

Report to: Westport Flood Resilience Steering Group	Meeting Date: 2 February 2024
Title of Item: Westport Flood Protection Scheme Works Update & Reallocation of Review Funds	
Report by: Peter Blackwood	
Reviewed by: Darryl Lew	

Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide the Westport Flood Resilience Steering Group with an update on the Westport Flood Protection Scheme works and recommend transfer of the money allocated to the Tonkin and Taylor Review to the Communications Budget.

Report Summary

The Department of Internal Affairs allocate \$300,000 plus GST for the Independent Review of the Tonkin and Taylor Report into the Westport Flood Resilience project. This review has been successfully completed at a total cost of only \$72,989 plus GST. The Committee's endorsement is sought to reallocate balance of \$227,011 plus GST to the Communications budget of the project.

As a general introduction Council is very focussed on delivering some initial flood protection to Westport this financial year. This will provide some immediate relief from flood risks. After assessing the available information it looks like we are most likely to achieve the two Stage One jobs, McKenna's and Cats Creek-Abattoir drain. Some part of Avery's is possible. Floating Lagoon requires some consultation to solve.

In parallel Council is progressing the detailed initial and final design for the remainder of the scheme. The geotechnical design is well underway and is a very important part of the investigations in order to provide a secure flood protection scheme.

The overall aim is to have the mitigation works to prevent most direct threats from the Buller River and some from the Orowaiti completed by June 2025. Most remaining works will be completed by June 2026 with 90% completion aimed for by that date.

Government did not include funding for the Carters Beach flood mitigation in its approval. This is being further investigated to determine the most expedient path forward to mitigate flooding there. Options will also be investigated for individual flood mitigation in the Snodgrass area.

Draft Recommendations

- a. **Resolve** to receive the report.
- b. **Agree** to reallocate \$227,011 plus GST from the underspent budget for the independent review of the Tonkin & Taylor report to the Westport Flood Resilience Project Communications budget.

Issues and Discussion

Reallocation of a Portion of the Independent Review Funds

The Department of Internal Affairs allocate \$300,000 plus GST for the Independent Review of the Tonkin and Taylor Report into the Westport Flood Resilience project. This review has been

successfully completed at a total cost of only \$72,989 plus GST. The principal findings of the review were:

Key conclusions of the work we have undertaken so far include:

- The Concept Design was sound for the development of a Business Case but will need further refinement in subsequent project phases before achieving final design status.
- Agreement has been reached that all 18 technical matters tabled in the Tonkin + Taylor review were either resolvable through the provision of additional information or can be addressed in subsequent project phases (mostly at Preliminary Design).
- None of the technical matters raised by Tonkin + Taylor should result in the withholding of funds and/or slow progression to the next phases.
- Government has allocated no funding for Carters Beach flood protection. These works have minimal effect on Buller Bridge flood levels. However, protection at Carters Beach is required mitigation for increased flood levels from protection measures proposed at Westport.
- During Preliminary Design some refinement of the flood mitigation strategies will be required including consideration of an enumerated list.

The recommendation of the TAG were:

As a result of the work undertaken by the TAG to date we recommend that the Kawatiri Westport flood Resilience Project Business Case proceed to the next stage of preliminary design and that WCRC put into place a process to consider the refinements to the Better Business Case detailed in section 6 Conclusions of this report.

The project Communications budget is currently short of funds. Consequently, the Committee's endorsement is sought to reallocate balance of \$227,011 plus GST to the Communications budget of the project.

To date \$58,586 plus GST has been expended on the Stage One investigations (previously called the "quick wins"). This figure does not include staff time. Significant future expenditure in the financial year will include the Prodrill Geotechnical drilling investigations, further design and construction of the McKenna and Cats Creek stopbanks.

Past Three Months Progress

- A very significant amount of progress has been made on the implementation of Stage One (previously called the "quick wins").
- A draft Engineering Design Report has been completed by Davis Ogilvie & Partners Ltd. Together with this report preliminary design plans have been completed for all four of the Stage One works.
- Initial geotechnical designs have been received for all four works.
- Quotations have been received and a company Prodrill Ltd commissioned for the borehole drilling for these investigations.
- The Environmental Assessment of the proposed Stage One works at McKenna's and Cats Creek has commenced. This involves consultation and assessments of landscape, environmental, tangata whenua and other environmental factors. This is being managed by Coll Consultants.
- An assessment has commenced into the quantum of impacts on properties outside the stopbanks. The design flood levels at these locations with and without the proposed scheme

have been assessed for both the 1% AEP (1 in 100 year) current climate and 1% AEP future climate in 2120 under RCP6.0.

- Council has decided that for the Stage One Averys stopbank the design should be to the 1% AEP level with 600mm freeboard and an allowance of 200mm for climate change. This will retain the 1% AEP level of service for about 30 years and give the community the opportunity to consider adaptation strategies for the impacts of climate change in this area – where both groundwater levels and rainfall intensities will increase, creating risks separate to those from direct river flooding.
- A Construction Engineer Mr Jordan Mandery has been appointed. Jordan brings a good set of experience in construction of flood mitigation works.

Next Three Months Planned Progress

- The borehole drilling will be significantly advanced enabling the detailed geotechnical design to be conducted.
- The final design and consents will be sought for the two proposed Stage One works.
- Final plans and construction documents will be completed, and tenders called for the two proposed Stage One works.
- Preliminary design will also continue on the other two proposed Stage One works – Avery's and Floating Lagoon.
- Design prep for the overall scheme will continue. Floor levels of those properties outside the stopbanks will be surveyed and the flood risk to these properties assessed.

Reallocation of the Budget for the Independent Review of the Tonkin & Taylor Report

Other Important Matters

- The wave buoy has been purchased. This will measure wave sizes, wave periods and other important parameters and will be located shortly offshore from Westport. It will give real time online data that will be invaluable to both boaties and scientists.
- We are shortly meeting with NIWA to facilitate the real-time operation of the flood-forecasting model for the Buller River. This is progressing well.

Considerations

The biggest challenges and breakthroughs in this Quarter

- The biggest challenge has been calling quotations, assessing and engaging the borehole drilling. We are very satisfied with the engagement of Prodrill for this work.
- Good progress has been made on formulating the plan for the assessment of environmental effects and the process for obtaining the necessary Resource Consents, particularly with good liaison between the two Councils.

Implications/Risks

None. These are flood mitigation works.

Significance and Engagement Policy Assessment

There are no issues within this report which trigger matters in this policy.

Tangata whenua views

Ongoing consultation, especially through Westport Steering Group

Views of affected parties

Ongoing consultation.

Financial implications

Nothing to report

Legal implications

Nothing to report

Attachments

None