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Committee **Hutt River Advisory Committee**
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Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan: Ava to Ewen project update

1. Purpose

To update the Advisory Committee on progress made with implementing the Ava to Ewen Project

2. Background

The Ava to Ewen project costing \$16 million has the highest priority in the HRFMP. GWRC's 2003-2013 ten year plan provides for completing the project by June 2010. Resource consents for the project were obtained in July 2002 and the Strand Park land purchase was completed in December 2003. The project will be implemented in 4 stages.

Construction of the river realignment, started in January 2004, is currently well underway and due for completion by August 2005. The detailed design and preliminary tender document for the Alicetown stopbank upgrade, were completed in July 2003. Construction of the Alicetown stopbank upgrade is due to commence in 2005/06.

Stages 3 and 4 of the Ava to Ewen project comprise of the Ava Rail and Strand Park stopbank upgrades. In November 2004, Greater Wellington approved the bringing forward the Strand Park stopbank upgrade design so it would be combined with the Ava Rail stopbank design. Opus International Consultants have commenced this design work.

A stormwater pump station will be constructed by Hutt City Council at the Opahu Stream outlet as a part of the Ava to Ewen project. This pump station will be jointly funded by Hutt City Council and Greater Wellington. Truebridge Callendar Beach Limited is currently progressing with the detailed design with construction scheduled for 2005/06.

3. River realignment contract

Cashmore Contracting Ltd continues to make good progress and is on track to complete the river realignment contract by 31 August 2005.

Status of work

At the end of January, the following work had been completed:

- Excavation of Strand Park
- Delivery of approximately 21,000 tons of rock and placement of 17,000 tons of it in the right bank lining.
- Construction of over 2/3 of the new berm
- The Mudie Street Storm water pipe upgrade
- The viewing platform

Programme

The main activities still to be completed under the contract are as follows:

- Right bank lining March 2005
- Construction of 4 groynes February – 31 May 2005
- Completion of all works within the river 31 May 2005
- Landscaping June – 31 August 2005

Supply of rock

The supply of the 31,000 tons of rock is the key for the works to be completed to programme. There have been indications that Linton quarry may struggle to supply the larger groyne rock required. At this stage it looks as if the quarry will be able to supply the rock, however we are continuing to monitor closely. We have discussed contingency options with the contractor, in case the rock can not be supplied to the required programme.

January flood event

The works fared well during the flood on 5/6 January considering the magnitude of the event. Although the final extent of the damage is yet to be quantified, it appears a small amount of stockpiled material has been lost, there was minor erosion of the new berm, and the significant amounts of debris, silt and gravel were deposited within the site works area. The rock line suffered no damage as a result of this event. The flood occurred while the site was still shut down for the Christmas break.

Alicetown Community

During the course of the contract, we have received a few complaints/concerns from the Alicetown community regarding noise early in the morning and more recently dust problems.

The recent dry weather and the fine silt deposited by the flood lead to significant amounts of dust being blown from the site and on to adjacent properties. The contractor has stepped up their dust control measures and is now keeping it under control.

Early in the project there were instances where work was commencing on site before 7am. Despite consent conditions requiring that work not start before 7am. The contractor now complies with this requirement. A complaint has also been received about the rock trucks travelling down Wakefield Street prior to 7am. This is outside the worksite, however, the contractor has agreed to slow down the trucks to minimise any noise problems.

4. Alicetown stopbank upgrade

Stage 2 of the Ava to Ewen upgrade is to strengthen and raise the Alicetown stopbank. The detailed design and a draft set of tender documents for this work were prepared in July 2003. We will shortly review and finalise these documents and expect a call for construction tenders in June 2005. Upgrade works are due to be completed by December 2006.

5. Ava rail and Strand park stopbank upgrades

The stopbank on the true left (Strand Park) side of the river from Ewen Bridge to downstream of Ava Rail Bridge is proposed to be upgraded in two stages. The programme is to construct the downstream section (Ava Rail stopbank) in 2006/07 and 2007/08 followed by the construction of the upstream section (Strand Park stopbank) in 2008/09 and 2009/10. This upgrade also includes the removal of the existing Opahu Stream training bank under the Ava Rail Bridge and constructing a stormwater pump station at the Opahu Stream outlet. It is also proposed to establish new inanga spawning habitat as part of this project to compensate for the loss of existing habitat on the part of the training bank earmarked for removal.

Opus International Consultants Limited has commenced the detailed design of the stopbank upgrades and currently working through the design options. A design workshop was held on 4 February 2005 to identify preferred options for further refinement.

Charles Mitchell & Associates have completed a feasibility study on establishing inanga spawning habitats in this reach of the river. The feasibility study recommends sites, ground profiles and planting materials suitable for establishing the habitat. These recommendations, where feasible, will be included in the detailed design.

6. Opahu stream pump station

The existing training bank under the Ava Rail Bridge allows the Opahu Stream to continue discharging to the Hutt River during Hutt River flood events up to 10 year return. However, once the training bank is removed the flood gates at the Opahu Stream culvert would close during a 5 year event in the Hutt River. The proposed stormwater pump station will be designed to pump stormwater over the stopbank when the flood gates are closed. The pump station will also provide substantial reductions in flood risk from internal Opahu Stream flooding.

Truebridge Callendar Beach Ltd, HCC Consultants, have already completed a preliminary design of the pump station. The detailed design is progressing. Adjacent sections of the stopbank and river bank protection works around the pump outlet will be constructed with the pump station. HCC expects to call for construction tenders before June 2005 with work due to be completed by June 2006.

7. Communications

In November 2004 a newsletter was distributed to the adjacent Woburn and Alicetown community and other key stakeholders updating them on the river realignment contract. We plan to update the community with another newsletter in March.

On the evening of 26 January 2005 Thane Walls the Hutt River Ranger took members of public for a tour around the site works. This event was part of the Regional Outdoors Programme. This event attracted some 80-90 people with a large amount of positive interest being shown in the current and future flood protection works in this reach

8. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. *receive the report*
2. *note the contents of the report*

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