will be to get expert advice about costings. The results of the house raising investigation will be reported at the next WSAC meeting on 7 August.

### **Flood Warning and Evacuation**

Many improvements were made to the flood warning and evacuation procedures for low lying properties after the Feb 2004 floods. This part of the project will formalise the interim arrangements that were put in place by HCC after the floods. This is due to be completed by 30 June.

### **Stream Morphology and Channel Management**

Consultant Gary Williams has been engaged to complete a study on the morphology and sedimentation processes for the Waiwhetu stream, as well as a report on stream channel management. Field work was completed on 29 May. This study is due to be completed by 30 June.

### **Assessment of easements and encroachments**

This work is necessary to identify where there may be issues with implementing future improvements and what options there may be to gain the access required. This work is due to be completed by 30 June.

### **Non Structural options**

Are to be worked through by a staff working group during the option development phase, refer ongoing programme.

## **5. Combination of options and drafting FMP**

- 5.1 There are many possible combinations of structural and non structural options which have the potential to reduce flooding risk from the Awamutu and Waiwhetu streams.
- 5.2 The range of four basic combinations of structural and non structural options that could work for the Waiwhetu FMP are:
  - 5.2.1 Maximum non structural options with minimum structural options
  - 5.2.2 Structural options to 50yr standard + non structural options
  - 5.2.3 Structural options to a 100yr standard + non structural options

#### 5.2.4 Maximum structural options + minimum non structural options

- 5.3 There is a lot of work to be done at officer level to fully understand the technical work and complete option development. Opportunities for input from the staff Working Group will be taken into consideration for the plan as and where available.
- 5.4 Each of the combinations of options will be put together so that they consider the full range of flood risk from the minor event through to the largest flood possible. It will not be practically possible to provide structural protection for all floods. The purpose of this part of the process is therefore to determine what level of structural protection is appropriate for this community and what methods, such as planning controls and emergency management, should be used to manage the risk beyond what the structural methods provide. Assessment by affected groups may mean the final selected combination of options is a variation of one of those above.

The issues to be considered in assessing the combinations of options will be developed with the community but may include:

1. Costs
  2. Flood damage saved
  3. Human Environment
  4. Physical Environment
  5. Ecology
  6. Landscape / Recreation
  7. Maori
- 5.5 After completing the combinations of options work, two rounds of consultation will be required to gain community input and sign off. The floodplain management plan will then be drafted for the Advisory Committee and each Council to consider. The timeframe for a completed FMP is by June 2008. The next LTCCP period is 2009-2019 with input from flood protection in the process starting late 2008. The results from the FMP will be able to feed neatly into the budgeting and consultation processes for the 2009 LTCCP.

## 6. Early implementation opportunities

- 6.1 While we are progressing with the development of the FMP, there may be opportunities to commence implementing parts of the preferred option before the completion of the floodplain management plan.
- 6.2 The contaminated sediment cleanup works are estimated to cost around \$6M, and an application has been lodged with the MfE's CSRF for the full amount. Negotiations are underway to find a suitable funding arrangement with the Ministry.
- 6.3 GW has a total of \$4M allocated in its current LTCCP for Waiwhetu flood improvements. The flood improvement works could be done at the same time that the contaminated sediments are removed. This would ensure that both

flood protection and sediment remediation objectives are achieved at the same time, thus keeping stream disruption to a minimum.

The stream works from Bell Road to the mouth will significantly reduce the flooding risk in the lower Waiwhetu catchment.

- 6.4 HCC has \$6M allocated in their LTCCP for flood protection improvements for the Awamutu Stream. These works are programmed to proceed independently of any works on the lower Waiwhetu.
- 6.5 Other opportunities for early implementation of options will be identified through the remaining Phase 2 technical studies, eg small stream works to improve hydraulic capacity and flood proofing to individual properties (eg house raising). Certain elements of the planning controls, emergency management and source control could also be commenced early.
- 6.6 Improvements have been made to the trunk stormwater system in the Riverside Drive south area. This was one of the worst hit areas for flooding during the Feb 2004 event. In addition to this the Hutt Road Storm water pumping station is soon to start construction.

## 7. Communication

A newsletter updating progress to date has been prepared and will be distributed to the affected parties.

## 8. Recommendations

*That the Committee:*

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

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Attachment 1: Waiwhetu Stream Advisory Committee Report – 7 May 2007