

# SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL

15 JULY 2015

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## AGENDA ITEM C5

### WAIOHINE RIVER DRAFT FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PLAN

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#### **Purpose of Report**

To enable Council to a) consider and adopt a position on the Waiohine Flood Management Plan (FMP) - preferred option for protecting Greytown against flooding and b) establish its preference for how the “local share component” for the physical works should be levied.

#### **Recommendations**

Officers recommend that the Council:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Resolve to support the draft FMP in principle*
3. *Recommend the funding of the FMP be on the basis of a rate levied on.....*
4. *Formally advise Wellington Regional Council of resolutions 2 and 3.*

## **1. Background**

The Wellington Regional Council's Investigations, Strategy and Planning Team, Flood Protection, have prepared a draft Flood Management Plan for the Waiohine River in the environs of Greytown. As part of this process the Waiohine FMP Advisory Committee was formed to provide “local inputs” into the preparation of the draft FMP.

Over the last five years the Wellington Regional Council and Waiohine FMP Advisory Committee have investigated a variety of alternatives. WRC have now selected Option 7 as their preferred option in the draft FMP and propose that this be adopted by WRC.

However before doing so, WRC have asked that the views of SWDC and CDC be ascertained so that these can be taken into account before the draft FMP is adopted. Accordingly a presentation was made to Council's infrastructure and Planning Workshop on 1 July 2015 (refer to slides copied to Councillors at meeting).

## **2. Draft FMP**

### **2.1 Process**

The draft FMP was developed in five phases, the first four of which are now completed;

1. Phase 1 – Investigations
2. Phase 2 – Options assessment
3. Phase 3 – Selected option investigation
4. FMP drafting of plan
5. FMP adoption and implementation (current stage)

## 2.2 Preferred Option

The Preferred Option proposes that a 100 year design flood event stopbank be built along the true right bank (Greytown side) for approximately 2650 metres (approx.) starting at “the Wire Shed”.

This stopbank design standard would be changed to a 50 year design flood event stopbank for 1550 metres (approx.) length before merging with existing stopbanks on “platform Farm”.

This solution would see the bulk of the Greytown urban area protected from flood events up to the 100 year standard but with an increased flood effect on some land located on the Carterton side of the river.

When finalizing the draft FMP Wellington Regional Council had to consider both the benefits to Greytown and the adverse effects on other land and then come up with an option that was also “sustainable and manageable”.

This effected the positioning of any new stopbanks– the closer to the river channel the stopbanks were, the more river channel maintenance and physical protection of the stopbanks was required over time. .

## 2.3 Costings

The costings to implement the FMP have been estimated as;

Element	Cost (\$)
Stopbank TRB construction	4,236,000
Urupa Works and channel works Mangatarere and Beef Creek	450,000
House Raising and Direct mitigation	886,000
House Purchases	710,000
Fullers Bend Rock Revetment	1,500,000
District Plan Change	250,000
Emergency Management / flood warning system	170,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>8,202,000</b>
If TLB remains at its current location then increase in Operation Budget	2,082,143
Stopbank TLB Reconstructed on retreated alignment	3,379,932
<b>Total Costs for the Preferred Option with the TLB as current</b>	<b>10,354,143</b>
<b>Total Costs for the Preferred Option with the TLB (retreated alignment)</b>	<b>11,661,932</b>

The Wellington Regional Council is propping to fund 50% of this cost across the whole region, with the remaining 50% being funded as local share, predominantly by South Wairarapa and Carterton District ratepayers.

How the local share is distributed is a significant issue given the cost of implementing this draft FMP and the Regional Council has asked SWDC to give some consideration around how this cost should be distributed within its District.

A number of options have been used elsewhere in the region for other flood management projects. For instance in the Hutt Valley the local share has been rated for by the relevant territorial authority and on-paid to the Regional Council (this gave those Council's influence over the final work done). In other cases the local share has been levied by WRC only on those ratepayers that are identified as direct beneficiaries of the works. In other cases the cost has been spread by WRC across all the ratepayers within the relevant territorial authority area.

An additional matter relating to cost allocation, is the apportionment of costs to property on the Greytown side of the river as opposed to property on the Carterton side of the river. This split would affect the overall impact of Council's preferred method of funding the local share as it related to its ratepayers.

## **2.4 Development Impacts**

Currently Greytown is subject to significant flood risks for both 50 and 100 year flood events. Council is required to recognise these risks under the Resource Management Act 1991 and Building Act 2004. In addition when processing LIMS under the Local Government Act it must also give advice on flood risk.

For people wishing to subdivide land, establish activities or erect buildings and structures, the requirements which arise from this "declared flood risk", can therefore create considerable barriers. This is because our laws seek to reduce exposure to such hazards through time. Failures of this approach, have already created a number of significant disasters in New Zealand, so there is now a very strong emphasis in law to avoid creating similar future disasters.

Accordingly, if Greytown, through this draft FMP, is "protected" from those "declared risks", these regulatory difficulties can be substantially reduced (a residual risk will however always remain as even a 100 year flood design can be exceeded).

At present the identified 50 and 100 year flood risks have impacts on otherwise acceptable development which in some cases cannot proceed. If a protection scheme, as is proposed through the draft FMP is in place, many of these developments could be considered more favourably. It is therefore critical that the draft FMP or a very similar solution is found, in the short term, such that Greytown is given sufficient protection from a flood and the regulatory environment is not prohibitive of development.

## **3. Summary**

Prior to adopting the draft Waiohine River FMP, the Wellington Regional Council is requesting that Council provide feedback on whether or not it supports the preferred option and how the likely rating structure required to fund the implementation of the FMP should be progressed.

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