

Report 99.354

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Report to the Hutt River Floodplain Management Advisory Committee
From Derek Wilshere, Consultant, Landcare

Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan : Consultation on “Design Standard”

1. Purpose

To seek the Committee’s endorsement of the public consultation proposed to support the selection of the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan Final “Design Standard” and associated suite of works.

2. Background

The Committee has consistently stated its desire that all decisions on the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan are underpinned by a robust consultation programme.

The Committee endorsed the Scope and Strategy for Public Consultation at its meeting on 14 April 1999 (Report 99.148). That report noted under ‘7. *Challenges*’ that further rounds of consultation may be necessary to support the Hutt River Floodplain Management Advisory Committee recommendation on “Design Standard”.

This report recommends that this should happen.

3. Proposal for Consultation

In accordance with the agreed strategy, consultation is proposed to be on both a general and specific level.

3.1 General Consultation

3.1.1 *Newspaper Insert*

Following the Landcare Committee meeting on 8 July, an insert will be placed in the Hutt News and the Upper Hutt Leader. This will provide information on the “Design Standard” options and their implications.

The insert will include a tear-off section (or questionnaire) for freepost reply. The format for this section which will seek a response on preferences will be developed in conjunction with Hutt and Upper Hutt City Council staff.

These newspapers are delivered to 47,000 households.

3.1.2 *Public Meetings*

Two public meetings will be held. One in Lower Hutt and one in Upper Hutt.

3.2 **Specific Consultation**

3.2.1 *Individuals and Representative Groups*

The newsletter based on the insert will be sent to individuals or groups on our mailing list. The accompanying letter will invite the return of the questionnaire or a request for further information or contact.

The distribution list for the newsletter is:

Special interest and service groups	(34)
Ratepayer or Residents Associations	(8)
Community Boards and Ward Committees	(5)
Residents potentially affected by improvement works	(371)
Commercial enterprises potentially affected by improvement works	(55)
Libraries	(6)
Others	(278)

3.2.2 *Targeted Individuals or Representative Groups*

We will speak to or meet property owners or representative groups in areas where the proposed works have an impact, or where identified choices exist. Generally these areas were identified in the “Design Standard” Workshop and affected parties included in the distribution list in 3.2.1.

The owners of assets affected by the options will also be contacted. Most are members of the Technical Liaison Group.

Members of the Advisory Committee will be advised as meetings are programmed.

3.3 **Media Contact**

A press release which advised this Advisory Committee meeting, the Landcare Committee meeting on 8 July, and the content of this Order Paper has been issued and circulated to all members. A further press release will be issued after the Landcare Committee meeting and will advise the decisions made. It will also introduce the questions to be asked in the July newsletter. Further press releases may be required during the consultation period.

A general newspaper feature, which aims to raise awareness of the Hutt River and management issues such as flood protection which the Wellington Regional Council is responsible for, will be available in July to support this programme. The function and role of the Advisory Committee are introduced in this feature.

3.4 Programme to Adoption of the “Design Standard”

The programme through to adoption of the “Design Standard” by the Landcare Committee on 12 October is shown in **Attachment 1**.

This programme will provide for a consultation process, which is comprehensive, inclusive, and will satisfy the requirements of the committee.

4. What the Consultation Will Achieve

Information received from this programme will give Committee members a sound basis on which to confidently consider community preference because:

- Stakeholders in the Plan will have had the opportunity to indicate preferences for a “Design Standard”, the Suite of Works, funding and timing.
- Potentially directly affected property owners will be aware of their situation, i.e. the risk and choices to deal with it.
- Ratepayers will be informed of risk, affects or impacts and consequences of the choice of “Design Standard”. This includes the impact on rates.

5. Recommendation

That the Committee receive this report and endorse the programme for consultation on the “Design Standard” and its adoption.

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