



**Report**                    **04.490**  
**Date**                      19 August 2004  
**File**                        WO/02/20/10

**Committee**              **Rural Services & Wairarapa Committee**  
**Author**                 **Widana Gamage, Engineer(Northern)**

## **River Scheme Asset Management Plan Performance**

### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To present the Committee with Performance Statements for the Asset Management Plans produced for seven river management schemes within the Wairarapa.
- 1.2 To inform the Committee of the outcome of the recent audit of Wairarapa river management works carried out by the Council's Flood Protection Group.

### **2. Background**

- 2.1 The Local Government Amendment Act (No.3) of 1996 requires Strategic Financial Plans to be prepared for the infrastructural assets under Council control. Asset Management Plans provide the basis for preparation of credible financial plans.
- 2.2 Basic Asset Management Plans have been prepared for seven river management Schemes serviced by the Wairarapa Division as listed below.
  - Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme
  - Waiohine-Mangatarere
  - Waingawa
  - Upper Ruamahanga – Mount Bruce
  - Upper Ruamahanga – Te Ore Ore
  - Upper Ruamahanga - Gladstone
  - Waipoua

- 2.3 These plans are “live” documents, and will be improved and updated on an ongoing basis. In particular the asset registers and condition assessments are updated annually, and provide a basis for developing sustainable ongoing Scheme maintenance programmes.
- 2.4 Each year Performance Statements are prepared reporting on plan performance indicators. The 2003/04 Scheme Performance Statements are attached.
- 2.5 An annual audit of Wairarapa Scheme maintenance standards is carried out by staff from the Flood Protection Group of the Council’s Landcare Division. A report summarising the results from the July 2004 audit is attached.

### **3. Scheme Status**

#### **3.1 Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme**

The LWVDS is in a good financial and physical condition overall. The remaining Scheme loans have been paid off, and the Scheme fund currently stands at a very healthy \$1.3m. Overall asset condition ratings are favourable, although this year priority needs to be given to the Mahaki floodgate and Scaddens stopbank repair.

A review of the LWVDS is now underway, and will be completed over the next two years. Among other things, the review is assessing long term Scheme maintenance, renewal, and capital work requirements.

#### **3.2 Waiohine-Mangatarere River Management Scheme**

The current level of annual programme is seen as adequate to meet ongoing Scheme maintenance needs.

The physical condition of the Waiohine-Mangatarere Scheme has continued to improve. Durable repairs have been completed at the most vulnerable sites, and Asset Management Plan performance criteria have been satisfied. The scheme coped very well with the February floods.

The Scheme which had a deficit of \$120,284 two years ago is now in a positive financial position with a modest reserve balance of \$29,738. The Greytown Community Board too has acknowledged this sound financial position in a letter of appreciation to the Scheme Manager.

#### **3.3 Waingawa River Management Scheme**

The Waingawa Scheme is in good overall financial and physical condition. Asset Management Plan performance criteria have been satisfied. Out of all the river management Schemes in Wairarapa Waingawa suffered the least damage in February 2004 floods.

The current annual programme of \$174,000 is adequate to meet the Scheme's ongoing maintenance needs. Scheme assets are generally in good condition and the deferred maintenance is manageable. Scheme has accumulated a small surplus of \$9,031.

A review of the Waingawa Scheme is planned over the next few years.

### **3.4 Upper Ruamahanga – Mt Bruce River Management Scheme**

This Scheme was created as a result of the splitting of the Upper Ruamahanga Scheme into three new Schemes at the comprehensive review of the Scheme completed in 2002. However the ratepayers rejected the three options for Scheme management suggested by staff and consultants and agreed on a fourth option which had a much less annual Scheme maintenance level than recommended.

Although the Asset Management Plan performance criteria have largely been satisfied, the Upper Ruamahanga - Mt Bruce Scheme is in a less than satisfactory position. The flood damages in the Double Bridges to Rathkeale section in particular have been a major concern. A management approach for this will be developed in consultation with the affected landowners.

