

# **AGENDA**

## **CATCHMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday  
10 DECEMBER 2008**

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Notice is given that a meeting of Horizons Regional Council will be held at 10.00am on Wednesday, 10 December 2008 in the Council Chamber, Palmerston North City Council, 32 The Square, Palmerston North.

## **ORDER PAPER**

### **Catchment Operations Committee**

### **Agenda Pages**

10.00am - Wednesday, 10 December

1 - 60

**RECOMMENDATIONS IN REPORTS ARE NOT  
COUNCIL POLICY UNTIL ADOPTED BY COUNCIL**

### **NEWS EMBARGO**

Items in this agenda may be subject to amendment or withdrawal at the meeting. Items are embargoed until two days before the date of the meeting.

Reporters who do not attend the meetings should seek confirmation of the agenda material or proceedings from the Chief Executive prior to any media reports.

## **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Cr GP Murfitt (Chairman)

Cr L Bailey

Cr LR Burnell

Cr VJF Chettleburgh QSM ED

Cr EB Gordon

Cr MC Guy

Cr AK Main

Cr DB Meads

Cr MW Plowman

Cr PW Rieger QSO

Cr RG Walker JP

Cr J White



## CATCHMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Cr DB Meads (Chair)  
Cr EB Gordon  
Cr GP Murfitt (ex officio)

Cr MC Guy (Deputy Chair)  
Cr PW Rieger QSO  
Cr RG Walker JP

### AGENDA

**10 December 2008**  
**10.00am**

#### Pages

1. Apologies
2. Public Speaking Rights  
Notification to speak is required by 4pm on the working day prior to the meeting. Further information is available on [www.horizons.govt.nz](http://www.horizons.govt.nz) or by phoning 0508 800 800
3. Late Items:  
To consider, and if thought fit, to pass a resolution to permit the Committee to consider any further items which do not appear on the Order Paper of this meeting and/or the meeting to be held with the public excluded.  
Such resolution is required to be made pursuant to Section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, and the Chairperson must advise:
  - (i) The reason why the item was not on the Order Paper, and
  - (ii) The reason why the discussion of this item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.
4. Members' Conflict of Interest  
Members are reminded of their obligation to declare any conflicts of interest they might have in respect of the items on this Agenda.
5. Confirmation of Minutes – 15 October 2008 1 - 8
6. River and Drainage Engineering Report 9 - 30  
*Report No: 08-228*  
*File No: PRD 5 00*
7. Rangitikei River Scheme Review No.4 Channel Management Scoping Report 31 - 40  
*Report No: 08-226 (Incl. Annex A)*  
*File No: PRD 5 25*

8.	Infrastructural Assets Management Plans <i>Report No: 08-229</i> <i>File No: OAM 2 03</i>	41 - 44
9.	Issues Arising from Annual Scheme Ratepayer Meetings-April/May 2008 <i>Report No: 08-227 (Incl. Annex A)</i> <i>File No: PRD 1 02</i>	45 - 52
10.	Sustainable Land Use Initiative Financial Summary <i>Report No: 08-223 (Incl. Annex A)</i> <i>File No: ELM 6 00</i>	53 - 56
11.	Sustainable Land Use Initiative (SLUI) <i>Report No: 08-224 (Incl. Annex A)</i> <i>File No: ELM 6 00</i>	57 - 60
12.	Members' Questions	

M J McCartney  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**



Minutes of the sixth meeting, seventh triennium, of the Catchment Operations Committee of Horizons Regional Council held in the Tararua Room, Horizons Regional Council 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North at 10.05am on Wednesday 15 October 2008.

**PRESENT** Crs D B Meads (Chairman), E B Gordon (from 10.13am until 12.20pm, from 12.56pm), M C Guy, P W Rieger QSO, R G Walker JP, and G P Murfitt (ex officio).

**IN ATTENDANCE** Crs Bailey, Main and White  
 Chief Executive Mr M McCartney (until 10.20am, from 11.08am)  
 Group Manager Operations Mr A D Cook  
 Committee Secretary Ms K Booth

**ALSO PRESENT** Mr M Jebson (Director, Natural Resources Group, MAF, from 10.42am until 12.20pm), Mr C Mitchell (Group Manager Environmental Management), Mr G Doull (Senior Design Engineer, from 11.27am to 1.35pm), Mr J Foxall (Area Engineer Southern, from 12.52pm), Ms K Standish (Personal Assistant, to 12 noon, from 1.00pm), Ms C Webb (Media Liaison Officer (from 10.12am to 12 noon; from 12.52pm), a member of the Press and a member of the public.

#### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were noted from Crs Plowman and Burnell.

#### **LATE ITEMS**

There were no Late Items.

#### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

There were no conflicts of interest noted.

#### **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**RD 08-47** **Moved** **Meads/Guy**

*that the Minutes of the meeting of the Catchment Operations Committee meeting held on Wednesday, 13 August 2008, be confirmed as a correct record.*

**CARRIED**

#### **RIVER AND DRAINAGE ENGINEERING REPORT**

*Report No. 08-179*

The purpose of this item was to report on progress with river and drainage activities for the two month period 1 August to 30 September 2008.

The Group Manager Operations (GMO) introduced his report and elaborated on items of interest, and answered Members' questions of clarification on the alternative works being prepared to provide fallback options if major works were unavoidably delayed.

*Cr Gordon joined the meeting at 10.13am.*

The GMO further clarified:

- Major works might be deferred if they had resource consent issues, which could therefore result in lower priority works being undertaken during the delay.
- That the comments in paragraph 8 referred to all Schemes, and not a particular Scheme.
- The date in paragraph 14 should be amended to 21 October 2008 (not 22 October).
- Any requests from Wanganui District Council for presentations on the proposed Lower Whanganui River Scheme would be welcomed.
- Issues with late delivery of Lower Manawatu Scheme Rating Review newsletters resulted in an extra advertised public meeting scheduled for Friday 17 October.
- A submission had been received from Rangitikei District Council (RDC) advising they no longer supported the incorporation of the Rakautaua drainage area in a new Haunui-Rakautaua Drainage Scheme. As no submissions had been received from people in the present Haunui rating area, consideration was being given to the need to hold a Hearing. The Chair and the GMO provided the background to the review and re-classification.
- The recent damage caused by flood events on the Rangitikei River Control Scheme.
- The extent of the flood damage on the various schemes in regard to paragraph 125.
- The date in paragraph 157 should be 2008-09 and not 2007-08.

**RD 08-48**

**Moved**

**Meads/Guy**

*that the Committee recommends that Council:*

- a. **receives** and acknowledges the information contained in Report No. 08-179;
- b. **acknowledges** that a Schedule of Works Completed is available for inspection.

**CARRIED**

## **SUSTAINABLE LAND USE INITIATIVE (SLUI)**

*Report No. 08-176*

This report updated Members on progress for the implementation of the Sustainable Land Use Initiative (SLUI). The Group Manager Environmental Management (GMEM) distributed a map showing progress with SLUI, and spoke to the report. Members asked if he could include the 500 worst areas in orange on future maps. The GMEM also distributed a draft of a Forestry Rights Agreement with Horizons Regional Council, and mentioned that two interest groups had recently been hosted to view the SLUI hill country. The first group included national senior officials from Federated Farmers, and the second group was the MAF Hill Country Erosion team that was responsible for the \$10million of government funding for hill country erosion. The GMEM commented on the usefulness of these two visits where visitors could see what was happening in the field.

The GMEM also distributed a copy of MAF's 'Guide to Forestry in the Emissions Trading Scheme' that had recently published, and which explained how the Emissions Trading Scheme applied to forestry.

The Chair introduced Mr Mike Jebson, Director of the Natural Resources Group, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF).

Mr Jebson advised that within the MAF Policy Group he was responsible for areas that included all sustainable issues affecting both agriculture and forestry. He looked at the issues from an environmental focus and ensured that sectors were economic but addressed the environmental issues of concern.

Mr Jebson mentioned the two issues of forestry - the creation of the new "sinks" (covered by emissions trading), and deforestation and the emissions liabilities. He described the government's approach to those issues, and mentioned there would be consultation next year around an allocation plan of land units to landowners of pre-1990 forest land. Mr Jebson explained about the government's financial support of forestry and its recognition of the carbon value in forestry. He commented on MAF's interest in the Horizons' SLUI project, from a carbon issue perspective, where government funding was targeted directly at joint ventures or tree planting.

Mr Jebson explained the difference between the Emissions Trading System (ETS) and the Afforestation Grant Scheme (AGS). With the ETS, the participant paid a fee to join, did not receive money up-front, was responsible for all the costs, but received all the benefits. With the AGS, the government assumed a carbon value would eventuate, put the money up-front based on the carbon value, took all the risks, and kept the carbon credits. AGS participants were presently unable to change to the ETS.

Members put questions to Mr Jebson in regard to the value of carbon, the possibility of shifting the liability of carbon from one piece of land to another, the liability (and exemptions) for pre-1990 foresters who change their land use, issues around 'double dipping', incentives for landowners to change their land use, and funding options for agricultural levies. Mr Jebson mentioned that progress on some projects was likely to be delayed until after the general election.

In response to a question from Cr Murfitt, the GMEM explained that both Memoranda of Understanding and Memoranda of Encumbrances were used between Horizons and the landowners, depending on the level of investment and potential risk to Horizons.

Cr Main did not believe the wording of the second sentence in paragraph 9 reflected the reality, and suggested alternative wording, "*The group reaffirmed its wish to continue and to be seen as an advisory group providing advice to Council.*"

The Chair thanked Mr Jebson for attending the meeting.

**RD 08-49**

**Moved**

**Meads/Murfitt**

*that the Committee recommends that Council:*

a. **receives** the information in Report No. 08-176.

**CARRIED**

*The meeting adjourned at 12.20pm.*

*The meeting resumed at 12.52pm.*

## LOWER MANAWATU SCHEME – CITY REACH PROJECT RIVER DIVERSION AT ANZAC PARK CLIFFS

*Report No. 08-183*

This report was to update the Committee and Council about technical difficulties and projected cost increases for the proposed major realignment of the Manawatu River at Anzac Cliffs, and to set out alternative courses of action for consideration. The GMO spoke to the report and asked the Committee to consider the options that were put forward, noting that funding provision would need to be included in the Long-term Council Community Plan. He distributed a map showing proposed realignment options A and B, for Members to consider.

*Cr Gordon joined the meeting at 12.56pm.*

The GMO outlined that Option A (\$3.2million Council contribution) would have significant long-term advantages. Option B (\$2.3million Council contribution) would comprise the minimum level of realignment/erosion protection work that could be undertaken to achieve an acceptable level of structural integrity and construction safety. Mr Doull (Senior Design Engineer) said he believed both options were equally robust. Members fully discussed the issues of safety for both recreational users of the area, and for the contractors undertaking the work. They sought clarification from the GMO and Mr Doull about the advantages offered by each option, the urgency of the work on the cliff face, the length of time before the cliff was likely to stabilise itself, the angle at which the slope became stable, and the effects of a flood on Option B.

Members discussed the building line defined by the Palmerston North City Council District Plan on the setback at the top of the cliff and the anticipated future concern of homeowners about the cliff retreat. The GMO commented on the support from PNCC for Horizons undertaking some work to address safety issues, and also the financial contribution by the developer if the work was given high priority. Cr Main asked whether the work would attract a 20% subsidy from the rest of the Region, and if so, what would be the regional benefit. Members agreed this project should be discussed further at a Council funding policy workshop and added recommendation (e) to that effect. They also added recommendation (d) for the options to be considered further by the Lower Manawatu Scheme City Reach Working Party.

**RD 08-50**

**Moved**

**Murfitt/Guy**

*that the Committee recommends that Council:*

- a. **receives** and notes the contents of Report No. 08-183;
- b. **notes** that, whichever option is chosen, substantial additional hitherto unbudgeted expenditure will be required if the river alignment adjacent to Anzac Park Cliffs is to be stabilised; and
- c. **agrees** that funding provision for the option ultimately proposed be included in the draft 2009-19 Long-term Council Community Plan.
- d. **notes** that the options are to be further considered by the LMS City Reach Working Party following discussions at project team level;
- e. **agrees** to consider general rate implications of the project at a future Funding Policy workshop.

**CARRIED**

**MAKERUA DRAINAGE SCHEME: SPIERS – KINGSTON CAPITAL WORKS***Report No. 08-180*

The purpose of this item was to update the Committee on issues relating to proposed capital expenditure within the Makerua Drainage Scheme and associated rating concerns raised by ratepayers. The GMO outlined the background of these issues. Cr Bailey commented positively on the fact that Horizons had recognised the rating/benefit inequity and thanked officers for their prompt attention. She noted her concern that Horizons had failed to consult at the appropriate time with the appropriate people, but acknowledged the steps taken to remedy that situation.

Cr White requested that maps showing the area and affected pieces of land, be provided when reports similar to this were brought to a meeting.

**RD 08-51****Moved****Rieger/Walker**

*that the Committee recommends that Council:*

- a. **receives** the information in Report No. 08-180;
- b. **supports** the culvert upgrade work proceeding in the current year;
- c. **approves** the increase of the loan term in respect of the upgrade costs from eight to 20 years; and
- d. **approves** the repayment of loan interest only for the 2008-09 year and the refund of rates as a consequence.

**CARRIED****MAKERUA DRAINAGE SCHEME: MANGAORE PUMPSTATION***Report No. 08-181*

This item sought the Committee's and ultimately Council's approval for the purchase of a new flood pump for the Mangaore pump station in the Makerua Drainage Scheme. The support by the affected ratepayers for the purchase of a new pump, was noted. There was discussion about the purpose of refurbishing the existing pump, rather than storing without refurbishment, and it was again noted this was at the suggestion of the ratepayers.

**RD 08-52****Moved****Rieger/Walker**

*that the Committee recommends that Council:*

- a. **receives** the information contained in Report No. 08-181;
- b. **approves** the purchase of a new pump for the Mangaore pump station;
- c. **approves** a loan of \$60,000 to be repaid over a term of 20 years; and
- d. **agrees** that loan repayments be deferred until 2009-10.

