

HUTT CITY COUNCIL

WAIWHETU STREAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Report of a meeting held in the Hutt City Council Chambers,
30 Laings Road, Lower Hutt on
Wednesday 22 August 2007 commencing at 2.30pm

PRESENT: Mr S Macaskill (Chair)
Mr L Roberts, Waiwhetu Stream Working Group
Mr T Puketapu
Cr G Evans, GWRC
Cr S Greig, GWRC
Cr C Laidlaw, GWRC
Cr JMK Baird, HCC
Cr VR Jamieson, HCC
Cr RW Styles, HCC
Mayor DK Ogden

APOLOGIES: An apology was received from Cr P Glensor and Cr GD Barratt.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr T Stallinger, Chief Executive Officer, HCC
Mr B Sherlock, Divisional Manager Utility Services, HCC
Mr G Dick, Divisional Manager Catchment Management, GWRC
Mr D Kelly, General Manager City Services, HCC
Ms M Archibald, Adviser Strategic Development, HCC
Mr G Campbell, Manager Flood Protection, GWRC
Mr J Eyles, Project Manager, GWRC
Mr T Porteous, Biodiversity Co-ordinator, GWRC
Ms K Muldowney, URS New Zealand Ltd
Mr S Willis, URS New Zealand Ltd
Ms D Bush, Committee Advisor

REPORT TO COUNCIL

PUBLIC BUSINESS

Matters requiring specific consideration by Council are shown as "**RECOMMENDED**" while those matters which are within the Committee's power to determine are shown as "**RESOLVED.**"

WSAC R/2

1. APOLOGIES

RESOLVED:

Minute No. WSAC 070301

"That the apologies received from Cr P Glensor and Cr GD Barratt be accepted and leave of absence be granted."

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms Patricia Mitchell a resident who lives beside the Waiwhetu Stream made a presentation regarding the possibility of Council financially helping other residents whose homes need lifting as part of the flood mitigation consideration. She built her home in 2004 and was required to pay a significantly higher cost to ensure her foundations were high enough to cope with the possibility of future flooding. She expressed her dissatisfaction with the Council using ratepayer funding to undertake remedial work on existing properties as she believed that this is the responsibility of the house owners themselves. She requested Council to think very seriously before making any rate funded contribution for raising houses.

Mr Reg Moore spoke about river flows and reminded members that this problem has been around for a long time. His question to members was "given the Waiwhetu is influenced by the tide, how can widening and deepening the stream bed help?" He produced a tide level report from Feb 2004 and told members that he feels this problem will continue to get worse as climate change progresses.

Ms E Richter told members that she had been interested in the Waiwhetu Stream for a long time and expressed her concern regarding illegal discharges into the stream as she had witnessed eels dying. She advised members that she couldn't understand why companies were not being fined for releasing chemicals and waste into the stream and said that until something is done to clean out the stream the flooding problems would not be able to be resolved.

3. MINUTES

Cr Greig requested that her name be spelt correctly throughout.

RESOLVED:

Minute No. WSAC 070302

"That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2007, circulated pages WSAC R/1 – WSAC R/5, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting subject to the amendment to change Grieg to Greig throughout the document."

4. WAIWHETU STREAM FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT STUDY: CONTAMINATED SITES REMEDIATION FUND APPLICATION: RESPONSE FROM MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (AD35-18-1 / X/23/5/13)

Report No. WSAC2007/3/1 by the Project Manager – circulated pages 1-6.

The Project Manager elaborated on the report regarding funding offered by the Ministry for the Environment for the remediation of the Waiwhetu Stream. He explained that this offer, plus the funding already allocated in both Councils' Long Term Council Community Plans, left a shortfall of approximately \$1 million.

Members discussed the amount offered by the Ministry, and Cr Laidlaw reiterated to the members that while this might be the final amount of funding offered by the Ministry, he believed that there was a prospect of further funding after consideration by the Minister.

It was agreed a further meeting of the Committee would be required to discuss options as soon as a response had been received.

Mayor Ogden expressed his disappointment at not having been invited to the meeting with the Minister regarding the funding application.

The Chair thanked Mr Ogden for his ongoing commitment and agreed a further meeting be called once any final offer from the Ministry was received.

In response to a question from Cr Jamieson the Project Manager said that all avenues of funding had been considered with the contaminated sites fund, including seeking special status from the Ministry.

Although full funding was not yet in place the Committee agreed preparatory work should commence on the clean-up. Members agreed that it was important that a decision on the remediation work was finalised prior to the election.

RESOLVED:

Minute No. WSAC 070303

"That the Committee:

- (i) note the offer of funding contained in the letter from the Ministry for the Environment dated 3 August; and*

WSAC R/4

(ii) *instructs officers to proceed with the preparatory work for the clean up project and note that a special meeting of the Committee will be called once a final response on funding from the Minister for the Environment had been received.*"

5. **WAIWHETU STREAM FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT STUDY PHASE 2 TECHNICAL STUDIES UPDATE** (AD35-18-1 / N/03/21/01)

Report No. WSAC2007/3/2 by the Project Manager – circulated pages 7-33.

Ms K Muldowney from URS presented an update of the Phase 2 Floodplain Technical Studies. Ms Muldowney advised of options available to reduce flood risk in the upper Waiwhetu.

Concern was expressed by members regarding the cost of the clearing of contaminants in the stream and how much would be left for flood mitigation work. It was confirmed that Greater Wellington Regional Council has \$4M funding available for the flood mitigation work.

The Chair thanked Ms Muldowney for her detailed presentation.

RESOLVED:

Minute No. WSAC 070304

"That the Committee receives the report and notes its contents."

6. **WAIWHETU STREAM FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT STUDY COMBINATIONS OF OPTIONS DEVELOPMENT** (AD35-18-1 / N/03/21/01)

Report No. WSAC2007/3/3 by the Project Manager – circulated pages 34-47.

The Project Manager elaborated on the report on the options available to mitigate flooding risks in the Waiwhetu Stream catchment and the suggestions of the next stages to complete the Waiwhetu Floodplain Management Plan.

In response to a question from a member, the Project Manager said that the time to complete the resource consent process was a significant unknown for the project.

A member suggested that some of the components in the options could commence now, such as education and consultation.

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It was agreed by the Committee that the Project Manager was required to focus on commencing the cleanup project rather than further development of the floodplain management plan.

RESOLVED:

Minute No. WSAC 070305

"That the Committee receives the report and notes its contents."

7. WAIWHETU STREAM FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT STUDY PROJECT MANAGER'S REPORT (AD35-18-1 / N/03/21/01)

Report No. WSAC2007/3/4 by the Project Manager - circulated pages 48-53.

The Project Manager updated the Committee on the latest progress with the Waiwhetu Project and this included:

- technical studies to complete Phase 2 focussing on flood mitigation work in the Waiwhetu catchment;
- a feasibility study on the upper Waiwhetu catchment that included channel management, bridge waterway improvements, flood warning and evacuation, flood proofing properties and encroachments and easements assessment;
- an update on raising houses in the Waiwhetu catchment.

RESOLVED:

Minute No. WSAC 070306

"That the Committee receives the report and notes its contents."

8. QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 4.30pm.

Mr S Macaskill
CHAIR

**CONFIRMED as a true and correct record dated this
18th day of September 2007**