



Report **06.548**
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Committee **Environment Committee**
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Waiwhetu Stream Project Update

1. Purpose

To provide a summary of the key outcomes from the Waiwhetu Stream Advisory Committee meeting held on 7 September 2006.

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.

The Waiwhetu Project has been divided into two phases. Phase 1, completed at 30 June 2006, investigated structural flood mitigation options, including remediation of the contaminated sediments. Phase 2 runs from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 and involves matters such as planning controls, non-structural investigations, upper Waiwhetu catchment investigation, stream management strategy and flood warning and evacuation. Phase 2 also involves pulling together Phase 1 and 2 into a floodplain management plan for public consultation.

4. Structural Flood Mitigation Options

Preliminary design reports were presented for structural flood mitigation options for the lower Waiwhetu and Awamutu streams.

Lower Waiwhetu Preferred Structural Option

The Advisory Committee endorsed Option 3 as the preferred structural option for reducing flood risk in the lower reaches of the Waiwhetu Stream. Option 3 is estimated to cost \$24.4M and involves constructing the lowest height flood defences with extensive in-stream widening and excavation from the stream mouth to White's Line East. Option 3 is seen as providing the greatest opportunities for environmental enhancement and future proofing of flood defences.

Awamutu Preferred Structural Option

The Awamutu Stream flows into the Waiwhetu by the Seaview roundabout. The Advisory Committee endorsed Option 3 as the preferred structural option for reducing flood risk in the Awamutu Stream. Option 3 is estimated to cost \$6.1M and involves channel improvements including upgrading culverts, constructing stop banks in places and the installation of flood gates and a pumping station at the confluence with the Waiwhetu.

The Advisory Committee noted that a final decision to adopt (or otherwise) the endorsed options should be made at the conclusion of the Phase 2 studies so that the mix of structural and non-structural flood mitigation solutions can be considered as a whole, before completing the Waiwhetu Stream Floodplain Management Plan.

5. Contaminated Sediments Remediation

The Advisory Committee requested that officers immediately prepare and lodge an application to the Ministry for the Environment's Contaminated Sites Remediation Fund seeking 100% funding for remediation of the contaminated sediments in the lower Waiwhetu Stream.

Discussions have taken place at an officer level with the Ministry to determine the exact requirements of the application and to identify any outstanding matters that require further investigation. It is hoped to have the application lodged by Christmas.

A meeting has been sought with the Minister for the Environment to enable Ian Buchanan and David Ogden to brief him on the significance of this project and to seek consideration of a special funding allocation to allow the works to be completed expeditiously.

6. On-going contamination from Gracefield Stormwater

The Advisory Committee considered a paper by Bruce Sherlock, Divisional Manager Utility Services Hutt City on his council's proposed actions to address the on-going contamination entering the Waiwhetu Stream via the Gracefield stormwater system. The Advisory Committee requested a further report for the next meeting be provided on options for enforcement against polluters.

7. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. **Receive the report; and**
2. **Note the contents.**

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Report approved by:

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Murray McLea
Acting Manager
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Attachment 1: Waiwhetu Stream Advisory Committee Report: Minutes of 7 September 2006 meeting.