

Waiwhetu Stream Opening Ceremony Thursday 9 July

Thursday 2 July

The Waiwhetu Stream clean-up and flood protection works improvement will officially begin on Thursday 9 July, with an opening ceremony outside the Pelorus Trust Sportshouse in Seaview.

The launch will signify the beginning of the clean-up and flood protection works, scheduled to take place until late 2010, at a total project cost of about \$14 million. Speakers will include Minister for the Environment Hon. Nick Smith, Regional Council Chair Fran Wilde, and Mayor of Hutt City Council, David Ogden. The Owhiti Urupa Trustees will open the ceremony with a blessing of the stream.

The event will take place from 1pm. The venue, directly opposite the stream, can be accessed by taking the second turn off from the roundabout after the bridge at the end of the Esplanade in Petone. The ceremony will be held on the stream bank, or in the foyer of the Pelorus Trust Sportshouse if the weather is wet. Media are welcome to attend.

The project is managed by Greater Wellington Regional Council in partnership with the Ministry for the Environment and Hutt City Council.

The purpose is to improve the health of the stream and its surrounding environment by removing contaminated sediment downstream of the Bell Road bridge. Channel widening and deepening works for flood protection will also be carried out at the same time. As part of the planned ecological improvements, approximately 20,000 native plants will be established.

The works will be undertaken by construction company Brian Perry Civil Ltd. CPG New Zealand Ltd and URS New Zealand Ltd are the lead consultants on the project. Sheet pile walls will be used to isolate sections of the stream which will be pumped dry. Contaminated material will then be removed and safely disposed of at the Silverstream landfill.