**CARRIED**

## KING'S CANAL OVERFLOWS IN FOXTON

Report No. 08-182

This report was to inform Members about an investigation carried out on recent overflows from "King's Canal" in Foxton. The GMO spoke to the report that recommended that Horizons should increase its monitoring and maintenance activity levels. Cr Bailey suggested that those responsible for the overflows should be reminded of their obligations, and action taken when there were future failures. She also asked that Horizons write to both the Horowhenua District Council and the Foxton Community Board enclosing a copy of the report, as there had been local criticism about a perceived lack of action by Horizons to resolve the issues. A new recommendation (d) was therefore included. The GMO assured Members that processes would be put in place in line with the recommended actions.

**RD 08-53**

**Moved**

**Meads/Guy**

*that the Committee recommends that Council:*

- a. **receives and notes** the information in Report No. 08-182;
- b. **notes** the actions to be taken in ensuring a higher standard of maintenance for King's Canal;
  - Top up the 100 m of low banking downstream of Cook Street with drain cleanings to raise the level 150-300 mm (to be confirmed by detailed survey and design).
  - Remove or trim the existing trees growing along the edge of King's Canal between Avenue Road and Nye Street, especially the willows along the boundary fence at 82 Cook Street.
  - Regularly clean out sand buildup in the bed of the channel in the vicinity of Cook Street (where there is a change of gradient and cross section).
  - Promptly remove and repair any slumping to maintain channel capacity and alignment.
  - Place scour protection at culvert outlets where required to fill scour holes and minimise material being carried to slower flowing reaches downstream (particularly to address existing problems at Avenue Road and Union Street).
  - More frequent inspections of King's Canal to check for obstructions, and more regular machine cleaning and weed control (full inspections to be undertaken monthly).
  - Liaise with the owners of the chicken factory in Purcell Street to ensure that appropriate measures are taken to prevent polystyrene blocking the drain.
  - Report on flood events in a more accurate and comprehensive manner to allow more informed analysis and decision-making. Record water levels at key sites (eg. Spring Street, Avenue Road, Cook Street, Union Street, Purcell Street); carry out channel inspections during and immediately after the event to identify obstructions and remedial works.
- c. **notes** that any associated increase in Scheme costs would be met by the Foxton East Drainage Scheme ratepayers in Foxton (U1 rates);
- d. **requests** that the Group Manager Operations write to Horowhenua District Council and the Foxton Community Board advising the outcomes of the investigation.

**CARRIED**

**MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

There were no Members' questions.

The Chair introduced and welcomed Ms Kelly Standish, the new Personal Assistant to the Group Manager Operations.

The GMO advised that over the next few days he would be hosting his river management colleagues from other regions throughout New Zealand, and they would be taking field trips around the Region

The meeting closed at 1.58pm.

Confirmed

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GROUP MANAGER OPERATIONS

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CHAIRMAN



A Significant decision? <b>If Yes</b>	No
Do recommendations meet Significance Policy (contained within the LTCCP)	

**Item No: 6**  
**Date: 10/12/2008**  
**Report No: 08-228**  
**File No: PRD 5 00**

## **RIVER AND DRAINAGE ENGINEERING REPORT**

### **PURPOSE**

1. The purpose of this item is to report on progress with river and drainage activities for the two month period 1 October to 30 November 2008.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

2. Funding provision for all activities reported on in this item is included in the 2008-09 Annual Plan, under the River and Drainage Schemes Activity.

### **BACKGROUND**

3. Another period predominantly free of heavy rainfall/runoff events has allowed good progress to be made with scheduled maintenance programmes and, in particular, all planting work was completed for the season.
4. The exception was a period of heavy rainfall experienced through parts of the region on 5 and 6 October that resulted in medium stage floods in the Rangitikei, Whanganui, Pohangina, Oroua and Manawatu Rivers in particular. Heavy rainfall in the eastern tributaries of the Manawatu River resulted in the need to open the Moutoa floodway gates. The decision to open the gates surprised a number of farmers in the Lower Manawatu on account of the lower rainfall experienced on the western side of the ranges. Nevertheless, the opening was required, albeit for a period of only eight hours. This was the 36th opening of the gates since they were commissioned in 1962. The average interval between openings is therefore 15 months.
5. The Group's focus continues to be the setting up of major capital works projects. A total of 15 significant projects fall within the Major Work category, two of those being fallback options.
6. Comment was made in the October report in relation to unavoidable delays being experienced with preparatory work for a number of programmed capital works. That frustration continues and there is some disappointment at the time taken to finalise preparatory phases of these projects and to move to contract award. Nevertheless, every effort is being made in this regard. Once again we will be hoping for settled weather that allows an extended construction season through to May 2009.
7. During the latter half of the period staff have been busy preparing Scheme budgets for 2009-10 in particular, but also for the following seven years as required for inclusion in Asset Management Plans and in the Draft 2009-19 Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP). The earlier than ever deadline around this budgeting is understood, however it does place considerable demands on Operations staff at a time of the year when they should desirably be focusing on the planning and implementation of the immediate Scheme works programmes.
8. Satisfactory progress has been made in respect of the development of new rating systems for inclusion in the Draft LTCCP. These relate to the Ohau-Manakau, Hokio,

Makerua, Lower Manawatu and Haunui Schemes. Specific comment in respect of each of these is included later in the report.

9. A significant activity undertaken during the period was the consultation in relation to the Lower Manawatu Scheme upgrade and rating proposals. Despite the considerable effort applied to the preparation of newsletters and the advertising of public meetings, attendance at those meetings was disappointing. It can probably be assumed that the lack of interest from those in the direct benefit areas is a reflection of their being kept informed as the proposals have been developed over the past three years; their acceptance of the need for the upgrade; and their general understanding of the funding/rating implications. However, the lack of interest from those in indirect benefit and contributor rating areas, particularly on the western side of the ranges, was surprising.
10. Council's intention to defer consultation around Stage two of the Lower Whanganui Scheme for one year, as indicated at the Strategy and Policy meeting of 14 October 2008, has resulted in work involved in that project being put on hold. While staff are obviously disappointed at the loss of impetus on a project they have given high priority since July 2006, the resulting reduced demand on limited resources is a relief.

## **ASSET MANAGEMENT**

11. The three-yearly review of the infrastructural Asset Management Plans is on schedule for inclusion in the draft 2009-19 LTCCP. The adoption of the draft plans is the subject of a separate agenda item.
12. Wherever possible, Area Engineers have presented the respective draft Plans to Scheme Liaison Committee meetings held during September-October, and further opportunities to consult over the Plans will be taken as they arise either prior to or during the LTCCP consultation period. The level of interest in the Plans is minimal and in fact most stakeholders perceive the process as an unnecessary waste of Scheme funds. Nevertheless, staff are charged with managing assets valued at approximately \$290 million on behalf of our Scheme ratepayers and there does need to be some transparency and accountability around that management. The Plans, and in particular the performance targets and measures they contain, do provide a useful tool in that regard. The challenge is to continually refine the three-yearly review process with the objective of minimising staff inputs and associated costs.
13. An important addition to the current revision of Asset Management Plans is the inclusion of flood loss curves, which estimate the cost to repair asset damage from floods of varying magnitudes. The graphs are a requirement of Local Authority Protection Programme (LAPP) to assist in determining our risk profile for insured infrastructural assets. For the Asset Management Plans the scope of the curves has been expanded to provide for damage to all assets, not just those that are insured. These curves assist Scheme managers and members of the Scheme liaison committees to determine an appropriate target level of financial reserves for the respective Schemes.

## **INVESTIGATIONS AND DESIGNS**

### **Whanganui River – Balgownie flood protection**

14. An application for consents required for this project was lodged on 2 October 2008 and was advertised on 25 October 2008. As at the closing date of 26 November 2008, a total of 11 submissions had been received. Consultation with various affected parties, including Wanganui District Council, Q-West Ltd, On-Track, Vector Gas, and residential property owners, progressed during the submissions period.

15. A full assessment of submissions has not been completed, however it is likely that a hearing will be required and the date of 29-30 January 2009 has been reserved for that purpose.
16. As would be expected, the need to refine some aspects of the detailed design has arisen during these consultations and that work is progressing. It is anticipated that final drawings, specifications and contract documents for physical works will be available well in advance of receipt of a consent decision. The timing of that decision could however have an impact on which particular works are able to be undertaken this year and accordingly some flexibility is being built into the development of a works programme.

#### **Taonui Basin – mitigation works**

17. Negotiations around specific measures required to mitigate the effect of increased ponding of floodwaters in the Taonui Basin are essentially complete and formal agreements have been prepared in respect of each property concerned. To date six of a total of 20 agreements have been executed and we are confident that a further seven should be executed in the near future. Some affected parties are awaiting visits from design staff to discuss site specific issues and those visits have been scheduled for the week commencing 15 December 2008.

#### **Rangitikei River channel management**

18. Reference was made in the October 2008 report to concerns held regarding on-going major channel instability and associated erosion problems throughout the Scheme. The need has been identified for a review of the channel management aspects of the Scheme before any further commitment is made to major expenditure on erosion repairs. Accordingly, a scoping report has been prepared and is the subject of a separate agenda item.

#### **Rangitikei River at Tangimoana**

19. Design stopbank crest levels for the first (upstream) stage of work to raise the standard of flood protection for Tangimoana, as scheduled for the approaching construction season, have been confirmed.

#### **Oroua River stopbank upgrades**

20. Design crest levels for two sections of stopbank raising on the Oroua River have been confirmed and construction drawings are being finalised. This task has been complicated by the discovery of significant errors in survey and hydraulic modelling work undertaken by Opus Consultants in 2005.

#### **Lower Manawatu Scheme Rating Review**

21. Design staff have supported aspects of the consultation process around the flood protection upgrade and associated rating proposals and have also provided inputs to the submissions hearing process.

#### **Ashhurst Stream Scheme – stopbank design**

22. Hydraulic design work is well advanced in respect of stopbank upgrade works scheduled on the Ashhurst Stream during the approaching construction season. The design is made particularly complex on account of some very significant culvert impacts.

### **Regulatory Advice**

23. The section has continued to provide a large amount of specialist advice on flood risks to rezonings and subdivisions. This has included input in respect of the proposed Hautapu Dam.

### **General Design Advice**

24. Design advice has been given on several minor projects.

## **SCHEME REVIEWS AND RATING SYSTEMS**

### **Ohau-Manakau Scheme - Partial Review of Scheme and Rating System**

25. A Hearing Committee considered submissions in respect of flood protection upgrade and associated rating proposals on 30 October 2008. The Committee has subsequently deliberated and has formulated recommendations that comprise a substantial change from the original proposal. That change was recommended to satisfy the major concerns of submitters.
26. At the request of the Hearing Committee, a letter has been sent to those direct benefit ratepayers particularly affected by flooding, and therefore by the proposed improvements, to seek formal confirmation of acceptance of the modified proposal.
27. The Hearing Committee's recommendations, together with the response as sought above, will be presented to Council on 16 December 2008, for adoption for the purpose of inclusion in the Draft 2009-19 LTCCP.
28. Subject to confirmation of majority support for the modified proposal, an initial stage of capital works will be undertaken in the current financial year, on the basis of interim funding provision made in the 2008-09 Annual Plan.

### **Hokio Drainage Scheme – review and new rating system**

29. A review of the Scheme, incorporating an extended drainage network and maintenance of the Hokio Stream, together with a proposed new rating system, was adopted by Council on 25 November 2008 for inclusion in the Draft LTCCP.
30. All submitters have subsequently been advised of the outcome of the Hearing.
31. A Final Review Report is presently being compiled and will be made available to Committee members as soon as it is completed.

### **Makerua Drainage Scheme – Partial Review of Rating System**

32. A partial review of the Makerua Scheme rating system, primarily to address anomalies in the south-eastern part of the Scheme catchment area, is provided for in the 2008-09 Annual Plan.
33. Urgency for the review is increased by the need to undertake capital works in the Spiers-Kingston-Makerua East part of the Scheme, when the present rating system does not allow for the cost of those works to be fairly apportioned in accordance with benefit received. That situation was explained in detail in an item to the Committee in October 2008.
34. The review has been commenced and initial work would suggest that changes can be confined to a relatively small part of the Scheme area.

35. Given the timeline that applies to the LTCCP, the review must be progressed quickly and it may not be possible to bring a draft proposal to either the Committee or Council. A programme for the review and associated consultation process will be available for discussion at the meeting.

### **Lower Manawatu Scheme flood protection upgrade and rating proposals**

36. A total of 56 submissions were lodged to the proposals and of those 35 were heard by the Hearing Committee on 21 and 24 November 2008.
37. The Committee has commenced deliberations and it has become clear that the ensuing process, which will very likely involve modelling of alternative rating options, will not be completed in time for consideration at the December Council meeting as was initially programmed.
38. The objective is now to conclude the deliberations process early in the New Year and to present a report with recommendations to Council on 3 February 2009. That should still allow the final proposal to be incorporated in the second draft of the LTCCP, to be finalised early in February 2009.

### **Haunui-Rakautaua Drainage Scheme**

39. Council decided at its October meeting that, despite the unanimous opposition to incorporating the Rakautaua Drainage area in the present Haunui Scheme, that a hearing of submissions should be held. All submitters, including the Rangitikei District Council have been advised that such a hearing will take place early in 2009 and that a date will be confirmed in due course.

## **CENTRAL AREA**

### **General**

40. Cross-section surveys have been completed on the Oroua River to determine the sites which require gravel extraction over the summer period. Extraction will be completed under the Oroua River Global Consent.
41. Allocations have still to be advised for gravel extraction on the Manawatu River this year. Gravel allocation maps have been prepared for use with the Manawatu River Global consent.
42. Final details for the LMS Self Help and Monitoring Group have been completed. This has involved arranging five depots, spread across the Scheme area, where materials to be used in times of extreme flood events will be stored. These depots are at Eveleigh Bulk Haulage yard at Shannon, Robert Vandenberg's yard on Tane Road in Opiki, Richard Algar's yard in Rongotea and Horizons Regional Council Kairanga depot and Moutoa Sluice Gates site. Formal agreements have been signed by these property owners to allow storage of these materials.

### **Status**

43. Unsettled weather during October 2008 resulted in a number of moderate floods in both the Manawatu and Oroua Rivers. On 6 October 2008 the flood in the Manawatu River reached a stage height of 5.74 metres. This required the operation of the Moutoa Floodway, however it was only in use for approximately eight hours.

