

COUNCILLOR REPORT
for
South Wairarapa District Council Meeting
Wednesday 15th May 2013

Councillor's Name Mike Gray	
Meeting – Date & Venue 22nd April 2013 GREYTOWN TOWN CENTRE	Waiohine River Floodplain Management Planning Advisory Committee

Councillors will be aware that for some time the committee has been investigating the development and implementation of a 'Waiohine River Floodplain Management Plan'.

The plan is intended to encompass four elements –

- In-River Management of the Waiohine River;
- Structural protection mechanisms, i.e. a stopbank or banks;
- Relevant Land Use Planning requirements based on the above;
- Relevant CD-EM arrangements, given the above.

During this time up to ten (10) different structural options were identified, evaluated and discarded, or investigated further as appropriate, based on the possibility of a 100year flood.

At the most recent meeting (22nd April) two previously agreed options for structural protection for areas of Greytown urban and rural areas, and rural areas of the Carterton District (on the north side of the Waiohine River) were discussed. These options had been canvassed earlier with Greytown urban residents and more recently with Greytown and Carterton rural dwellers living close to the river.

The two options were –

- Option 4 – this involves two levels of structural protection, a lower level bank close to the river, and a higher level bank generally following the northern urban boundary of Greytown. A single bank structural protection mechanism would be installed on the Carterton side of the river. Estimated cost - \$6.4M.
- Option 7 – involves banks on both sides of the river at relevant heights to contain a 100year flood event. Estimated cost - \$2.5M

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Discussion was based on material previously provided by GWRC staff and brought forward from earlier meetings. Discussion of the relationships between the four elements of the proposed plan formed part of this process.

Committee Decision:

There was majority support – by voices and show of hands – that Option 7 be the preferred option of the Committee, and that this option be conveyed to the Environmental Wellbeing Committee (EWC) of GWRC as a recommendation from the Committee.

The Committee understands the EWC meets next on Tuesday 21st May. It is likely – but not confirmed - that the staff report from our meeting of 22nd April will be presented at this meeting.

There is considerable concern within the committee that its recommendation may not be accepted by the GWRC EWC. Frankly there is a worry that senior officers of GWRC are convinced that the alternative option – No 4 – is the 'right one'. Their advocacy for option 4 has been significantly obvious.

The Chair of the GW WEC attended the meeting on 22nd April. There was disquiet that her advocacy for option 4 was out of order, as was her comment to the effect – 'we didn't get what we wanted'.

The process for arriving at the decision made on 22nd April has been long and protracted. Much work has been undertaken by committee members – many of whom are potentially affected to a greater or lesser degree by a flooding event in the river.

PRINCIPAL CONCERN:

That the GWRC Environmental Wellbeing Committee will ignore the WRFMPAC recommendation and seek to impose Option 4 on the Greytown and Carterton communities involved.

POSSIBLE SWDC DECISIONS/ACTIONS:

It was suggested that members of the Advisory Committee make a presentation to the GWRC EWC in support of its decision. At the time of this report being compiled this action was still under consideration.

It has to be acknowledged that until the agenda for the GWRC EW Committee on 21st May is available it is uncertain when the report of the 22nd April WRFMPAC meeting will be presented.

SWDC may consider it appropriate to support the committee in one or more ways:-

- By endorsing the decision;
- By writing to GWRC and the EWC indicating such support;
- By electing to be part of any group making a representation to the WEC meeting;
- By conferring with and seeking the support of Carterton District Council where relevant.

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