

SAWFLY REMEDIATION WORKS

Summary of the Statement of Proposal for a change to Hawke's Bay Regional Council's Long Term Council Community Plan 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2014 to incorporate sawfly remediation works for the Heretaunga Plains flood control scheme.

1.0 DETAILS AND REASONS FOR THE PROPOSAL INCLUDING FUNDING IMPACTS

The proposal is to change the Hawke's Bay Regional Council's Long Term Council Community Plan 2004-2014 (LTCCP) to reflect the cost and funding of sawfly remediation works for the Heretaunga Plains flood control scheme and, in particular, flood control measures between the river edge and stopbanks on various parts of the Ngaruroro, Tutaekuri and Tukituki rivers that cross the Heretaunga Plains.

These works are necessary because of the significant damage caused by the willow sawfly to the live edge protection that is predominantly comprised of various species of willows which help control the active channel of all three rivers and help to safely convey a flood which will occur on average once every 100 years safely to the sea. The damage caused by sawfly to the live edge protection has substantially increased the risk of flooding to significant parts of the Heretaunga Plains because of the risk from lateral erosion of the river and the risk to the stopbank system from breaches which could result.

Details of the work proposed, costs and funding are as follows:

- Structural works comprised of wire rope and steel rail permeable groynes, hard engineering works in those areas that are now at extreme risk of stopbank failure from lateral erosion from the river and extensive planting of a variety of tree and shrub species to help bind both the river edge and berm areas to reinforce the berms and protect them from lateral erosion.
- Costs for the three year remediation works are estimated at \$8.8M.
- \$6.16M representing 70% of the cost of the works will be met by the targeted ratepayers contributing to the Heretaunga Plains Flood Control Scheme targeted rates and will be funded by loans for \$5.5M, redirected capital works budgets and schemes reserves for the balance. This will require an increase in targeted rates for the scheme of \$125,000 (10%) in 2005/06 and \$138,000 in 2006/07.
- \$2.64M representing 30% of the cost of the works will be met by Council's general funding sources which will be funded \$940,000 from Council's general funding operating reserves; \$500,000 from Council's general funding disaster damage reserve and loans totalling 1.2M. These loans will require a rate increase in the 2007/08 financial year of \$120,000 which will be an increase in the general rate which is levied on land value across all rateable properties in the region. Based on the general rate at 1 July 2007 this is estimated to be an additional 3.8% increase.

Hawke's Bay Regional Council is proposing this work programme be completed so the risk of flooding is reduced as quickly as possible and the current level of service provided by the Heretaunga Plains flood control scheme for the Ngaruroro, Tutaekuri and Tukituki rivers is reinstated at the earliest opportunity.

A cautious estimate of the amount of damage that could be created by stopbank breaches in key parts of the Ngaruroro, Tutaekuri and Tukituki river systems is \$426M. This excludes any allowance for damage to publicly or utility owned infrastructure as well as the social and emotional damage that would be caused from such flooding. This is the reason for this proposal and the associated amendment to Council's Long Term Council Community Plan 2004-2014.

2.0 ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

Council has undertaken an analysis, as appropriate, of the reasonably practicable options associated with this proposal. The analysis and results were:

a. Actual Works

Rock or concrete was considered for all the remedial works and rock was considered instead of concrete where concrete is proposed to be used. However, because of cost factors Council has not proposed the use of rock.

b. 'Do Nothing' Option

Council has a statutory responsibility to maintain the specified level of service for the Scheme, and so does not consider a 'do nothing' option exists.

c. Funding Options

Council does not believe it is reasonably practicable to increase rates to avoid the need for borrowing or to alter the split between targeted and general funding rates for funding the remedial works.

Council has considered the option of extending loan repayments beyond 10 years but has not proposed this as it wishes to retain funding flexibility for further unforeseen developments related to the damage from willow sawfly which a shorter borrowing period will allow.

Council has considered deferring all other capital works related to the Heretaunga Plains Flood Control Scheme to reduce as far as possible the impact of the willow sawfly remedial works programme but has not proposed this as it believes it must balance the needs for ongoing improvements to the scheme against the urgent requirement to address the willow sawfly damage.

3.0 OTHER INFORMATION

This Summary serves also as a public notice of the Statement of Proposal for public consultation.

The complete Statement of Proposal may be inspected:

- At Council offices at 102 Vautier Street, Napier, and its other offices at Guppy Road Taradale, Takapau Road in Waipukurau and Freyberg Street in Wairoa.
- At public libraries in Waipukurau, Waipawa, Hastings, Flaxmere, Havelock North, Taradale, Napier and Wairoa.
- On Council's website www.hbrc.govt.nz
- By phoning and requesting a copy from Toni Little at the Council (06 835 9200 Ext 9412 or 0800 108 838 (for callers outside the Hastings / Napier toll free zone).

Submissions can now be made to the Council on this proposal and must be received by 4pm Friday, 15 April 2005 (Private Bag 6006, Napier, email action@hbrc.govt.nz or 102 Vautier Street, Napier).