## **LOWER MANAWATU SCHEME**

44. Works undertaken on rivers within the Scheme during this period included:

### **Manawatu River**

45. The Palmerston North stopbanks were mown between river distance 75 km and 85 km. In several areas, tractor access to the toe of the stopbank was restricted due to wet ground conditions. Manual cutting was undertaken at these sites.
46. River environment enhancement works were undertaken in a number of areas. In the Fitzherbert Bend area, vegetation around walkways and drains was sprayed and berms were mowed. River edge mowing has also been undertaken in the Dittmer Drive area. A programme of weed clearance, involving spraying and manual release, from around the native trees planted both upstream and downstream of the Fitzherbert Bridge is currently underway. At Fitzroy Bend landscaping and grassing work has been completed and planting will be undertaken in due course. The clearance of willow from the edge of the old river channel in the vicinity of Roxborough Crescent has commenced and will continue as Scheme finances allow. The objective is to achieve a uniform grassed batter slope that can be mown.
47. All Scheme floodgates and drains were inspected and maintenance was undertaken as required.
48. River edge fencing was completed at several sites to protect willow plantings. Some replacement fencing was completed on Scheme lease land areas and also new fencing was erected where stopbank upgrades have been undertaken.
49. The winter planting programme was completed with a further 4,772 willow poles planted. Wet weather and hence poor ground conditions across the Scheme area resulted in visits to several landowners concerning inappropriate grazing of the stopbanks. Several areas of gorse and blackberry on the stopbanks were sprayed.

### **Mangaone Stream – City Reach**

50. Scheduled mowing, weed control and access maintenance work has been completed.

### **Oroua River**

51. Five hundred willow poles have been planted on the left bank in the Ruawai Road area of Feilding at river distance 40.6 km. General scheduled maintenance works comprising river edge fencing and floodgates inspections were undertaken.

### **Makino Stream**

52. Vegetation clearance from within the channel has been carried out over a distance of 1,600 metres between Kitchener Park and Rata Street, Feilding. A further 1,700m of vegetation clearance has been undertaken between the new diversion structure and Brewster Road.

### **Mangapukatea Stream, Kara Creek and Tokomaru River**

53. Programmed inspections of the various stopbanks and floodgates were completed and other minor maintenance requirements attended to.

### **Moutoa Floodway**

54. Programmed inspections of the stopbanks and floodgates were completed. A length of stopbank was mown to remove heavy fescue growth.

### **Mangaore Stream**

55. General maintenance works consisting of vegetation spraying on the reach of stream from the Foxton-Shannon Road upstream to the Scheme boundary, the removal of trees from under the Foxton-Shannon Road bridge and the checking of all Scheme floodgates, was completed.

### **Scheme Drains**

56. Several Scheme drains in the Opiki area, namely Funnell's, Sargent's and McAlloon's were cleaned. The outlet of Kemp's Lagoon was de-silted.

### **Capital erosion protection works**

57. Capital works were completed on the Oroua River as follows:

- On the Duker property at river distance 25.4 km, 110 m<sup>3</sup> of riprap bank protection has been placed on the right bank. Just upstream on the Pearson property, 90 m<sup>3</sup> has been placed at a vulnerable site on the left bank.
  - At river distance 27 km, two erosion sites have been protected on the left bank within the Syme property. A total of approximately 330 m<sup>3</sup> of riprap was placed at this location.
  - On the Rowe property at river distance 27.3 km, an extension to the existing riprap protection was required on the right bank. An additional volume of 50 m<sup>3</sup> has been placed in the toe of the 'summer bank'.
  - Further upstream at river distance 27.9 km, 17 metres of tied tree bank protection was installed on the left bank in the Hunt property. Existing concrete riprap opposite this site was also rearranged to fill a small but developing erosion site.
  - On the Bailey property at river distance 31.5 km, a total length of 140 metres of tied tree bank protection was installed on the left bank. These works needed to be substantially bulked up as the site is located on a vulnerable outside bend.
  - At Ruawai Road in Feilding at river distance 40.6 km, 200 m of tied tree protection work was has been installed with an additional planting of 200 willow poles.
  - The two erosion sites on the Herlily property, one at 41.1 km and the other at 41.8 km river distance, were repaired using 314 m<sup>3</sup> of concrete riprap material and 70 m of tied tree works respectively.
  - Further upstream at river distance 41.6 km, 255 m<sup>3</sup> of concrete riprap material was used to secure another site on the Guy property.
  - Upstream at 41.8 km river distance, on the Maurice property, 345 m<sup>3</sup> of concrete riprap material was used to reinstate another erosion problem.
58. On the Manawatu River a stockpile of concrete riprap material has been established on the Landcorp farm, at Springs Road Moutoa. This will be used to extend an existing riprap protection work site.

59. On the Makino Stream a 40 m stopbank breach upstream of Kitchener Park at river distance 6.2 km has been temporarily repaired. This breach occurred during the moderate flood of 5 October 2008. The stopbank overtopped over a 50-60 metre length and the bank, which is formed from excavated river gravels and was poorly compacted, eroded from the land side and finally breached.
60. Upstream of the new diversion structure, two erosion sites have been repaired with the installation of a total of 75 m of tied tree works.

#### **Flood Damage Repairs (February 2004)**

61. Unsettled weather during October 2008 resulted in several floods in both the Manawatu and Oroua Rivers, which slowed progress with the outstanding flood damage reinstatement works.
62. All of the reinstatement works funded by the Scheme insurance policy have been completed and the final insurance claim has been processed and accepted by the Loss Adjustors. Any outstanding reinstatement works will be funded through the Government Grant fund.
63. At the close of the reporting period, reinstatement works are outstanding at two sites only. Both involve rock linings and only the placement work requires to be completed.
64. Flood damage reinstatement works were completed at the following sites:
  - Manawatu River at Crighton's (No 2) - The work site is located on the true left bank at 19.0 km river distance. A total of 1626 tonnes of armour rock has been delivered to stockpile ready for placement.
  - Oroua River at Ruawai - The work site is located on the true right bank at 40.6 km river distance. Reinstatement was completed using a combination of permeable groynes and anchored tied tree works. The original length of erosion was reinstated using the Government Grant fund. However, the recent floods in the Oroua River lengthened the eroded area. This extra work was completed using Scheme funds.
  - McKinnon (No1) - The work site is located on the true left bank at 41.8 km river distance. Reinstatement was completed using concrete riprap material. The majority of the work was completed in the last reporting period. As material has become available, the site has now been totally reinstated.

#### **Moutoa Sluice Gates – Upgrade Programme**

65. The upgrade of all electrical components at gate piers No's 1 - 7 has been completed. As the upgrade on each pier can take up to four weeks the work at gates 8 and 9 will not commence until after Christmas.
66. Other minor electrical improvements to the electrical control panel in the control tower have also been undertaken.

#### **Vegetation Management**

67. The vegetation clearance programme on the Manawatu River is underway for the summer season. A variety of clearance methods including mulching, cutting, burning and burying will be used, depending on the site. Clearance works have been completed at three sites during this period: – Parlatos, at distance 21 – 36.3 km right bank; Parlatos, at distance 35 km right bank; and at Anderson's, distance 46.6 km right bank. Previous

clearance work at Anderson's, distance 44.4 km right bank was extended a further 30 metres.

68. The re-vegetation spraying programme for the current year commenced in mid-November, with follow up spraying at two sites, Anderson's at distance 43.5 km right bank, and Taupunga Farms (Bills) at distance 33 km left bank. Two further sites were sprayed at McAloon's, distance 33 km, and Aker's, distance 67 km, both on the left bank. These last two were initially sprayed where vegetation is too light to warrant mulching.
69. A further six sites are programmed for treatment during December.

### **Makino Project**

70. Commissioning of the diversion structure gates is scheduled for 28 November 2008. If commissioning is successful, practical completion for this contract will be achieved.
71. The contract for the electrical supply and remote control of the diversion structure is in progress with Manawatu Precision Enterprises (MPE). Underground power has been trenched to the site and the electrical equipment is currently being installed inside the operator's shed located on top of the structure. MPE and HRC Hydrology Section will work closely together during December 2008 to integrate and commission the remote control system.
72. A contract for the Makino Stream right bank stopbank has been awarded to M & M Earthmoving. Works commenced on site on 27 November 2008 and subject to suitable weather conditions will be completed during December 2008.
73. The Pharazyn Road flood-control gates have been installed and are operational. Minor works remain to chip-seal the site and re-shape adjoining sections of stopbank.
74. Design and contract documentation work associated with some minor stopbanking work on the Kiwitea Stream, to prevent flood flows breaking out of the channel and entering the Makino Stream, has been completed. A consent is held and a contract will be awarded in January 2009.

### **Lower Manawatu Scheme Rural Upgrade Project**

75. The following projects are scheduled for the 2008-09 year:
- Kopane Bridge replacement and channel widening.
  - Oroua River – left bank upstream of Kopane – stopbank raising and realignment.
  - Oroua River downstream of 15 km mark – stopbank raising (substitute project).
  - Foxton Beach storm surge flood protection.
  - Manawatu River – left bank at Staces Road – stopbank raising.

### **Kopane Bridge replacement and channel widening**

76. Contract for the design and ultimately the construction supervision and quality surveillance of the bridge replacement and associated road works has been awarded to GHD Consultants Ltd. The contract is in two separable portions with the investigation and design phase to be completed by early April 2009. The second stage would commence once resource consents have been granted and a physical works contract has been awarded.
77. Good Earth Matters have been engaged to manage preparation of applications for consents required for the Kopane Bridge project and that work is now underway. A small project team including Operations and Consents staff has been formed to overview the

application. A full assessment of consent issues has been completed, tasks have been identified and allocated, and a revised timeline has been prepared. Apart from addressing the obvious potential environmental effects arising from disturbance of the river channel at Kopane, the application must address the rather complex matter of effects of the works on flooding in the Taonui Basin. It would now appear unlikely that a consent application will be lodged before early March 2009 and assuming a hearing is required, a decision would not then be available before the end of June 2009. On that basis it has been assumed that no physical works will be undertaken in the current financial year.

78. Accordingly another upgrade project work, being the raising of a further section of stopbank on the Oroua River, has been brought forward as a substitute work in the current year.

#### **Oroua River – Left Bank upstream of Kopane – stopbank raising and realignment**

79. Landowner negotiations have been concluded, design, drawings and documentation completed and tenders have been advertised. It is anticipated that a contractor will be awarded by the end of December 2008.

#### **Oroua River – Left & Right Banks at Puawai Road (downstream of 15km mark)**

80. Landowner negotiations are in progress for the upgrade of 1 km lengths of both the left and right bank stopbanks upstream of Puawai Road. This upgrade work will continue on from similar works undertaken in 2006. Design and documentation will be completed in December with construction due to commence in January 2009.

#### **Manawatu River – Foxton Storm Surge Protection**

81. This contract is currently out for tender with a closing date of 5 December 2008. Construction will commence in late December 2008. Due to proximity of works to recreational facilities, construction will cause some unavoidable inconvenience to local residents and holiday makers. Every effort will be made to minimise that inconvenience.

#### **Manawatu River – left bank at Staces Road**

82. Survey for the upgrade of a 1 km section of rural standard stopbank has been completed and design work is in progress. A resource consent application is presently being prepared and should be lodged by mid December. It is likely that the application will need to be notified and that it could proceed to a hearing. In that event there is some risk that physical works will not proceed this construction season.

### **LOWER MANAWATU SCHEME – CITY REACH UPGRADE PROJECT**

#### **Rock lining at Centennial Drive – Fitzherbert Bridge**

83. Resource consent applications were lodged on 16 October 2008. Plans and contract documents have been completed and tenders for the placement work close on 14 December 2008. Rock cartage from the Linton Quarry to stockpile adjacent to the site has commenced. It is anticipated that the placement contract will be awarded before Christmas and placement works should start early in the new year. There is an enhancement feature also to be constructed once the rock lining is in place.

#### **Stopbank upgrade Roxborough Crescent – Albert Street**

84. Drawings and contract documents have been completed for the upgrading of 1,430 metres of stopbank from Roxborough Crescent to Albert Street. Twenty thousand cubic

metres of fill material (clays) are required for the stopbank upgrade. Prices were called to supply the material and the successful contractor was Paranoi Contractors Ltd of Palmerston North. Cartage of the material is underway and approximately 50% of the material is at the site. A notified consent is required for the work and an application will be lodged in early December 2008.

#### **Dittmer Drive enhancement element**

85. The restoration work has been completed although the grass strike could have been better considering the area was fertilised at the time of sowing. A short opening ceremony and blessing was held at the site on 25 November 2008 with the unveiling of a plaque that has been inserted into the concrete. There have been mainly favourable comments regarding the feature and usage is expected to increase as the general public becomes aware of its existence.

#### **Stopbank upgrade at Napier Road**

86. Discussions with owners of properties affected by the proposed raising of the existing stopbank along Napier Road Drain and linking that to the higher terrace on Napier Road are progressing. Once those discussions have been concluded and land entry agreement reached, a consent application will be submitted. It is looking increasingly unlikely that physical works will be able to proceed this construction season.

#### **LOWER KIWITEA SCHEME**

87. No works were completed during the reporting period. A full stream inspection, involving the liaison committee, is planned before the end of the year.

#### **NORTHERN AREA**

##### **General**

88. A wet October was followed by a drier and warmer November 2008. The main flood event occurred during the period of 5-9 October 2008 when all rivers in the Northern region recorded high flow levels. For the third time in four months the Whanganui River recorded a level in excess of 8 m at Pipiriki and activated the third alarm level for the Whanganui Flood Action Plan. For the following six weeks levels remained relatively low in the main Northern rivers.
89. The preparation of Scheme budgets and 10-year forecasts for all Northern Schemes were completed.
90. Liaison meetings for the Rangitikei, Porewa, Tutaenui, Pohangina-Oroua, Matarawa, Whangaehu-Mangawhero and Upper Whanganui Schemes were held during November 2008 with generally good attendances. Reports on progress with works programmes were presented and discussion focused on budgets and the draft Asset Management Plans. Explanations were given in relation to the proposed new detention dam classification process, dam safety assurance programme and compliance régime; levels of service and performance measures; and the desired level of the Emergency Reserve Funds for future flood damage repair works.
91. Work was commenced on preparation of the 2007-08 Annual Report for the Northern area Schemes and good progress has been made to date.
92. A number of requests were received during the period for either engineering advice or environmental grant assistance. A number of these requests have been in the Taumarunui area.

