



**Report** 06.365  
**Date** 2 August 2006  
**File** N/03/21/01

**Committee** Landcare  
**Author** John Eyles, Project Manager

## Waiwhetu Stream Advisory Committee - 15 June 2006

### 1. Purpose

To provide a summary of the key outcomes from the Waiwhetu Stream Advisory Committee meeting held on 15 June.

### 2. Significance of the decision

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

### 3. Background

The confirmed minutes from the meeting are attached to this report.

With the regular chair, Stuart Macaskill, unable to attend through illness and the early departure of acting chair Mayor Ogden, Cr Peter Glensor assumed the chair for the majority of the meeting.

The main order of business was the presentation of the two Options Reports for the lower Waiwhetu and Awamutu Streams. The reports outlined the flood mitigation options for each stream and compared the options by assessing the benefits and costs of each. **Attachments 2 and 3** are schematic plans of the possible flood defence options.

For the lower Waiwhetu, the Committee noted that the further investigation of Option 3 will provide the information needed to assess Options 1 and 2 giving the committee the most flexibility to make a decision down the track. Option 1 has the least cost and involves constructing the highest flood defences (with the most detrimental visual amenity effects) with the absolute minimum stream excavation work. Option 3 has the highest cost and involves constructing the lowest height flood defences (least visual effects) with the most extensive stream widening and excavation works of the three options. Option 2 is a compromise of Options 1 and 3 with some stream works and flood defence heights between those for Options 1 and 3. The costs for the three options

range from \$21.5M to \$29.4M with B/C ratios from 1.2 to 1.8 assuming a 20 year staged completion.

The options for the Awamutu stream are more straightforward. The Committee noted that Options 3 and 4 have the highest benefit cost ratios and the lowest construction costs of the 5 options considered. Option 3 contains all the components for Option 4 so taking Option 3 to the preliminary design stage gives the committee the flexibility to choose between these two options. Option 3 involves channel improvements including upgrading culverts and constructing stop banks in places. Flood gates and a 4m<sup>3</sup>/s pumping station would also be required near the Seaview roundabout. Option 4 is equivalent to Option 3 without the pumping station. The costs for options 3 and 4 range from \$5.5M to \$6.4M with B/C ratios from 2.2 to 2.4 .

#### **4. Project Manager's comments**

I am very satisfied with the overall progress of this complex project. An enormous amount of work has been completed over the past 12 months since I began and I'm looking forward to Phase 2 of the investigation and completing the floodplain management plan in the next 12 or so months.

##### **Phase 1 and Phase 2 investigations**

Phase 1 of the Waiwhetu Project was completed on schedule on 30 June 2006. Phase 1 activities included: project setup, consultation, issues identification, hydrology assessment and hydraulic modelling, flood hazard mapping, flood damage and economic loss assessments, and writing the Phase 1 report. Phase 2 of the study, as set out in the original Scoping Report (August 2004) is due to be completed by the end of June 2007. Activities for the Phase 2 study include: flood warning and evacuation, planning controls, non structural investigations, consultation, upper Waiwhetu catchment investigation, stream management strategy, and writing the floodplain management plan.

##### **Next WSAC meeting and workshop**

The next WSAC meeting is set for 7 September. The original meeting date of 15 August has been set aside for a workshop for the committee. The workshop will give the committee the opportunity to raise and discuss the very complex issues in this project in a less formal atmosphere. The project team will also be providing the latest updates on the flood mitigation options and contaminated sediments investigations.

##### **Upcoming Community Consultation Group meeting**

The next meeting with the Awamutu and Waiwhetu consultation groups, and local industry group is during the evening of 9 August. We have been working to generate visual impressions of the works on the lower Waiwhetu to show the differences in heights of the flood defences proposed for the three options under consideration. After the meeting we should be able to advise the committee about community preferences for the three options.

## **Ongoing stormwater contamination and contaminated sediments update**

Tim Porteous, (Environment Policy) has commissioned a joint investigation with Hutt City Council into ongoing storm water contamination from the industrial area at Gracefield into the lower Waiwhetu. The report, by CRL, indicates that the dry weather and wet weather discharges into the stream do breach ANZECC safety guidelines for zinc, copper and lead (although there is some discussion about whether the guidelines apply at the point of discharge or after a reasonable mixing zone). A meeting was held with Hutt City Council officers in July where the report was tabled. Hutt City Council will respond to the report outlining the actions they will take to address ongoing stormwater contamination.

The CRL report also identified that there is an ongoing level of background contamination in the stream due to the contaminated sediments themselves. A project has recently been started in house to assess heavy metal loads into Wellington harbour from all other sources (e.g. the Hutt River). This is to get an idea of the significance of the loss of contaminated sediments that might occur from removing them to landfill. We also expect to get an opinion on the likely ecological effects within Wellington harbour.

## **5. Recommendations**

*That the Committee:*

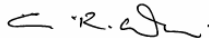
1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***

Report prepared by:



**John Eyles**  
Project Manager

Report approved by:



**Geoff Dick**  
Divisional Manager, Catchment Management

**Attachment 1: Waiwhetu Stream Advisory Committee Report – Thursday 15 June 2006**

**Attachment 2: Lower Waiwhetu proposed alignment of flood defences**

**Attachment 3: Awamutu Option 3 proposed flood defences**