

# Notes from the Whakatāne-Tauranga Rivers Scheme Advisory Group meeting held in Whakaari Room, Eastbay REAP, 21 Pyne Street, Whakatane, on Tuesday, 14 November 2017 commencing at 1:00 pm

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**Chair:** Cr Norm Bruning

**Scribe:** Cleo Hanlon

**BOPRC:** Cr Tiipene Marr, Chris Ingle (General Manager Integrated Catchments), Bruce Crabbe (Rivers and Drainage Operations Manager), Paula Chapman (Flood Restoration Project Manager), Kirsty Brown (Asset Management Specialist), Tony Dunlop (Flood Restoration Project Engineer), Mark Townsend (Engineering Manager), Roger Waugh (Rivers and Drainage Assets Manager)

**Advisory Group:** Fraser McGougan, Tom Pyatt, Geoff Mercer, Jim Finlay, Boots McNaught, Scottie McLeod

**Apologies:** Chairman Doug Leeder, Cr Bill Clark, Bernie Clark, Andrew Iles, Scottie McLeod (for lateness) and Cr Marr (left early – 2:38pm)

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## 1 **Welcome and introduction**

Cr Bruning welcomed the group to the meeting.

A round table of introductions was made.

## 2 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Chairman Doug Leeder, Councillor Bill Clark, Advisory Group members Bernie Clark and Andrew Iles. An apology for lateness was received from Scottie McLeod.

## 3 **Scheme and advisory group overview**

Roger Waugh gave an overview on the Whakatāne-Tauranga Rivers Scheme and the advisory group. Key points covered were:

- Advisory groups have evolved from the previous liaison groups. Two meetings are to be held each year, in March and September (with the exception of this current meeting). Meetings are chaired by an elected regional councillor.
- The advisory group membership and areas of representation highlighted that the purpose of the groups is to enhance communication between Council and the ratepayer community.
- Scheme funding (via the targeted rate) is based on a whole-of-catchment, land area, differential, rating system which was implemented in 2002.

- Targeted rates pay 80% of the scheme's funding, and the regional contribution makes up the remaining 20%.
- Key scheme asset facts.

#### 4 **Previous meeting notes 17 March 2017**

The notes from the final liaison group meeting held 17 March 2017 were tabled.

#### 5 **Engineering report**

Mark Townsend gave a presentation of the significant rainfall the region had experienced and the effect on the catchments from ex-cyclones Debbie and Cook in April 2017.

Mark advised that Whakatāne River peak at a level of 8.34 metres and a flow of 3,800 m<sup>3</sup>/s which are the highest levels ever recorded. The flow was 1,000 m<sup>3</sup>/s over what the scheme is designed for.

Discussion continued on Civil Defence warnings and the outcomes from the Cullen Report regarding flood responses, particularly in regards to Whakatāne not being evacuated when the river peaked. It was explained that there was continuous communication between the Flood Room and Civil Defence during the event.

The presentation continued with flooding trends from the 1950's through to present day was shown.

A video explaining how a 100 year flood is measured was shown to the group.

#### 6 **April 2017 flood recovery**

Paula Chapman presented an overview of the April 2017 Flood Recovery Project for the scheme. Key points included:

- Across the four major schemes, there are over 500 damaged sites at an estimated \$45 million to repair. In the Whakatāne and Tauranga catchments there are approximately 108 sites needing repair, at an estimated cost of \$13.5 million.
- Re-structure within the Rivers and Drainage Team to increase resources and improve response to large projects and events in the future.
- Insurance will cover 40% of emergency repairs costs with a Government contribution of 60% for 'like for like' assets. Betterment and new assets will be funded by the scheme.

It was commented that indications from the Government is that in the future the 60% contribution is likely to reduce or disappear.

#### 7 **Works report**

Tony Dunlop provided a brief summary of the maintenance programme and also presented the list of priority damage repairs works (tabled item). Key points discussed:

- Significant amount of repair sites covering a large area.
- Approximately twenty sites since the April event have been repaired across various locations.

- Willows have been weakened after the flood, particularly in the root structure. Other options will be considered where willows are not appropriate.

## 8 Finance report

Andy Dixon gave an overview of the scheme's revenue and expenditure for the year ending 30 June 2017 and up to 30 September 2017.

Key items discussed from the 30 June 2017 report include:

- Operating target was on budget until the April 2017 floods occurred.
- Flood Reserve currently at \$1.6 million which will be used for repair works.
- Interest rates are at a record low.

Key items discussed from the 30 September 2017 report include:

- Operating variances due to April 2017 Flood including additional materials, contract work and electricity.
- Finance cost – the scheme is still maintaining a low interest rate.
- Reserve balances:
  - Flood Damage Reserve \$1,623,076.
  - Works Reserve \$82,835.
  - Outstanding Loans \$6,280,055.
- Rates positions are being worked through now under the Long Term Plan process.

Andy noted a mistake on page 13 – the column 'Actuals' should read 'Forecast'.