### **Rangitikei River Control Scheme**

93. The Rangitikei River has been predominantly at low flow level during the period except for 7 October 2008 when a moderate flood (5.66 m recorded at Mangaweka) exacerbated earlier flood damage.
94. The Design Manager is presently completing a scoping report that addresses the current serious channel instability evident in a number of reaches of the Rangitikei River. Decisions on reinstatement of the major damage incurred in the seven metre flood of early August 2008 will generally be deferred until at least that report, and possibly a more substantial investigation report, is available.
95. It is proposed to send a newsletter to Scheme riparian ratepayers before the end of the year to alert them to the present situation and to give them an indication of when more detailed information and, in particular, channel management/erosion management options will be available.
96. In the meantime some high priority repair work, particularly where there is a risk of further significant asset damage, has commenced. Consequently 1,200 m of tree bank protection works have been completed at five sites along with 320 m of willow tree layering. Other work completed has comprised the planting of 400 poles, placement of rock over 15 metres, and spraying of pest plants.
97. Preparatory work is progressing satisfactorily in relation to three programmed capital works.
98. Design, drawings and contract documentation have been completed for the section of stopbank raising work upstream of Nagel's Island at Parewanui. Tenders have been advertised and it is expected that a contract will be awarded before year end and that physical works will commence in late January 2009.
99. Design has been finalised for the secondary stopbank at Scott's Ferry and land entry negotiations are well advanced. Rangitikei District Council has been kept informed in relation to its commitment to raise a section of Parewanui Road as part of the work to protect the Scott's Ferry community from local sand country catchment flooding, as opposed to Rangitikei River flooding. A consent application will be lodged in early December 2008 and tenders will be sought in late January 2009.
100. The design profile for raising the existing stopbank at Tangimoana has been finalised and drawings are presently being assembled. A consent application has been prepared and will be lodged early in the New Year following a meeting with the community.

### **Pohangina-Oroua River Control Scheme**

101. Both rivers experienced a number of moderate freshes during the period, however little damage has been observed and good progress has been made with programmed maintenance works.
102. On the Pohangina River 8.1 km of channel maintenance, 300 m of tree layering, 225 m of tree bank protection work and 40 m of tree groyne construction has been completed.
103. On the Oroua River 5.6 km of channel maintenance work has been completed along with 290 m of tree bank protection work and 300 m of willow layering.
104. To date works have been agreed and substantially completed on five properties under the new Pohangina-Oroua Scheme protocols applying to erosion protection.

105. At a meeting held on 10 November 2008 members of the Liaison Committee questioned whether the 75% landowner contribution to erosion protection works under the new protocols should not attract general rate assistance. It is likely that the Liaison Committee will submit on this matter through the Draft LTCCP.

#### **Upper Whanganui River Management Scheme**

106. Channel reshaping and gravel extraction work at Matapuna, as provided for in an emergency works notification dated 29 August 2008, was finally completed on 31 October 2008 after issues with Whanganui River iwi had been settled.
107. Plans have been prepared for extending the existing rockwork at Poole's property on the left bank at Matapuna and preparation of contract documentation is progressing. The work is expected to commence in late January 2009.
108. A full attendance was achieved at a Liaison Committee meeting held on 10 October 2008. The main matter of discussion was the emergency works at Matapuna. Members expressed real concern that further erosion and damage to Scheme assets had resulted from unexplained and apparently unnecessary delays in undertaking channel reshaping work. The meeting ended in a very positive manner following a frank discussion of the issues.

#### **Matarawa Flood Control Scheme**

109. All dams were inspected and maintenance was undertaken as necessary.
110. Preparation for the final capital works proposed in the 2006 Scheme Review, being the upgrade of a section of stopbank on Blinkbonnie Farm, has progressed satisfactorily. The design is presently being peer reviewed and drawings and contract documents will be completed by year-end.
111. A Liaison Committee meeting held on 13 November 2008 was well attended. Issues discussed included progress with obtaining lease agreements, inspection of stopbanks and their protection from stock damage, cleaning of railway drains affecting Scheme drains, and the pending upgrade of the Blinkbonnie stopbank.

#### **Tutaenui Flood Control Scheme**

112. It was proposed to upgrade a section of stopbank immediately upstream of Marton township during the approaching construction season. However, during the design phase it became apparent that there was insufficient information available to confidently determine the potential impact on flows in the Tutaenui Stream channel within Marton, as a result of raising or extending the stopbank. In that situation it was decided to defer the work until better channel dimension and observed flood profile information was available. This matter was discussed with the Liaison Committee at a meeting on 6 November 2008. A letter has been sent to the property owner concerned, explaining the reason for the deferral.
113. Over the past four months staff have been progressing the execution of legal agreements with owners of properties on which detention dams are sited. Some strong opposition to the presence of the dams has been expressed, primarily by one or two property owners and in one instance that opposition has extended to threats of dismantling the structure involved.
114. The dams were all lawfully constructed by way of agreement with the then property owners and are well protected in perpetuity under the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1941 and by way of designation under the Operative Rangitikei District Plan.

115. Some legal advice has been requested in relation to one or two aspects and a meeting of all 19 property owners concerned is planned for the week commencing 15 December 2008.

### **Porewa Flood Control Scheme**

116. A well attended Liaison Committee meeting was held on 6 November 2008.
117. All dams have been inspected and any necessary maintenance has been attended to.

### **Whangaehu-Mangawhero River Management Scheme**

118. The generally drier weather conditions experienced have enabled a further 1.6 km of willow clearance work to be completed on the Whangaehu River, between river distance 17 and 29 km, upstream of the Railway Bridge.
119. A major channel blockage was cleared from the Mangawhero River adjacent to Sicily's and Byam's properties. The blockage was initiated by the collapse of a few very large poplars from Sicily's side of the river and a large number of similar trees were poised to collapse progressively over the next year or two. Accordingly, the opportunity was taken to clear and stockpile for burning those trees over a length of approximately 500 metres.
120. A Liaison Committee meeting was held on 13 November 2008. Satisfaction was expressed with the work completed on the Mangawhero River and considerable discussion ensued around the priority that should be accorded to the removal of large numbers of dead trees, poisoned by adjoining landowners, along the margins of the Lower Mangawhero River. It was agreed that there were significant risks associated with those trees causing channel blockages, particularly in the proximity of bridges. Accordingly, it was agreed that as much of the budget as possible should be directed to that work, while also recognizing the expectation that clearance work should generally progress upstream from the Whangaehu River mouth.
121. A meeting was held on 28 November 2008 with representatives of Whangaehu River iwi to discuss general Scheme consultation issues and in particular the matter of a recently granted consent to undertake aerial spraying of willow on the edges of the river channel.
122. It was agreed that a protocol be established for ongoing involvement of iwi in river management decisions that may impact on their interest in the rivers concerned. A further meeting is proposed for early in the New Year. In the meantime it has been agreed that the aerial spraying consent will not be given effect until some issues raised by iwi have been responded to.

### **Lower Whanganui Scheme - Vegetation Management Programme**

123. Inspection and prioritising of vegetation management work within the Scheme area has been completed. The Scheme manager has met with Wanganui District Council Parks and Reserves staff to discuss their priorities for development along the river. The agreed priority is to maintain existing plantings as opposed to commencing new development. Consequently some planting has been completed in the Lewis and Camellia Ave areas along with 200 m of weed spraying. Vegetation on rock groynes within the Dublin Bridge/Gloucester Street reach was sprayed and planting and associated weed spraying was undertaken on the adjoining river bank. A further 100 m of planting and weed spraying was completed in the Dublin Bridge/Pitt Street area and a buildup of logs adjacent to Kowhai Park was removed.

## **EASTERN AREA**

### **General**

124. The preparation of budgets and 10-year forecasts for all Eastern Schemes has been completed.
125. Final drafts of all Eastern Scheme Asset Management Plans (AMP) were presented and discussed at recently held Liaison Committee meetings. The main points of discussion centred around the 10-year forecasts, the levels of service and performance measures, and an acceptable target level of emergency reserve funds for future flood damage repair works.
126. The 2007-08 Annual Report for all Eastern Schemes has been completed.
127. Liaison meetings for the Akitio, Mangatainoka, Upper Manawatu and South Eastern Ruahine Schemes were held in October. The attendances were generally good and discussion mainly centred around works programmes, budgets, the current Asset Management Plan review and the proposed Lower Manawatu Scheme contributor and indirect rating across the Tararua District. With regard to the latter issue, all Liaison Committees expressed high levels of concern regarding the new rating proposals and consequently each committee resolved to formally submit on behalf of their ratepayers in opposition to the proposals.
128. A request from the Tararua District Federated Farmers group was acceded to and a meeting was arranged in Woodville to present information on the LMS rating proposal.
129. Recently the Department of Conservation has requested engineering advice in relation to river bank erosion on DOC land adjacent to the Tiraumea River at Ngawaparua, and flooding concerns for their Kiwi House at the Mt Bruce Reserve.
130. While the weather was somewhat inclement during October, with several high river flows recorded, especially between 5–8 October 2008, November recorded drier and warmer weather conditions. The main flood event on 5 October 2008 saw most rivers at very high levels, especially the Mangahao River which recorded 5.71 m stage height at Ballance, the highest since January 2005. At Upper Gorge a level of 9.6 m was recorded, the highest since August 2004. As a result of these high flood levels and elevated flows in the Pohangina and Oroua Rivers, the Moutoa flood gates were opened at 2 am Sunday 6 October 2008.
131. The repeated high flows, particularly in the Mangatainoka and Mangahao Rivers, caused significant flood damage with an estimated \$80,000 of damage on the Mangatainoka River and \$65,000 in the non-Scheme area of the Upper Mangahao River. In the latter regard, Environmental Grant applications have been approved in the sum of \$50,940 to date.

### **Akitio Scheme**

132. At the Liaison Committee meeting, the position agreed at the 2008 Annual Meeting around repair work programmed for 2008-09 on the Whakawahine Weir was confirmed. As the weir is not a Scheme asset, any further weir repairs will then require approval at future annual ratepayer meetings.
133. The aerial spraying programme for 2009 was advertised in the Bush Telegraph during November 2008 in compliance with resource consent conditions.

134. Willow congestion removal work for areas sprayed last year will commence late in January 2009.

### **Eastern Manawatu Scheme**

135. As the inaugural Scheme ratepayer meeting was held late in July 2008, the first Liaison Committee meeting will be held in February 2009.
136. The aerial spraying programme for 2009 was advertised in the Bush Telegraph during November 2008 in compliance with resource consent conditions.
137. Inspections of the congested areas have been completed and discussions with property owners regarding proposed works is underway. Willow removal work will commence in the New Year.
138. A section of 30 metres of tree bank protection work was completed downstream of Weber Road.

### **Ihuraia and Tawataia - Mangaone Schemes**

139. Stream channels on both Schemes were inspected and channel clearing programmes prepared.

### **Mangatainoka Scheme**

140. Flood damage repairs estimated to cost \$80,000 have been identified following a series of four floods exceeding the 2.35 m flood warning stage within four weeks, the highest level being 3.66 m at the Pahiatua Town Bridge on 7 October 2008. The financial impact is lessened somewhat as some of the damaged works were already programmed for strengthening in this year's works programme. Furthermore, by establishing priorities for the damage repairs, it will be possible to defer some work until next financial year, thereby avoiding the need to exceed approved budgets in the current year.
141. Maintenance and flood damage reinstatement works completed during the period included 50 m of channel clearing, 380 m of channel shaping work, 260 m of permeable mesh bank protection including groyne work, 400 m of drain cleaning and 1400 tonnes of rockwork.
142. Following the Liaison Committee Meeting, when the recommendations of the Audit Report were discussed, a further meeting was convened with Scheme management staff, the Consultant and Councillor Meads to progress the Audit Report recommendations. It was agreed that some measures such as preparing a design alignment for the entire Mangatainoka River, can be progressed this financial year while minor amendments to the rating system will be addressed when funding is available next financial year through the LTCCP process. A letter will be sent to the Liaison Committee members updating them with progress on the Audit Report recommendations.

### **South Eastern Ruahine Scheme**

143. Very good progress was made on programmed maintenance, damage repairs and capital works on five of the Scheme streams. Work completed during the period included 24 m of groynes, 200 m of layering, 580 willow poles planted, 720 m of channel clearing, repairs to 100 m of guide bank, installation of three new grade controls/small weirs, 250 m of tree bank protection work and repairs to four weirs.
144. Covenant agreements are being prepared for a further two gravel reserves and these will be discussed and signed up with property owners during February 2009.

145. A staff member explained upper catchment management, including gravel reserve management, to a farm forestry group. Some positive feedback was received.

### **Upper Manawatu – Lower Mangahao Scheme**

146. Over the past two months 700 mm of rain has been recorded at Kakariki. During this period four large flood events caused significant flood damage outside the Scheme area, but fortunately there has been only minimal flood damage observed to Scheme assets.
147. Damage repairs and maintenance works have commenced, with 200 m of tree bank protection work at two sites on the Mangahao River and 20 m of channel clearing and 300 m of Old Man's Beard poisoning on the Upper Manawatu River.

### **Totara Reserve Project**

148. Moderate freshes in the Pohangina River throughout the period have continued to deposit debris in the channel. During November 10 km of channel clearing work and 250 m of tree bank protection work at five separate sites has been completed. The avulsion opposite Camp Rangī Woods is settling down into a more natural meander. While the upper reaches of the Reserve are reasonably stable there have been significant deposits of gravel in the lower channel reaches through the park, principally as a result of the avulsion.

## **SOUTHERN AREA**

### **General**

149. Periods of heavy rainfall early in the period resulted in high flows in the majority of the drainage systems, necessitating periodic pump operation and regular mechanical clearance of weed screens and channel blockages.
150. The heavy rainfall early in October also resulted in the operation of the Moutoa flood way and a breach of the Burke's Drain stopbank.
151. Liaison Committee meetings have been held for the Koputaroa, Moutoa and Te Kawau Drainage Schemes to discuss maintenance programmes and Asset Management Plans.
152. Scheduled quarterly electrical inspections of all pump stations were undertaken during the period.
153. Short tours of both the Hokio Drainage Scheme and Ohau Manakau River Scheme were undertaken with members of the submissions hearing panels to better acquaint them with issues that had been raised during the submission process.
154. Staff participated in submissions hearings for both of the Schemes referred to above.
155. A considerable amount of time has been spent preparing the 10-year Scheme budgets.