### **3.5 Upper Ruamahanga - Te Ore Ore River Management Scheme**

This is the middle section of the Upper Ruamahanga Scheme and the one which has benefited most from the Scheme review and creation of three new Schemes.

River management is extremely important for the security of a number of Masterton District Council (MDC) assets located close to the river in this section. Since the Scheme review MDC has started making a significant financial contribution to the Scheme in recognition of the increased standard of protection offered.

The level of the annual Scheme maintenance programme for this section has increased four fold to \$110,000 and is considered to be satisfactory. The deferred maintenance which had built up over the years is expected to be attended to and development works undertaken over the next few years.

### **3.6 Upper Ruamahanga - Gladstone River Management Scheme**

This is the bottom section of the Upper Ruamahanga Scheme extending from the Wardells bridge to the Waiohine confluence. The rating anomalies that existed in the past have been rectified through the Scheme review process and the level of maintenance has increased.

Asset Management Plan performance criteria have been satisfied and the Scheme has accumulated a modest reserve balance of \$19,555. Upgrading of

the Te Whiti stopbank, a major deferred maintenance item for a number of years, is presently in progress.

### **3.7 Waipoua River Management Scheme**

Although the Asset Management Plan performance criteria have largely been satisfied, the Waipoua Scheme is in a less than satisfactory condition, and \$25,800 of desirable maintenance has been deferred. The February 2004 floods have been a major setback for this Scheme which was trying to recover from the year 2000 floods and consequent financial deficit. The Scheme rates had been doubled in 2001 and at this stage are considered to be at a satisfactory level. Provided there are no further flood damages for the next few years the current Scheme deficit of \$ 39,721 should be paid up within three years considering that \$18,000 goes into the Scheme reserves each year.

## **4. Audit of Maintenance Standards**

An audit of Wairarapa Scheme maintenance standards was carried out by river engineering staff from the Council's Landcare Division in July 2004 (see Attachment). A total of six sites were inspected within the northern Wairarapa area.

Within the Upper Ruamahanga Mt Bruce Scheme, Wingate Road and Rathkeale College sites were inspected.

Within the Upper Ruamahanga Te Ore Ore Scheme Henley Lake, Forbes/Percy and Oxidation Pond sites were inspected.

Within the Waipoua Scheme the Nursery area and stopbank breach sites were inspected.

The auditors are of the view that given the resources available correct decisions are being made with regard to river maintenance works. They particularly noted the difficulties Wairarapa staff are facing in trying to meet the higher expectations of rural ratepayers often with insufficient funding levels. They appreciated the innovative river management methods adopted by staff in meeting this challenge.

## **5. Summary**

The Wairarapa River Scheme Asset Management Plans have been updated, and the 2003/04 Performance Statements for these Plans are attached.

Given the size and frequency of floods the Schemes have had to cope with, overall the Schemes are generally in a reasonable physical condition, with any deferred maintenance to be addressed over the next few years.

Adequate regional funding has been approved in the Council's Business Plan to support satisfactory Scheme maintenance programmes.

Upper Ruamahanga - Mt Bruce and Te Ore Ore Schemes both have got small financial deficits but should be comfortably paid off by the end of this financial year assuming no further flood damage. The Waipoua Scheme deficit should also be paid off within three years.

## **6. Communication Requirements**

The Asset Management Plan Performance Statements and copies of the Flood Protection Group's audit report will be presented to the Scheme advisory committees for their information.

## **7. Recommendation**

*That the Committee:*

- (1) Receive the Asset Management Plan Performance Statements prepared for the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme; and the Waiohine-Mangatarere, Upper Ruamahanga - Mt Bruce, Upper Ruamahanga - Te Ore Ore, Upper Ruamahanga - Gladstone, Waingawa, and Waipoua River Management Schemes.*
- (2) Receive the July 2004 Audit of River Management Asset Maintenance Standards for the Wairarapa.*

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

**Widana Gamage**  
Engineer(Northern)

**Ian Gunn**  
Manager, Land & River Operations

**Colin Wright**  
Divisional Manager, Wairarapa