



**Report**                    **04.314**  
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**Committee**            **Hutt River Advisory**  
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## **Belmont improvements**

### **1. Purpose**

To update the Hutt River Advisory Committee on progress in implementing the Belmont Improvements.

### **2. Background**

Construction of the Belmont capital works is substantially complete. The capital works include the Belmont edge protection works, the Norfolk Street stopbank, and environmental enhancement works. We are currently progressing with planting and tidying up.

### **3. Edge protection**

Cashmore Contracting Limited (CCL) have completed the Belmont edge protection improvements contract. This contract included three rock groynes, six debris fences, two of which had rock heads, approximately 130m of rock lining between Carter Street and Edwin Street, and a swale drain for the stormwater outlet at Carter Street. 7370 tonnes of rock has been placed, in comparison to an estimated total of 7300 tonnes.

CCL have top-soiled and grassed the area around the Owen Street groyne and the top of the rock lining, as well as reinstating the stockpile area in the Belmont Domain. These grassed areas have been fenced off to allow the grass to establish.

The extreme weather in February and March caused considerable delays in this contract, as river levels were too high for the contractor to work. This delayed the contract by approximately 8 weeks. However, the contract was completed by the contract completion date of 31 May 2004. The floods did not cause damage to the works or neighbouring properties.

#### **4. Norfolk Street stopbank**

Construction of the Norfolk Street stopbank is essentially complete. A 300 mm thick layer of top soil was placed on the northern side of the western bank to plant shallow rooting perennials, ground covers and ferns. The eastern stopbank and the disturbed areas have been grassed and fenced off.

Residents in one of the adjacent Norfolk Street properties are concerned that skateboarders will start using the stopbank on the eastern side and enter their property. A new boundary fence is proposed but it is yet to be accepted by the residents.

#### **5. Environmental enhancement**

The environmental enhancement works include plantings, a walkway from Carter Street to Richard Street, a gate and fence at the end of Carter Street, and bollards at other street ends.

The gravel walking track has been constructed from Edwin Street to Richard Street, with access tracks up to each street end. This walking track was altered from an earth surface to a gravel surface for ease of use in winter. The banks above the walking track were cleared of weeds during construction in preparation for planting with natives. The walkway, gate and fence have now been installed.

We have purchased approximately 3800 native plants from three different nurseries. All the plants are eco-sourced from the lower North Island. Approximately 2750 plants were planted by Excell Corporation Limited between 4 June and 12 June 2004. Excell planted the steep banks above the walking track, which were deemed to be unsuitable for community planting. The remaining plants are going to be planted by Flood Protection staff and the community.

The first community planting day was held on 12 June 2004, and concentrated on the area between Richard Street and Edwin Street. The community planted the flat land on either side of the walking track, and the day was a great success. A follow-up planting day is scheduled for 26 June 2004 to cover the street-end plantings.

#### **6. Non-structural measures**

Hutt City Council has commenced consultation on the proposed district plan changes. Report 04.317 in this Order Paper provides further details on the status of implementing non-structural measures.

#### **7. Communications**

Information Sheet No. 5 was distributed to Belmont residents on 13 February 2004, giving an update on progress with the edge protection works and the Norfolk Street stopbank, and requesting community involvement in the environmental enhancement planting.

On 19 May 2004, Information Sheet No. 6 was distributed, giving definite dates for planting days, and informing the community of weed spraying occurring in the area.

CCL successfully accommodated a second Belmont Pony Club event on 4 April 2004. This again involved adjusting the stockpile area in the Domain and removing fences so that there was sufficient room to park horse floats. As the rock stockpile was very full at this time, it was necessary to stop rock transport for the week before the event to ensure that there was sufficient room in the stockpile area for horse floats to manoeuvre.

GW staff held meetings with 5 residents along the river edge from Carter Street to Richard Street to discuss planting the banks outside their properties.

## **8. Recommendations**

*That the Committee:*

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

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