### **Ohau-Manakau Scheme**

156. Works undertaken on the rivers and streams within the Scheme during the period included the following:

- A 50 m section of willows were mulched on the left bank of the Ohau River through John Haines' property.
- A 50 m section of erosion on the Waikawa Stream immediately upstream of the State Highway bridge was repaired using tied tree works.

### **Manawatu Drainage Scheme**

157. Heavy rainfall in early October resulted in the majority of Scheme drains operating at and beyond maximum capacity for extended periods. Although all of the recently upgraded spillways were operating satisfactorily, a section of the left bank downstream of the upper spillway was over-topped on 8 October 2008. The bank ultimately breached over a 20 m section down stream of the Carmody Drain Outlet.
158. More than 70 concrete blocks were immediately carted to the site and placed in the breach to stem the flooding through the bank. As a result of the quick action the flooding was kept to a minimum and receded quickly once the water level in Burke's drain dropped. The concrete blocks have since been removed and the bank rebuilt. This section of bank had been identified as being below design height and had been programmed to be upgraded in the New Year.
159. As a result of a very wet winter a number of slips have occurred on the K-B Road Drain and have required repair with concrete riprap.
160. Minor repairs were undertaken on M1 floodgate and weed build-up on the Rangiotu floodgates was removed.
161. A total of 0.3 km of drains were machine cleaned, and a further 28 km of drains were sprayed with herbicide during the period.

### **Makerua Drainage Scheme**

162. At Okuku pump station the internal floodgate on No.4 pump was repaired and improvements were made to the access track.
163. The internal floodgate hinges on No.1 pump at Boundary pump station were repaired and minor repairs were undertaken on L18 floodgate.
164. An order has been placed for the supply of a new pump for installation at the Mangaore pump station and delivery is expected in early March 2009. In the meantime, the original pump has been fully refurbished and will be held at Kairanga as a standby unit for a number of Scheme pump stations.
165. Arrangements have been confirmed with MWH Consultants, as agents for the New Zealand Road Transport Agency, for the installation of a new culvert under State Highway 57. Work is anticipated to commence prior to the end of the year.
166. In accordance with the item on the Spiers-Kingston capital works, as reported to the Committee in October, letters and rates refunds have been sent to ratepayers affected by an excessive rates charge in the current year.
167. A total of 3.0 km of drains were machined cleaned during the period.

### **Koputaroa Drainage Scheme**

168. Drain cleanings along the edge of the B2 Drain were removed in order to improve access to the drain.

169. Work undertaken at Koputaroa No.2 pump station included the repainting of the pump shed and the replacement of the swing check valve on the pump.
170. A total of 5.2 km of drains were sprayed with herbicide during this period.

### **Moutoa Drainage Scheme**

171. At Cook's pump station a third weed screen and all three internal floodgates were replaced.
172. Minor repairs were carried out on two of the three internal floodgates in Diagonal pump station.
173. As a consequence of the operation of the Moutoa floodway, a tractor pump was put in service for a period and machinery was required to remove a large amount of weed that was left deposited on both the Pleuger pump station and the gravity gates.
174. Preliminary designs for the new Bowler Pump station were presented to the Scheme Liaison Committee. The pump is primarily been designed to provide flood pumping to approximately 320 ha of land to the north of the Moutoa Floodway, however it can also be used to provide normal drainage service if required. At present the flood pumping is being provided by portable equipment which is both under-capacity and is not cost effective.
175. The committee has recommended that both the design and likely rating impacts should now be presented to the directly affected landowners. This will occur early in the New Year. Construction of the new station is budgeted and programmed for in 2009-10.

### **Te Kawau Drainage Scheme**

176. A large slip on the Sluggish Main Drain immediately upstream of Main Drain Road was repaired using concrete riprap.
177. A total of 5 km of drains were sprayed with herbicide during this period.

### **Whirokino Drainage Scheme**

178. Several culverts along the Stewart Street Drain were lowered and the drain was regraded in order to provide a drainage outlet for those properties between the road and the stopbank.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS WORKS**

179. Ten new applications for grant assistance have been approved during the period.
180. The status of all projects that have been approved and/or will come to charge in the 2008-09 year is as shown in the following table:

<b>Name</b>	<b>River</b>	<b>Type of work</b>	<b>Date approved</b>	<b>Work status</b>	<b>Estimated actual works cost (\$)</b>	<b>Value of grant</b>
Turakina Valley Group	Turakina River	Channel clearance	6/07/2007	85% completed (burning outstanding)	\$15,000 to complete	\$3,000
Charlton and Turner	Mangakokaka Stream - Dvke	Erosion protection and channel clearance	5/8/2008	Yet to commence	\$11,900	\$3,570
C Manderson	Rangitawa Stream (Halcombe)	Clearing of willow congested channel	29/9/2008	Completed	\$7,000	\$2,100
B Smith	Taringamotu Stream	Channel clearance and erosion protection	29/9/2008	Yet to commence	\$15,000	\$4,500
M Webster	Turakina River	Channel clearance	13/8/2008	Yet to commence	\$5,000	\$1,500
R Turner	Mangakokako Stream	Channel clearance and erosion protection	29/9/2008	Completed	\$7,000	\$2,100
C Taylor	Mangahao River	Erosion protection	20/8/2008	Completed	\$2,850	\$855
D Swansson	Mangahao River	Erosion protection	23/10/2008	Completed	\$10,350	\$3,100
R Hughes	Mangahao River	Erosion protection	27/11/2008	Completed	\$14,400	\$4,320
J Fouhy	Otangane Stream	Erosion protection and channel clearing	12/11/2008	Completed	\$5,850	\$1,755
Fouhy and Elliot	Mangahao River	Erosion protection, channel clearing and planting	12/11/2008	Completed	\$15,300	\$4,590
Turner and Charlton	Mangakokako Stream	Erosion protection and channel clearing	5/08/2008	Completed	\$11,900	\$3,570

Name	River	Type of work	Date approved	Work status	Estimated actual works cost (\$)	Value of grant
J Ward	Tributary of Pohangina River	Channel clearing	27/11/2008	Yet to commence	\$3,000	\$900
B Walker	Mangawhariki Stream, Rangiwhahia	Erosion protection and planting	27/11/2008	Yet to commence	\$26,000	\$7,800
R Swanson	Ongo Stream	Channel clearing	12/11/2008	Yet to commence	\$12,250	\$3,675
A Moar	Mangahao River	Erosion protection	12/11/2008	Yet to commence	\$2,200	\$660
C Alabaster	Koukoupou Stream, Rangiwhaea	Channel clearing	12/11/2008	Yet to commence	\$27,700	\$8,310
Dermer and Chisnell	Haynes Creek	Erosion protection	18/11/2008	Completed	\$4,250	\$1,275

## RECOMMENDATIONS

181. That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** and acknowledges the information contained in Report No. 08-228; and
- b. **acknowledges** that a Schedule of Works Completed is available for inspection.

A D Cook

**GROUP MANAGER OPERATIONS**



A Significant decision? <b>If Yes</b>	No
Do recommendations meet Significance Policy and LGA requirements?	

**Item No: 7**  
**Date: 10/12/2008**  
**Report No: 08-226**  
**File No: PRD 5 25**

## **RANGITIKEI RIVER SCHEME REVIEW NO. 4 CHANNEL MANAGEMENT SCOPING REPORT**

### **PURPOSE**

1. The purpose of this item is to inform Members of the commencement of a review into the channel management of the Rangitikei River Scheme.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

2. There is currently no funding provision for the work proposed in this item. Provision has however been made in the Draft 2009-19 Long-term Council Community Plan (LTCCP).

### **BACKGROUND**

3. The significant flood damage sustained in the recent flood of 30 July 2008 has shown that a review of current channel management design and service levels is required. The peak flow in this large flood was 1265 cumecs at the Mangaweka gauge (approximately 10% AEP).
4. The Region is currently in a period of increased flood activity and this review needs to confirm or revise current design, with particular regard to sustainability.
5. The Rangitikei River Scheme exists to control flooding and erosion. Erosion control is undertaken to protect farmland between Rewa and the sea, a distance of 63 km. Flooding is controlled by almost 15 km of stopbanking, mostly on the northern bank downstream of Bulls. No tributaries of the Rangitikei River are included in the Scheme.
6. This review will focus on the channel management and erosion control. The stopbanking design was reviewed in the report by AC Consulting, March 2006.
7. The attached Scoping Report documents the content of the proposed review.
8. There is some urgency to have the proposed review completed. Some significant erosion problems exist at the present time and it is not considered prudent to commit the considerable expenditure required to address those until the overall channel management design has been reviewed.
9. Some of the preparatory work identified in the Scoping Report can be undertaken with present staff resources and within the current approved Scheme budget; however the substantive part of the review will involve a significant input from design staff and some consultant support which cannot be adequately resourced in the current year. Accordingly provision has been made in the Draft 2009-19 LTCCP for a sum of \$51,000 to allow completion of the review.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

10. That the Committee recommends that Council:
- a. **receives** the information contained in Report No. 08-226 and Annex; and
  - b. **instructs** the Group Manager Operations to proceed with the review as quickly as staff and financial resources will allow.

P L Blackwood  
**MANAGER INVESTIGATIONS AND DESIGN**

A D Cook  
**GROUP MANAGER OPERATIONS**

**ANNEX**

- A Rangitikei River Scheme Review No. 4 Channel Management: Scoping Report.

# **Rangitikei River Scheme Review No 4 Channel Management Scoping Report**



**December 2008**

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The significant flood damage sustained in the recent flood of 30 July 2008 has shown that a review of current channel management design and service levels is required. The peak flow in this large flood was 1265 cumecs at the Mangaweka gauge (approximately 10% AEP).

The Region is currently in a period of increased flood activity and this review needs to confirm or revise current design, with particular regard to sustainability.

The Rangitikei River Scheme exists to control flooding and erosion. Erosion control is undertaken to protect farmland between Rewa and the sea, a distance of 63 km. Flooding is controlled by almost 15 km of stopbanking, mostly on the northern bank downstream of Bulls. No tributaries of the Rangitikei River are included in the Scheme.

This review will focus on the channel management and erosion control. The stopbanking design was reviewed in the report by AC Consulting, March 2006.

## **2. HISTORY**

### **2.1 A P Grant Scheme**

In 1939 Mr A.P.Grant (then a public works engineer and later Chief Engineer of the Soil Conservation & Rivers Control Council) prepared a comprehensive report on the river which proposed channel training and flood protection work. Little coordinated work proceeded because of the intervention of the war years and impending legislation on river controls.

### **2.2 River Scheme Number 1**

The first comprehensive Scheme for the control of the Rangitikei River (River Scheme No. 1) was given Government approval in 1952. At that time the lower Rangitikei River was wide, braided and very unstable, with multiple channels continuously eroding its banks. This channel form was the result of removal of trees and other natural vegetation from the river berms. The accelerated bank erosion significantly increased the supply of sediment to the river, resulting in an aggrading widening river bed. This was causing increased flooding, silt deposition and erosion of riparian land.

River Scheme No. 1 set out to reverse this widening process and limit the movement of the river to a channel fairway width of 300 m above Bulls and 400 m below Bulls to the sea. This channel was to be backed by 40 m buffer zones planted with willows and poplars, with meanders free to move within that clear channel. This was a significant confinement of a mobile riverbed, which was some 1200 m wide in places. Scheme works proposed also included 16 km of drainage and 15.6 km of stopbanking.

With continuing freshes in the river and resultant changes in meander pattern, significant alterations to the work proposed occurred. By 1963 finance for River Scheme No.1 had been expended with the objectives only partially achieved. At that point 460 ha of riverbed had been reclaimed for farming, flood protection had been provided to 325 ha and drainage to 2800 ha.

### **2.3 River Scheme Number 2**

River Scheme No. 2 was intended to complete the previously planned works and achieve a further stage of channel confinement with three main objectives as follows:

- the development of a 150 m wide “single thread channel” of easy curving alignment, capable of discharging the dominant two-year flow without significant overflow;
- the stabilisation of the clear flow channel between willowed river banks with heavy willow mattress and rock rip-rap bank protection in places where alignment was poor and could not be improved upon by channel training; and
- stopbanking to protect low-lying lands to 50-year flood frequency, particularly on the right bank below Bulls.

Further approvals for increased expenditure to complete this Scheme were given in 1971 and 1977. Summarised benefits of this Scheme were:

- belts of willow and poplar were established along the whole 130 km of riverbank;
- many instances of poor channel alignment causing bank instability were corrected by use of various channel training techniques;
- as a result of channel confinement further areas of land were reclaimed, built up through siltation and brought into varying degrees of farm production;
- approximately 1400 ha of highly fertile land was protected from regular flooding, as a result of the construction of 16 km of stopbanking; and
- the stability of the riverbanks in the much confined channel was improved with extensive lengths of bank protection work. Most of this work was comprised of weighted and anchored live willow mattresses; however in the final five years of the Scheme there was an increase in the use of rock or rubble.

These heavier works were placed following repeated failures of the vegetative works in this confined channel. The river was contained only by ongoing replacement of past river works with the more expensive rock and rubble.

## **2.5 Rangitikei River Consolidation Scheme (1983)**

The 1983 report produced by Don Spence (Chief Technical Officer) found that the 300 m to 400 m wide design channel fairway was too narrow and that much of the earlier protection work was failing, due to high velocities and undermining.

The Rangitikei River Consolidation Scheme commenced in 1985 with a move to a 500 m wide central channel fairway; use of riprap instead of tree protection; a plan to move gravel sites from degrading to aggrading reaches; and a plan to designate a riparian zone where some erosion risk would be accepted (determining ongoing work priorities).

## **2.6 River Scheme Review Number 3 (1994)**

This Scheme review was based on the report by Paul Dickson. The review was prompted by two issues:

- concerns commercial gravel extraction from the Rangitikei and Kawhatau Rivers was causing bed degradation, which was increasing Scheme maintenance costs. Furthermore, that aggradation in the lower river had reduced stopbank capacities significantly; and
- concerns that the Scheme remained costly, despite being in a maintenance phase.