## 9 Rivers and Drainage Asset Management Plan, Infrastructure Strategy and Long Term Plan 2018-2028 progress report

Kirsty Brown provided an update on the three yearly reviews of the Rivers and Drainage Asset Management Plan, the Infrastructure Strategy and the Long Term Plan 2018-2028. The following key points were covered in the presentation:

- Council's Community Outcomes and how these are linked to the three documents.
- Rivers and Drainage AMP is the most extensive AMP held by BOPRC. The asset portfolio has a replacement value of \$246 million and planned asset maintenance and renewals covering a 50-year timeframe.
- Assets of the Whakatāne-Tauranga Rivers Scheme has an estimated total replacement cost of \$54 million with most of the value in the stopbanks.
- During Year 1 of the LTP there is a forecast operating expenditure (Opex) of \$2 million and capital expenditure (Capex) of \$6.6 million (includes flood damage repairs).
- The proposed Capex over the next 10 years is \$16 million with approximately \$12 million for the repairs resulting from the April floods.
- The forecast loan profile for the next 50 years starts at \$6.3 million in 2018 and peaks at \$17 million 2021.

- The forecast funding requirements showed potential rates increases and decreases. The worst-case scenario forecasts a rate increase of 19% in 2020. The group were advised that the figures were the initial 'raw' numbers and does not include the revenue from flood damage repair claims from Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management or insurance.
- Councils are required to prepare Infrastructure Strategies as part of their LTP planning for any significant infrastructure assets. For BOPRC this is the flood protection and control works assets managed by Rivers and Drainage Section. The purpose of the strategy is to identify any significant infrastructure issues for BOPRC's flood protection and control works assets and the options for managing these issues and any associated implications.
- Council's LTP covers a ten-year period. This is Council's main planning document, and identifies the service levels to be delivered.
- LTP consultant period will run from 16 February to 16 March 2018. Final adopted is scheduled for 30 June 2018.

Discussion continued on the proposed 19% rate rise. It was highlighted again that the figures presented do not account for insurance or Government contribution to the flood repairs and that these funds may not be received until Years 3 or 4 while Years 1 and 2 would need to be funded with rates alone.

## 10 Other business

### 10.1 Rangitāiki River Scheme Report (Cullen Review)

Chris Ingle gave an overview on the Rangitāiki River Scheme Review report (otherwise known as the Cullen Review). The following key points were raised:

- The review investigated the cause of the breach and the operation of the Rangitāiki River Scheme assets including design, engineering, maintenance and management.
- It was highlighted that as a result of the high rainfall in the catchment from March onwards, the ground was saturated prior to ex-tropical cyclone Debbie.
- The independent review was commissioned by the Regional Council a day after the breach at College Road, Edgecumbe. The review panel was chaired by Sir Michael Cullen, and supported by two technical experts - Charlie Price, a geotechnical engineer and Kyle Christensen, a water resources engineer. The panel spoke to various groups and individuals, and received submissions.
- There is no certainty as to why the wall breached, as much of the evidence was washed away in the flood.
- It was a 200 year event upstream of Matahina Dam, and was managed down to a 100 year event downstream of the dam.
- The unfinished Reid's Floodway is scheduled to be completed in 2019/2020. The report questioned whether this had a significant contribution to the breach. Bringing the completion date forward is not possible, after taking consultation and actual physical works into account.
- Evacuation planning was a key highlight of the Cullen Report.
- Additional rain gauge sites are budgeted for in the Long Term Plan (LTP). There will be two additional sites installed per year, as well as ongoing maintenance of existing sites, with improvements.

Discussion continued on the following topics:

- The Rangitāiki is a “leaky” catchment. It has several layers of different soil types and sand, and the water tends to go underneath structures.
- The priority job for Council is to finish of the Reids Floodway. Other concrete wall structures will be checked while the repair at College Road is undertaken. It was noted that as the Whakatāne River has concrete walls, these are also checked.
- The full report is available on the website, and hardcopies were made available at the meeting. Advisory Group members were encouraged to read the report.
- Damage to the western side of the bank on Rewatu Road was highlighted to Council staff. It was also confirmed that the Te Rahu pumps will be repaired and will be included in the insurance claim.

## 10.2 Whakatāne Wharf

Jim Finlay provided an update on the Whakatāne Wharf works. He advised the project was earmarked in the 2015-2025 LTP to extend the main wharf to the Green Wharf. Stakeholder consultation is continuing while strengthening works on the old wharf is under way.

## 10.3 Kopeopeo Canal remediation project

Bruce Crabbe provided an overview and progress report on the Kopeopeo Canal Contamination Remediation Project and its progress.

The presentation covered the following information:

- Overview of the project history and the contaminant sites.
- Project update:
  - Physical works contract awarded to Environwaste.
  - Earthworks were delayed due to wet weather over the winter months.
  - Earthworks for containment Site 1 are near completion. The next stage is to line the site with an impermeable fabric.
  - Currently finalising and approving management plans including the Flood Management Plan.
  - Dredging will start in January. There will be a public open day held shortly, to show interested public the containment site and process.
  - Stopbank works are continuing to get the banks to design standards. The bank on Eastern Drain has been raised, along with strengthening work on Kope West Canal.
  - Scottie McLeod was acknowledged as a member of the Community Liaison Group and the Project Steering Group.

It was questioned why one of the previously rejected containment sites is now being used again. Bruce advised that the site has geotechnical issues that will need to be remediated before use as a contamination site but that the main positive was that it already has contaminated materials on it. A thorough geotech investigation of this site, including monitoring sediment and comprehensive design, will be carried out. Once the material is contained, it will be in a safe state. The bioremediation follow up phase will break down the dioxins over 10-15 years.

**Meeting ended: 3:40 pm**