



Report	05.453
Date	2 September 2005
File	WO/02/20/10
Committee	Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee
Author	Mike Longworth, 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 peer review of Wairarapa river management works carried out by the Council's Landcare Division's Flood Protection Group.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

- 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 2004/2005 Scheme Performance Statements are attached.
- 2.5 An annual peer review 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 2005 peer review is attached.

3. Scheme Status

3.1 Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme

The Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme had five flood events during the year under review, three of which were greater than a five year return period. These floods inflicted heavy damage to the scheme, and the combined flood damage bill was of the order of \$1.1 million. Most of the flood damage work has been repaired and approximately \$92,000 has been carried forward to this year. In spite of the major flood damage expenditure the scheme reserves are in a very healthy state. The Scheme reserve balance is \$1.06 million and the Major Flood Recovery Fund balance is \$357,000.

The Scheme review is reaching its final stages and will be completed by the end of this financial year. One of the outcomes of the review is that the scheme needs major development/capital oriented work to provide security to properties and other assets to the order of 5.5 million dollars to be spent over the next 6 years.

The major works completed were repairs to Shelton’s and Guscott’s banks, shifting of Scadden’s and Ashton Herrick’s stop banks, rock work at many places in the Pukio area and downstream of Barrage gates, painting of two radial gates at the Barrage, channel alignment work in the Tauherenikau and other eastern and western tributaries.

The major works in this year’s programme involve completing the remaining flood damage works, upgrade of the Barrage electrical works, shifting Vollebregt’s stopbank, and the upgrade of the Mahaki Culvert and stopbank.

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, and all subsequent floods. In total, \$95,000 of flood damage works was approved in addition to the annual works programme.

The Scheme which had a deficit of \$120,284 two years ago is now in a positive financial position with a combined reserve balance of \$102,661. 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. Although the Waingawa suffered some flood damage over 2004 the additional funding provided by Council and Government has enabled repair work to be carried out without the Scheme going into deficit. Flood damage work worth \$30,000 was approved in addition to the annual works programme. The current annual programme of \$144,000 is adequate to meet the Scheme's ongoing maintenance needs. Scheme assets are generally in good condition and the deferred maintenance is manageable. The Scheme has accumulated a combined reserve of \$32,531.

A review of the Waingawa Scheme is planned in the next financial year.

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 Upper Ruamahanga Scheme completed in 2002. The ratepayers rejected the three options for Scheme management suggested by staff and consultants and instead opted for a fourth option which had a much lower annual Scheme maintenance level than recommended. The Scheme works programme this year is \$64,680 excluding the \$21,560 available for works above Hidden Lakes funded on a 50% contribution from landowners. The Scheme has a combined reserve of \$17,381.

Although the Asset Management Plan performance criteria have largely been satisfied, the Upper Ruamahanga - Mt Bruce Scheme does suffer from the small budget in that progress in gaining an optimum alignment will be slow and it is vulnerable to floods at any stage.

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.

Flood damage works worth \$30,000 were approved in addition to the annual works programme. The level of the annual Scheme maintenance programme for this section is \$118,500 and is considered to be satisfactory. The Scheme has a small combined reserve of \$8,362.

3.6 Upper Ruamahanga - Gladstone River Management Scheme

This is the lower 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. Flood damage funding of \$40,000 was approved in addition to the normal works programme.

Asset Management Plan performance criteria have been satisfied and the Scheme has accumulated a modest combined reserve balance of \$8,361. Upgrading of the Te Whiti stopbank, a major deferred maintenance item for a number of years, was completed during the period, with the work being satisfactorily tested many times during construction.

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, in that \$3,000 of desirable maintenance has been deferred and flood damage repairs estimated at \$116,000 were deferred to the new year as external funding of \$33,000 had not been confirmed. The 2004 floods have been a major setback for this Scheme which was trying to recover from the year 2000 floods and consequent financial deficit. Although the Scheme rates had been doubled in 2001 external funding to repair flood damage has had to be sought for the lower section of the river. As a consequence of this situation, a review of the lower section of the Scheme will be carried out within the next two years. The Scheme has a deficit of \$8,398 which is better than expected due to additional funding from Council and Government and the deferred flood damage repairs. The major flood recovery fund balance for the scheme is \$7,138.

4. Peer Review of Maintenance Standards

A peer review of Wairarapa Scheme maintenance standards was carried out by river engineering staff from the Council's Landcare Division in July 2005. A total of seven sites were inspected within the southern Wairarapa area.

Within the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme sites at Wairongomai stream, Scadden's stopbank area and Guscotts were inspected.

Within the Waiohine River Scheme sites at Bicknell's, Wong's and Woodside were inspected.

The reviewers 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 face in trying to meet the expectations of rural ratepayers but 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 2004/2005 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 year.

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

The Waipoua Scheme deficit is programmed to be paid off within two years.

6. Communication Requirements

The Asset Management Plan Performance Statements and copies of the Flood Protection Group's peer review 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 2005 Peer Review of River Management Asset Maintenance Standards for the Wairarapa.

Report prepared by:

Mike Longworth
Engineer(Northern)

Report approved by:

Ian Gunn
Land and River Operations Manager

Colin Wright
Divisional Manager, Wairarapa