The conclusions of this review were:

- River works were being managed efficiently and could not be reduced without detriment to the Scheme. A minor increase in funding was required to keep the river on its current course.
- Three distinct zones were recognised for river management purposes, with zone boundaries at 19 km and 37 km from the river mouth. Works in each zone are largely independent of those in neighbouring zones.
- Three of the Scheme's four stopbanks required raising to maintain the Scheme's 2% AEP (50-year) design flood standard of protection.

- Continuation of the Scheme maintenance programme and proposed stopbank upgrading were shown to provide an acceptable economic return.
- Forestry could provide the majority of Scheme funds from year 2008 or earlier, via loans, if necessary.
- The programme of noxious plant control should be strengthened.
- A reclassification of the Scheme was required to ensure equitable funding.
- Gravel extraction upstream of 15 km should be reduced to not more than the natural rate of supply within a reasonable period. In the interim, social and economic considerations indicate that gravel extraction should be gradually reduced to a more sustainable level. Environmental harm to the river and the Scheme could be mitigated in the short term through financial contributions in respect of gravel extracted from the river.
- Gravel extraction should be encouraged from the aggradational reach of the river – downstream of 14 km from the sea.
- Further monitoring and investigation was required to establish the natural rate of gravel supply, confirm trends and improve gravel resource management.

## **2.7 AC Consulting Report (2006)**

This report was produced in response to the February 2004 floods. It was focused on providing options and costs for flood protection to the 1 and 2% AEP levels. A programme of capital works arising from this review is well underway.

The report also looked at historical and possible future aggradation and degradation trends. It found that in the previous 30 years the Rangitikei River channel has built up in the order of 600 mm in the lower 15 km and generally degraded 500 mm in the reach from 15 to 32 km (Kakariki Bridge). Further that in future aggradation and degradation is likely to continue at least at the same rates experienced in the previous 30 years.

The stopbank upgrade works includes provision for forecast aggradation in the next 25 years.

### **3. TASKS REQUIRED**

The ongoing damage to river protection works and, in some cases, significant channel movements, mean that a full review of current channel management design and service levels is required, as follows:

#### **3.1 Documentation of Current State of Works**

A thorough inventory must be compiled of areas that are historically suffering erosion damage. The causes of this erosion need to be assessed and classified (into such factors as work unsuitability, channel narrowness, slope, alignment, undermining with or without an extraction cause).

To help facilitate this documentation a set of aerial photos needs to be produced at 1:2500 scale.

#### **3.2 Flood Hydrology**

This is a brief task of documentation of design flood estimates. These are not included in recent reports.

#### **3.3 Channel Design**

Based on current river engineering design practices and the findings on the current state of works, a new set of design channel alignments and boundaries needs to be determined. River management practices had already moved away from the “single thread channel” by the 1980s, so to perhaps a strong degree the 500 m wide channel fairway is appropriate. However, this needs to be critically reviewed, particularly as the deforested channel expanded to up to 1200 m prior to Scheme inception. Of course the good work from the installation of buffer zones and protection works over the years means that such a wide river form is not contemplated here.

Estimates need to be prepared for both capital and maintenance and the sustainability of various reaches examined. Options may be required for confirmation by stakeholders.

#### **3.4 Gravel Management**

The volume analysis contained in the AC Consulting report needs to be updated for the intervening years and a definitive statement made on forward extraction policy.

#### **3.5 Consultation**

A programme of consultation with Scheme participants is required to present design options.

#### 4. PROPOSED PROGRAMME

The Rangitikei River is very mobile and has traditionally been a real challenge to river engineers. To do justice to this investigation the following programme is proposed:

<b>Task</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Documentation of Current Works	31 March 2009
Flood Hydrology	31 March 2009
Channel Design	31 July 2009
Gravel Management	31 July 2009
Reporting	31 August 2009
Consultation	December 2008 to September 2009

A Significant decision? <b>If Yes</b>	No
Do recommendations meet Significance Policy (contained within the LTCCP)	

**Item No: 8**  
**Date: 10/12/2008**  
**Report No: 08-229**  
**File No: OAM 2 03**

## **INFRASTRUCTURAL ASSETS MANAGEMENT PLANS**

### **PURPOSE**

1. The purpose of this item is to present for consideration and adoption a series of 27 Asset Management Plans (Plans) relating to river and drainage Scheme infrastructural assets.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

2. There is no immediate financial impact arising from this item. The 10-year forecasts of expenditure contained in the Plans are the same as those included in the Draft 2009-19 Long-term Council Community Plan (LTCCP).

### **BACKGROUND**

3. Council is required to review its Infrastructural Asset Management Plans and to revalue its assets at three yearly intervals. The primary objectives of the plans are to define the desired level of service, as determined in consultation with the community, in those Schemes where assets are employed; to set out the management and operational processes that are in place to deliver that level of service, in particular the processes for maintaining the assets in perpetuity without loss of service potential; and to ensure that the assets are being managed in the most cost effective way over their life cycle, through comprehensive inspection programmes and work prioritisation.
4. The requirement that local authorities prepare and adopt a long-term (10-year) financial strategy every three years was first embodied in the Local Government Amendment Act (No. 3) 1996. The Asset Management Plan was considered an ideal framework for reporting on technical and financial aspects relating to infrastructural assets and their impact on long-term financial strategies and associated funding, investment and borrowing decisions. The Local Government Act 2002 embodied this requirement for asset management in legislation.
5. The Office of the Auditor General (OAG) has been an important driver for developing good asset management practices to the requirements of the 2002 Act. The results of the Auditor-General review in 2003 of asset management plans in the local government sector (incorporated into the OAG 2006 LTCCP Audit Methodology), found that local authorities needed to improve their asset information to meet the new disclosure requirements of the 2002 Act, and that levels of service and risk management information should be further developed.
6. Infrastructural Asset Management Plans incorporate two important systems to meet the requirements of improved asset information, defined levels of service and risk management, being the Asset Management System (AMS) and financial forecasts.
7. The AMS is a computer database and scheduling tool that records the location, dimensions, value and condition of each asset managed by the Council satisfying the requirement for improved asset information. The AMS also provides an overview of the condition of a Scheme's assets and pin points through Global Positioning System (GPS) mapping shortfalls in levels of service of assets.

8. A 10-year financial forecast is included in the Asset Management Plan for each river and drainage Scheme that details all future expenses and revenues, cash flow and loan requirements for infrastructural assets, and is in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act (LGA) 2002. These forecasts include sufficient funding provision for maintenance of all assets to the standard required to meet agreed service levels, thereby reducing the risk of asset failure and demonstrating sound risk management planning. These Scheme financial forecasts feed into the LTCCP.
9. The fourth generation of Plans will comply with the requirements of the LTCCP Audit Methodology 2009-19 issued by the Office of the Auditor General and will be effective on 1 July 2009.
10. Plans have been prepared for 27 river and drainage Schemes. The Akitio, Eastern Manawatu, Ihuraua, Whangaehu-Mangawhero and Lower Whanganui Schemes do not currently 'own' assets and accordingly do not have Asset Management Plans.
11. A copy of the Plans will be placed on a compact disc and attached to the 2009-19 LTCCP.

## DISCUSSION

12. The two-part (Part A and Part B) Plan format adopted for the third generation plans has been maintained for the latest review. This format separates the policies, management practices and procedures that are common to all Schemes into one plan (Part A), while the Scheme specific asset management details and Scheme budgets are contained in individual Scheme plans (Part B). This has significantly reduced the size of the Scheme specific Asset Management Plans, which in the past contained Council policy at a high level that diluted the Scheme specific information. This new format has greatly simplified the three-yearly review of the plans.
13. The content of Part A of the Plan sets out how the plans relate to other relevant documentation, the legislative requirements for the plans, confidence levels for information, plan improvement programmes, and policies for funding, risk management, maintenance and service levels.
14. Part A has been updated to reflect the changes in asset valuations following the triennial asset revaluation exercise, the recent adoption of flood loss curves as a way of quantifying Scheme asset damage during a flood event and aligning policies with the recently introduced Environmental Code of Practice for River Works.
15. Part B of the Plans sets out Scheme-specific details including Scheme history, a register of assets managed by the Scheme, capital, maintenance and flood damage repair programmes, 10-year financial forecasts, risk management planning, resource consents held by the Scheme and performance targets to provide the level of service demanded by ratepayers.
16. Part B of the Plans has been subject to a more substantial review, especially for Schemes that have recently undergone a Scheme review. Key areas for change across all plans are the 10-year financial forecasts, the updated asset values and the condition rating of assets derived from recent inspections.
17. It is a requirement of the Local Government Act 2002 that infrastructural assets must be revalued at least every three years. The revaluation anniversary has been revised to coincide with the review of the Asset Management Plans, to ensure that the most up to date information is included in the Plans.

18. Asset revaluation of all flood, erosion and drainage assets must take into account local variables such as labour rates, material and the local design standards for the particular river and drainage Scheme. The asset revaluation process is to International Accounting Standard NZ IAS 16, which requires an independent auditor to certify that the process and outcomes are robust and accurate.
19. The end of 2007-08 financial year Annual Report processes have also been incorporated into the revaluation. The end-of-year processes for infrastructural assets include any financial and quantity write-ups and write-downs that are necessary due to capital expenditure, disposals and flood damage. These adjustments were entered into the system on the last day of the financial year, 30 June 2008. The revaluation was subsequently applied to these adjusted quantities on the first day of the new financial year, 1 July 2008. The revised asset values are presented in the Plans.
20. The revaluation of infrastructural assets has been completed and has resulted in the value of infrastructural assets managed by the Council increasing from \$254 m to \$274 m, an increase of 7.9%. This is in line with our previous estimate to Audit NZ of an 8% increase in asset value, and is below the 10% change in asset equity that would have triggered a revaluation before the three years anniversary.
21. Asset values are primarily used for the determination of an appropriate level of asset insurance cover and to set a target level for Scheme financial reserves. The cost of repairing asset damage incurred in flood events and subsequent advice from the Local Authority Protection Programme (LAPP) are taken into account when revaluing assets. If assets are incorrectly valued, they may be under or over insured.
22. The 2004 floods damaged a significant quantity of concrete riprap bank protection. Due to the inability to source the large volume of concrete riprap lost in the flood, the high level of erosion protection it provided, and the risk of aggravated damage from this lost bank protection affecting critical assets such as stopbanks, it was agreed with LAPP and AIG Insurance that rock could be used to replace concrete riprap in reinstatement works, as it would provide an equivalent level of protection and was immediately available. However the quid pro quo was that future valuations of riprap linings would need to recognise the cost of replacement with rock.
23. Accordingly all concrete riprap assets were valued at the same rate as rock linings on 2 July 2008, resulting in the replacement value of assets increasing from \$274 m to \$291 m as from that date.
24. An important addition to the fourth edition of Plans is the inclusion of flood loss curves, which provide a basis for estimating the cost to repair asset damage from floods of varying magnitudes. The graphs are a requirement of LAPP to assist in determining our infrastructural risk profile for insured assets. For the Asset Management Plans their scope has been expanded to include the damage to all assets, not just insured assets. These curves assist Scheme managers in consultation with liaison committees to determine an appropriate target level of financial reserves for that Scheme.
25. A further significant addition to the fourth edition of the Plans is the inclusion of condition rating bar graphs. These charts clearly show for each asset type, the condition of the asset and whether that asset type is meeting its condition rating target set in previous editions of the plan.
26. The review of Plans is a major undertaking that has involved all members of the Operations Group from Engineering Officers and Overseers who have been required to update inspections and log into the AMS, to Area Engineers and the Group Manager who have provided policy and financial inputs, and have discussed performance targets and levels of service options with the Scheme Liaison Committees.

27. The third edition of the Plans included a continuous improvement objective and detailed a number of improvements related to implementation of new AMS features. These improvements have largely been realised and have been incorporated into the revised Plans. A number of further Plan improvements have been introduced and are listed below:
- The resource consents database included in the Plans (Part B) has been expanded to include reporting commitments for consents.
  - The Plans will incorporate the requirement to identify environmental enhancement opportunities, such as improved recreational access and native tree planting.
28. The Plans, together with the process followed for their development, will be subject to audit by Audit New Zealand prior to inclusion in the draft 2009-19 LTCCP.

## CONSULTATION

29. An essential requirement of the asset management process is that stakeholders have the opportunity to make meaningful input to the determination of service levels. It is extremely difficult to engage with stakeholders through the Plan review process itself, indeed many of those who show an interest in Scheme management question the value of the process. Nevertheless, wherever the opportunity has arisen, the Plans have been discussed with the respective Scheme Liaison Committees and any feedback received has been reflected in the final documents.
30. Considerably greater value is obtained through stakeholder input to the more comprehensive Scheme review process. Indeed it is that process that provides the real opportunity to change direction and scope of services delivered through Schemes. A number of comprehensive reviews have been completed over the past three years and the outcomes of those are identified in the respective Plans and are reflected in performance targets and financial forecasts.
31. The Plans will form part of the Draft LTCCP and in effect will be subject to further consultation and submission through that process.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

32. That the Committee recommends that Council:
- a. **receives** the information contained in Report No. 08-229;
  - b. **adopts** the Asset Management Plans (effective 1 July 2008) for 27 river and drainage Schemes, to be tabled at the Committee meeting;
  - c. **approves** the inclusion of the Plans, including 10-year financial forecasts, in the Draft 2009-19 LTCCP;
  - d. **acknowledges** that copies of the Plans will be available to Councillors and other interested persons on request; and
  - e. **instructs** the Group Manager Operations to distribute copies of the Plans to Scheme Liaison Committee members.

A Significant decision? <b>If Yes</b>	No
Do recommendations meet Significance Policy (contained within the LTCCP)	

**Item No: 9**  
**Date: 10/12/2008**  
**Report No: 08-227**  
**File No: PRD 1 02**

## **ISSUES ARISING FROM ANNUAL SCHEME RATEPAYER MEETINGS – APRIL/MAY 2008**

### **PURPOSE**

1. The purpose of this item is to update the Committee on progress in addressing the various issues raised at the 19 annual Scheme meetings held in April/May 2008.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

2. There is no direct financial impact arising from this item. Financial provision is either contained within approved Scheme budgets for 2008-09 or where necessary will be made in the Draft 2009-19 LTCCP.

### **BACKGROUND**

3. A schedule of issues arising was presented to the Committee at the meeting held in June 2008.
4. The schedule, updated to reflect progress in addressing the various issues identified, is attached at Annex A.
5. A final update will be presented to the Committee at the April 2009 meeting, prior to reporting back to Scheme ratepayers at the next round of annual meetings.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

6. That the Committee recommends that Council:
  - a. **receives** the information contained in Report No. 08-227 and Annex A.

AD Cook

**GROUP MANAGER OPERATIONS**

### **ANNEX**

- A Schedule of issues arising from River and Drainage Scheme meetings – April/May 2008

## ISSUES ARISING FROM RIVER AND DRAINAGE SCHEME MEETINGS – APRIL/MAY 2008

Issue	Action Required	Who?	Comment
<b>MANAWATU DRAINAGE SCHEME</b>			
1. Importance of fencing newly upgraded spillways stressed	Programme for permanent fencing in 2008-09.	JF	Fence to be undertaken once this years stopbank reconstruction work completed.
2. Whisky Creek upgrade required	Investigate section downstream of Karere Road in 2008-09, programme for Capex in 2009-10.	JF	Investigation to commence after Christmas with work to be undertaken early Autumn.
3. Amend proposed rate increase	Reduce increase from 8% to 4% by eliminating contribution to reserves.	ADC	Actioned through staff submission to DAP.
4. Continuing concern re runoff from NE industrial development	Arrange for Peter Blackwood to present to next Liaison Committee meeting.	JF	Actioned.
5. Suggestion that Aluminium Oxide pollution was entering drain from industrial development	Comment to be sought from Science team.	JF	Not considered to be a significant issue. Met with landowner and offered to take sample for testing – declined.
6. Liaison Committee changes	Add Willie Duncan and Peter Wells.	KW	Actioned.
<b>KOPUTAROA SCHEME</b>			
7. Concern re wetland development process	Scheme Manager to be pro-active in protecting Scheme interest. Submit to consent process if necessary.	JF	Meeting with Doc held and report of wetland proposal received. No further indication if work to commence received yet.
8. Problem with railway culvert	Inspect and take appropriate action.	JF	Completed.
9. Liaison Committee	Remove Rob Gaskin, add John McKenzie and Malcolm Guy.	KW	Rob Gaskin and John McKenzie removed. Malcolm Guy remaining for time-being.
10. Annual meeting time	Revert to evening meeting at Shannon next year.	JF	No action required at present.
<b>TE KAWAU DRAINAGE SCHEME</b>			
11. Issue of potentially faulty culvert installations	Pro-active inspection/replacement programme required. (Detail in Asset Management Plan).	JF	Issue to be address as part of proposed improvements around asset inspections.
12. Audit of rating system	Programme for audit at five yearly intervals.	ADC	Programmed in LTCCP Year 3 (2011-12).
13. Newsletter	Success noted. Repeat every two years.	JF	No Action required.

Issue	Action Required	Who?	Comment
14. Question re nitrate levels in drains	Invite Jon Roygard to discuss at Liaison Committee meeting.	JF	Nitrate levels in Oroua River are not at a priority at present. Other catchments are being monitored.
<b>MOUTOA DRAINAGE SCHEME</b>			
15. New pump at Bowler's	Undertake preliminary investigations before any consultation with affected parties	JF	Preliminary design completed and shown to liaison committee. Consultation with affected landowners to commence in new year
16. Liaison Committee	Add Brian Wilkinson (Landcorp), Stuart Barber to assume chair.	JF?KW	Actioned
17. Meeting time	Revert to afternoon meeting next year	JF	No action required at present
<b>MAKERUA DRAINAGE SCHEME</b>			
18. Question re proposed new culvert under SH 57- is it economically justified?	Clarify costs, benefits and rating impacts. Should capex precede new rating system?	JF	Meetings held with affected landowners and changes to rating made. Work to commence soon
19. Boundary weed screens	Design combined weedscreen for replacement in 2008-09	JF	Further investigation required to determine all issues surrounding Boundary pumpstation operation
20. Concern that mechanical maintenance of main Boundary Drain not always effective. Issue of some landowners not allowing appropriate maintenance to be undertaken	Engage appropriate machinery and enlist Liaison Committee assistance if landowner cooperation not forthcoming	JF	Actioned
21. Assertion that Liaison Committee's requests not always satisfied	Take reasonable account of recommendations supported by majority of Committee	JF	Actioned
22. Linton Main Drain stopbank breach pumping costs	Charge \$15k of costs to LMS	JF	Actioned
23. Liaison Committee	Add Philip Ingram	JF/KW	Actioned
<b>OHAU-MANAKAU SCHEME</b>			
24. Preference that Scheme applies for global consent for gravel management	Consider as part of forthcoming Scheme review process	JF	Gravel allocation fully committed to contractors. See no benefit of Global consent at present will review if necessary

Issue	Action Required	Who?	Comment
25. Flood protection upgrade proposals	Accelerate investigations/options development/consultation process.	ADC	Investigations completed.
26. Liaison Committee	Remove Francis Catley, add John Catley, Murray Schaler and Ron Parkin.	JF/KW	Removed Francis Catley. John Catley and Ron Parkin added. Murray Schaler moving out of the area.
<b>POREWA FLOOD CONTROL SCHEME</b>			
27. Question re reduction in revenue from rentals	Investigate reduction in rentals.	MB	Budget was low however correct amount (\$2,056) was received. Budget for 2009-10 is \$2,140.
28. Ownership of Poukiore Silt Trap	Investigate sale to offset dam surveillance costs.	MB	Research has confirmed the land is owned by the Crown – Horizons are unable to sell.
29. Channel obstructions in Porewa Stream through Queen's Park.	Progress during 2008-09.	MB	
30. Level of reserves	Review appropriate level and discuss with Liaison Committee.	MB	Actioned through Asset Management plan review.
<b>MATARAWA FLOOD CONTROL SCHEME</b>			
31. Cost of Mateongaonga Stream rehabilitation works and assessments	Nikki Higgie to lodge submission. Support of Liaison Committee indicated.		Actioned through private submission to DAP.
32. Liaison Committee – Resignation of Mike Rogers	Write letter of thanks.	MB	Actioned ADC.
33. Liaison Committee	Bill Harding appointed as new Chair, add Grant Adkins.	KW	Actioned.
<b>LOWER KIWITEA SCHEME</b>			
34. Land Entry	Ensure all landowners are contacted prior to contractor entry.	DMcK	Noted.
35. Opportunity for Liaison Committee to inspect scheme works	Arrange an opportunity at earliest possible time.	DMcK	Committee to participate in December 2008 inspection.
36. Notice of intention to spray	Ensure adequate notice is given.	DMcK	Noted.
37. Liaison Committee	Remove Malcolm Bailey and Monty Brown (write to thank them for services), add Ian Gorton and Brian Tooteil.	DMcK/KW	Actioned.

Issue	Action Required	Who?	Comment
<b>LOWER MANAWATU SCHEME</b>			
38. Concern re Linton Main Drain stopbank integrity rather than height	Undertake further geotechnical investigations, and include provision for reconstruction in final upgrade consultation programme.	GD/ADC	Major reconstruction now provided for in Upgrade proposal. Ground radar investigations planned.
39. Final upgrade project scope	Ensure that proposed works and estimates, together with rating proposals and individual property impacts are available for the one consultation process.	ADC	Actioned – consultation process essentially complete.
40. Taonui Basin impacts and mitigation proposals	Ensure affected parties have adequate time to consider options.	ADC	Discussions have been ongoing for some months – yet to be concluded.
41. Liaison Committee	Remove Basil Vertogen, add Tony Murdoch and Peter Wells.	DMcK /KW	Actioned.
<b>POHANGINA – OROUA SCHEME</b>			
42. Discussion re inclusion of \$75k landowner contribution should be a budget item	Agreed not to show in budget (no assurance of revenue).	MB	Issue has been further discussed with Liaison Committee – yet to be resolved.
43. Recording of 'self-help' content of works	Record and appropriately classify all works completed.	MB	In hand
44. Finalisation of protocols for landowner part funding of erosion protection works	Prepare final draft, discuss with Liaison Committee, circulate by way of newsletter.	MB	Actioned –ADC – letter sent 2 October.
45. Concern re continuing inaccuracies with rating data base	Ensure that this Scheme is 'cleansed' before next rate strike.	ADC	Rating Project work is progressing as planned.
46. Question re apparent error in O1 rating category this year	Research and amend FIS as necessary.	ADC	
<b>MANGATAINOKA SCHEME</b>			
47. Annual Ratepayer meeting advertising	Repeat Bush Telegraph story approach in future years.	LM	This has been noted and will be actioned prior to next year's ratepayer meeting.
48. Transit NZ funding contribution for Hamua work	Review requirement for this funding.	LM	Will be reviewed following monitoring of minor 2007-08 channel works.
49. Level of emergency reserves	Review level of reserves as part of Asset Management Plan review.	LM	Item noted and will be actioned during AMP review process.

Issue	Action Required	Who?	Comment
50. Gravel management	Review extraction requirements and appropriateness of present consent volume.	LM	Will be reviewed during 2008-09.
51. Liaison Committee	Contact David Bengstan regarding his continued membership.	LM/IM	Still to be actioned.
52. Liaison Committee	Add Mike Burmeister.	KW	Actioned.
<b>UPPER MANAWATU/LOWER MANGAHAO SCHEME</b>			
53. Nil issues			
<b>SOUTH EASTERN RUAHINES SCHEME</b>			
54. Plant pest management – confusion over apparent inconsistency within organisation	Arrange for Plant Pest Officer to attend next Liaison Committee meeting.	LM	Will be actioned.
55. Gravel management in Oruakuraki Stream causing degradation?	Arrange for assessment/report from Peter Blackwood.	LM	Initial inspection and assessment has been actioned by Eastern Operations staff. Brief has been given to Peter Blackwood regarding gravel management assessment.
56. Desire to use gravel redistribution in degrading reach	Check re consent conditions.	LM	
57. Question re capability of contractor engaged on Oruakeretaki Stream	Review engagement.	LM	Review in progress.
58. Assertion that communication with landowners not always adequate	Ensure property owners are advised of planned inspections and works.	LM	Will be actioned during 2008-09 year.
59. Liaison Committee	Add Max Charmley.	KW	Actioned.
<b>AKITIO SCHEME</b>			
60. Weir maintenance	Undertake maintenance as presently recommended in consultant's report. Any future maintenance to be subject of decisions at annual Scheme meetings.	LM	To be actioned during the summer of 2008-09.
61. Question re need to mechanically remove sprayed willow	Undertake selective removal – especially larger trees and more removal above bridge than below. Leave smaller material to progressively break down.	LM	Will be actioned during coming construction year.
62. Proposed Scheme rates	Reduce Scheme rate to reflect reduced loan servicing costs in 2008-09.	ADC	Actioned through staff submission to DAP.

Issue		Action Required		Who?		Comment	
63.	Liaison Committee	Note resignation of Colin Bolton		KW	Actioned.		
<b>RANGITIKEI RIVER SCHEME</b>							
64.	Waituna Pines logging required	Write to Tokarangī Marae Committee seeking hui.		ADC			
65.	Scotts Ferry secondary stopbank	Confirm design parameters (P Blackwood), keep community informed of progress.		MB	Actioned. Construction scheduled for early 2009.		
66.	Plant pest control presently inadequate	Allocate increased funding within present ,maintenance budget. Discuss with Liaison Committee.		MB	Actioned and \$6k transferred from Miscellaneous work for spraying.		
67.	Scheme reserves	Increase transfer in 2008-09 by \$10k, increase rates accordingly.		ADC	Actioned through staff submission to DAP.		
68.	Re-establish rock stockpiles	Budget for \$200k additional rock supply in 2008-09, use Scheme reserves.		MB	Auctioned through staff submission to DAP.		
69.	Scheme reserves	Undertake full review of appropriate level of reserves prior to next annual meeting.		MB	Actioned through Asset Management Plan review.		
70.	Liaison Committee	Confirm representative for Tokorangī area.		MB	Still to be actioned.		
<b>TUTAENUI FLOOD CONTROL SCHEME</b>							
71.	Hammond Street hydrograph	Explain apparent recorded flows when stream was dry.		MB	Under investigation.		
72.	Congested channel upstream of Somersal Line	Investigate for Environmental Grant proposal (not covered by Scheme).		MB	Under investigation.		
73.	Interest in Rainfall and water level monitoring	Invite hydro technician to present at next liaison Committee meeting.		MB	Hydro attended meeting.		
74.	Liaison Committee	Remove Daniel Charlton, Grant Adkins and Mrs Batterson. Bruce Gordon to approach Chris Cartwright. Lynne Sheridan elected to Chair.		KW	Actioned. Bruce advised he will invite Chris before the next committee meeting.		

Issue	Action Required	Who?	Comment
<b>UPPER WHANGANUI RIVER SCHEME</b>			
75. Issue of river boulders on berm at Matapuna	Confirm boulders present no impediment to flood flows.	MB	Have confirmed and advised complainant accordingly.
76. Concern that gravel extraction is not adequately employed for channel management/erosion control purposes	Regularly review management practice against Scheme proposal and global consent conditions.	MB/PB	
<b>LOWER WHANGAEHU-MANGAWHERO SCHEME</b>			
77. Consent for aerial spraying	Initiate application as soon as possible.	MB	Consent obtained.
78. Rating system changes	Lodge submission for changes to Upper Mangawhero rating category.	ADC	Actioned through staff submission.
79. Whangaeahu Village issues	Utilise Soraya Pene-Mason (District Councillor) as liaison person for village issues.	MB/ADC	Actioned. Soraya now a member of Liaison Committee.

A Significant decision? <b>If Yes</b>	N
Do recommendations meet Significance Policy (contained within the LTCCP)	

**Item No: 10**  
**Date: 10/12/2008**  
**Report No: 08-223**  
**File No: ELM 6 00**

## SUSTAINABLE LAND USE INITIATIVE FINANCIAL SUMMARY

### PURPOSE

1. This report is to update Members on the financial performance of the Sustainable Land Use Initiative (SLUI).

### FINANCIAL IMPACT

2. There are no financial impacts associated with this report.

### BACKGROUND

3. SLUI is in its third year of operation and has to date received \$1,903,000 in funding support from Central Government via its Sustainable Land Management - Hill Country Erosion package. This support corresponds with not only an increased focus in the development of whole farm plans (WFP) but also more significantly a lift in support offered for environmental grants and/or environmental incentives, including afforestation grants.
4. At the top end of the incentives offered, afforestation is generally achieved through joint venture forestry arrangements or straight afforestation grants. These incentives tend to be relatively cash intensive and as Horizons Regional Council (HRC) manages and incentivises more land use change this trend is forecast to continue. The financial aspects of SLUI, or more specifically afforestation, also become more complex as momentum in the initiative builds.
5. Council has recognised the complexity of the SLUI programme and has requested additional financial information to ensure timely and transparent management of its SLUI programme.
6. This report is provided in support of that request.

### COMMENT

7. A number of trends can clearly be seen over the three years of SLUI summarised in Table 1 annexed to this report:
  - a. an increase in labour over time is consistent with the growing targets associated with WFP development, and then in the following year implementation of those WFPs;
  - b. this trend is mirrored in the increased expenditure in grants and technical support (LandVision and Sheppard Agriculture), and latterly the first of the forestry investments coming on line.
8. The financial consequence of no government funding in Year One and a subsequent Council decision to fund the resulting deficit (\$519,000) is perhaps best illustrated in this table and is referenced as note <sup>\*1</sup>

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

9. That the Committee recommends that Council:
  - a. **receives** the information in Report No. 08-223.

C C Mitchell  
**GROUP MANAGER ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

**ANNEX**

- A Table 1: Summary of the Life to Date Financial Performance of the Sustainable Land Use Initiate.

Table 1: Summary of Life to Date Financial Performance of the Sustainable Land Use Initiative

	2006/07			2006/07 (Adjusted)			2007/08			2008/09		
	Act	Bud	Var	Act	Bud	Var	Act	Bud	Var	Act	Bud	Var
Balance (Carried Forward)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$449	\$0	\$449
Revenue:												
Grants	\$0	\$977	(\$977)	\$0	\$977	(\$977)	\$1,121	\$822	\$299	\$781	\$773	\$8
HRC (General rate) *1	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$519	\$483	\$519	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
HRC (Targeted rate)	\$483	\$483	\$0	\$483	\$483	\$0	\$1,389	\$1,389	\$0	\$778	\$778	\$0
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$483</b>	<b>\$1,460</b>	<b>(\$977)</b>	<b>\$1,002</b>	<b>\$1,460</b>	<b>(\$458)</b>	<b>\$2,510</b>	<b>\$2,211</b>	<b>\$299</b>	<b>\$1,559</b>	<b>\$1,551</b>	<b>\$8</b>
Expenses												
Labour												
Grants	(\$395)	(\$204)	(\$191)	(\$395)	(\$204)	(\$191)	(\$872)	(\$536)	(\$336)	(\$386)	(\$337)	(\$49)
Forestry	(\$72)	(\$252)	\$180	(\$72)	(\$252)	\$180	(\$354)	\$0	(\$354)	(\$481)	\$0	(\$481)
Technical	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$100)	(\$514)	\$414
Other	(\$321)	(\$824)	\$503	(\$321)	(\$824)	\$503	(\$603)	(\$1,613)	\$1,010	(\$197)	(\$672)	\$475
Vehicles	(\$65)	(\$83)	\$18	(\$65)	(\$83)	\$18	(\$154)	(\$57)	(\$97)	(\$58)	(\$26)	(\$32)
Training / Education	(\$22)	(\$5)	(\$17)	(\$22)	(\$5)	(\$17)	(\$71)	(\$5)	(\$66)	(\$22)	(\$2)	(\$20)
	(\$113)	(\$92)	(\$21)	(\$113)	(\$92)	(\$21)	(\$7)					
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>(\$988)</b>	<b>(\$1,460)</b>	<b>\$472</b>	<b>(\$988)</b>	<b>(\$1,460)</b>	<b>\$472</b>	<b>(\$2,061)</b>	<b>(\$2,211)</b>	<b>\$150</b>	<b>(\$1,244)</b>	<b>(\$1,551)</b>	<b>\$307</b>
NET	(\$505)	\$0	(\$505)	\$14	\$0	\$14	\$449	\$0	\$449	\$315	\$0	\$315
OVERHEADS	(\$14)	(\$14)	(\$14)	(\$14)	(\$14)	(\$14)						\$0
<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>(\$519)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>(\$519)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$449</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$449</b>	<b>\$764</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$764</b>

\*1 as per Council resolution, transfer of general rate savings in other land activities.



A Significant decision? <b>If Yes</b>	N
Do recommendations meet Significance Policy (contained within the LTCCP)	

Item No: 11  
Date: 10/12/2008  
Report No: 08-224  
File No: ELM 6 00

## SUSTAINABLE LAND USE INITIATIVE (SLUI)

### PURPOSE

1. This report is to update Members on progress on its Sustainable Land Use Initiative (SLUI).

### FINANCIAL IMPACT

2. There are no financial impacts associated with this report.

### PROGRESS TOWARDS TARGETS

3. The 2008-09 target for completing whole farm plans (WFP) is 80, 75% or 60 of these will be completed by contracted supplier, LandVision Ltd, the remainder by Horizons Regional Council (HRC). As at the end of October 2008 LandVision had mapped 23 properties. Table 1 summarises progress toward WFP development.

**Table 1: Whole farm Plan Development**

Whole Farm Plan Development			
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Farms Mapped	46	89	23
Draft Completed	46	89	10
Completed	45	89	9
Copy to Landowner (Active)	45	88	4
TARGET	40	80	80
CUMULATIVE (WFPs Completed)	45	133	137

4. Implementation is generally carried out the year following the completion of the WFP. The SLUI programme budgets on the implementation taking up to three years to complete. Table 2 summarises implementation progress to date.

**Table 2: Implementation Progress**

Implementation			
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Total Active WFPs	45	133	137
Works Programmes Planned		45	133
Works Started		-	103
Annual Works Completed		39	18
Projects Completed		58	27

5. To date the 27 individual implementation projects completed have had a grant cost of \$142,665.

## ACTIVITY SUMMARY

6. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) have recently launched their Afforestation Grant Scheme (AGS) and have approved afforestation on approximately 19 projects. The MAF administered "public" fund has been allocated \$25,000,000 over 10 years. In parallel with this fund is a Regional Council allocation of a further \$25 million which will be administered by a consortium of Regional Councils, including HRC.
7. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by the 10 member Regional Councils to the "Council Fund" and MAF are arranging for funds to be transferred to Hawkes Bay Regional Council (HBRC) on behalf of these members. HRC, HBRC, Greater Wellington, Environment Waikato and Environment Canterbury have been appointed as application managers of the Council Fund. This group chaired by Dave Cameron of Greater Wellington met last week and is on track to have application criteria and application forms available in the first weeks of December. Applications for this first round close on 31 January 2009.
8. The Poplar and Willow Research Collective have been successful in their bid to the Hill Country Erosion Fund (HCEF). MAF funding of \$175,000 per year will need to be matched by Regional Councils over the next four years. This funding will secure the genetic stock of poplar and willow material, along with research for new varieties for soil erosion and river protection works.
9. Final agreements for the loan and forestry rights have been provided to all five customers in the process this year. One agreement has been signed and returned to Horizons for our sign-off. The other agreements are with landowners' lawyers.
10. A spreadsheet to manage priority assessment is continually updated for proposed farm plans. A priority list has been prepared for the 80 WFPs to be produced in 2008-09. This list has targeted 60 plans in high priority catchment areas and 20 over the hill country at large. LandVision are now into mapping properties for the second quarter of this financial year. Mapping has also begun by staff on the next set of Atihau properties in the Mangamahu catchment.
11. The spreadsheet currently has 67 (target is 60) landowners within the priority catchments confirming they want a WFP. We also have around 40 (need 20 to reach 80 plans for the year) other landowners from outside the priority areas on a waiting list. We will need to be clear to these landowners that they may be waiting 12 to 18 months for a plan.
12. Discussions have recently been held with Landcorp about the possibility of all their farms in our Region having a SLUI farm plan. Unfortunately only one property is within our priority catchments
13. Work is continuing in a number of technical areas around SLUI, including development of a database to track and record progress on plans and physical works (this database has been installed and tested on our system; we are waiting on the developer to fix some bugs in the initial version). We are also developing a number of case studies around Carbon and Emissions Trading Scheme options for landowners (this has been thrown into some uncertainty with the new government to re-negotiate the ETS). A joint Australia New Zealand Societies of Soil Science field trip into our SLUI hill country was held on the 3 December
14. We have recently employed a new staff member based in Raetihi. Petra Specht lives in Raetihi and will concentrate on implementation of farm plans in the upper Parapara and Ruatiti areas.

15. Three SLUI scholarship students have been employed over the summer period. They will undertake a variety of office and field work through until late February.
16. The SLUI contract is with MAF for signing. MAF have indicated they want to include a clause around carbon. We are yet to formally discuss this with them.

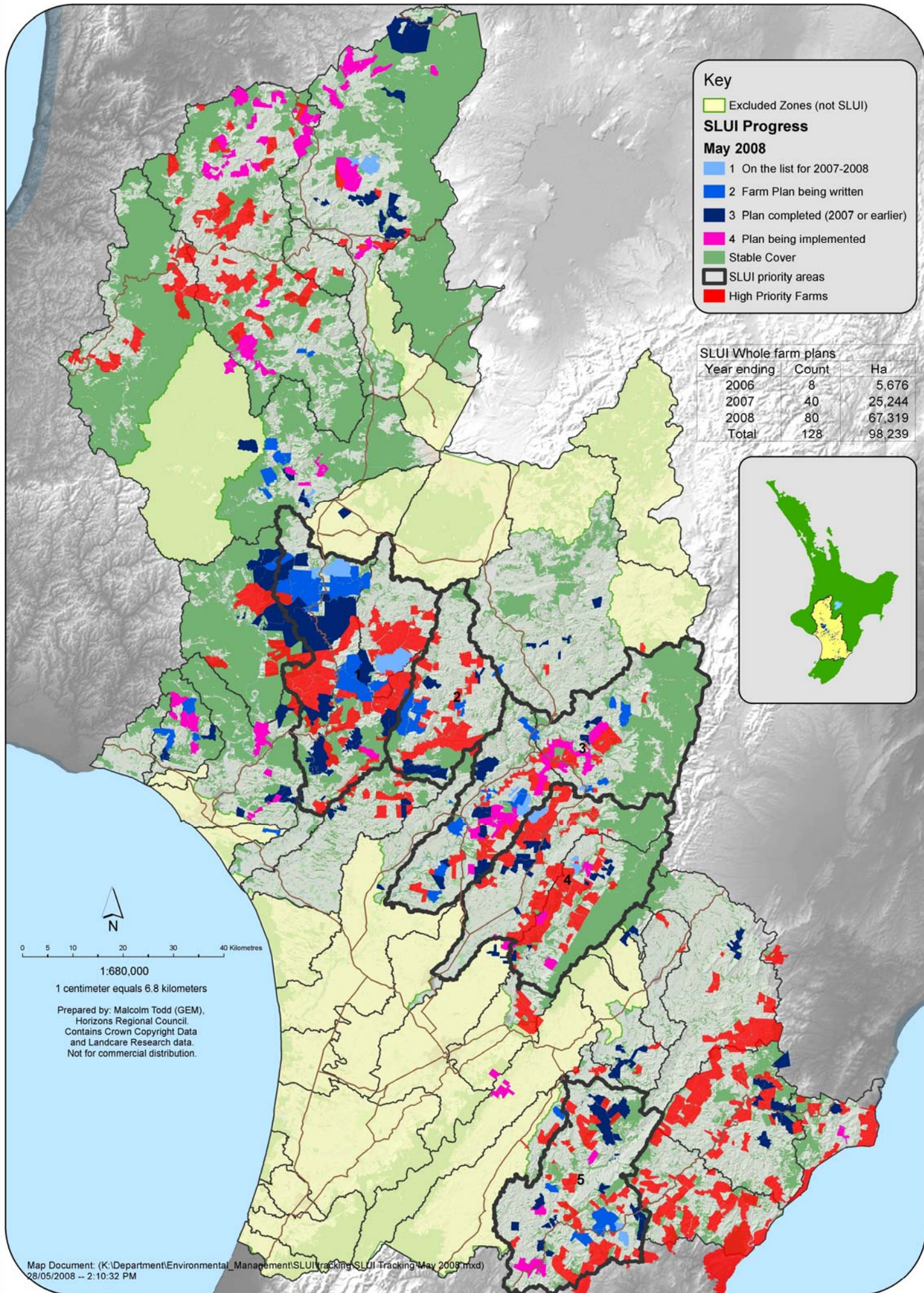
## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

17. That the Committee recommends that Council:
  - a. **receives** the information in Report No. 08-224.

C C Mitchell  
**GROUP MANAGER ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

## **ANNEX**

- A SLUI Overview



**Key**

- Excluded Zones (not SLUI)

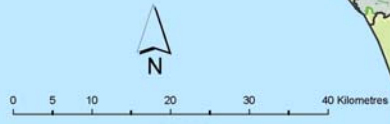
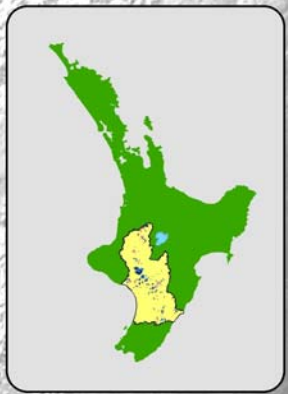
**SLUI Progress**

**May 2008**

- 1 On the list for 2007-2008
- 2 Farm Plan being written
- 3 Plan completed (2007 or earlier)
- 4 Plan being implemented
- Stable Cover
- SLUI priority areas
- High Priority Farms

**SLUI Whole farm plans**

Year ending	Count	Ha
2006	8	5,676
2007	40	25,244
2008	80	67,319
<b>Total</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>98,239</b>



1:680,000

1 centimeter equals 6.8 kilometers

Prepared by: Malcolm Todd (GEM),  
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