

5/2/8

# Environment Bay of Plenty

**Report From:** Bruce Crabbe  
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**Date:** 25 July 2007

**File Reference:** 5680 01

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## The Chairman and Members

### Operations Committee

### Meeting of 2 August 2007

## Edgecumbe/Lower Rangitaiki River Flood Mitigation Project – Business Case Presentation

*The purpose of this report is to seek council's approval of the Business Case application for Government funding toward the Edgecumbe and Lower Rangitaiki River flood mitigation project.*

### 1 Introduction

Following the disastrous flood events of 2004 and 2005 Helen Clarke invited Whakatane District Council (WDC) and Environment Bay of Plenty to work together to investigate flood mitigation options for Rangitaiki and Whakatane Rivers and to jointly prepare a Business Case application for Government funding toward the remedial works required.

The first phase of this was to investigate the risk reduction options available to improve the security of the flood protection systems. Opus Consultants were contracted to this task and presented the "Edgecumbe Urban & Rural Flood Hazard Mitigation Options Report" to a joint meeting of WDC and Environment Bay of Plenty councillor's on 8 December 2006.

The attached draft Business Case is the second phase of this project. Cherie Flintoff, who is a senior associate of Allen & Clarke (policy and regulatory specialists), was selected to facilitate the business case drawing significantly on resources and information from the council's. Cherie has a Masters Degree in Social Science and has extensive experience in policy advisory roles with central Government. The business case has been written and formatted to fit closely with central Government requirements.

The business case also includes proposed engineering works at the Whakatane suburb of Awatapu and at the Otarawairere/Ohope escarpment. Both of these projects will be managed entirely by WDC and have no effect on Environment Bay of Plenty finances.

25 July 2007

## 2 Proposed works

In summary, the Edgecumbe and lower Rangitaiki River flood mitigation proposals comprise low level stopbanking and stormwater pumping around the perimeter of Edgecumbe Township, as well as improvements to flood conveyance down the Rangitaiki Floodway that has benefits to the wider scheme flood protection system. Also included in the business case claim to Government is the geotechnical remedial works that are progressing to minimise the risk of seepage failures occurring through or under the stopbank structures.

Whilst the overall flood mitigation project is being developed jointly between the two council's; management and rate funding of the proposed works has been separated as follows:

| Scheme Component                           | Estimated cost   | Central Government | Whakatane District Council | Environment Bay of Plenty | Others             |
|--|--|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Stopbanks, Reids Floodway and Control gate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Geotechnical works \$1.5 m</li> <li>- Floodway widening \$5.5 m</li> <li>- Spillway control gates \$3.1m</li> </ul> | √                  |                            | √                         | Transit NZ         |
| Edgecumbe SE                               | \$381,000 (\$690,000 with Transpower works)  | √                  | √                          |                           | Transpower         |
| Edgecumbe NE                               | \$809,000  | √                  | √                          |                           | Fonterra Eastpack? |
| Edgecumbe SW                               | \$818,000  | √                  | √                          |                           |                    |
| Edgecumbe NW                               | \$890,000  | √                  | √                          |                           |                    |

## 3 Consultation

Considerable consultation has taken place during the progress of this project:

- 8 December 2006; joint councillor meeting to discuss the engineering options report
- 20 February 2007; Meeting with Transpower to discuss proposals and investigate extra protection works to provide a higher level of protection for the electricity substation. Further meetings and discussions have subsequently taken place with Transpower staff to progress proposals.
- All landowners affected by the works proposals have been visited by Opus to discuss the likely impacts of the works.
- Several meetings have been held with Transit NZ to discuss the proposals and to integrate their Reids Central Canal bridge improvements.
- Letters to On Track to keep them informed of proposals and impact on their infrastructure.
- 5 March 2007; consultation meeting with Rangitaiki-Tarawera Liaison group.
- 3 April 2007; consultation meeting with Fonterra to discuss proposals in their area.
- 12 July 2007; Joint councillor workshop to discuss the Business Case.

25 July 2007

- 23 July 2007; Field inspections of works proposals with the Chairperson of the Edgecumbe Community Board.

Further Planned consultation:

- 1 August 2007; Further consultation meeting with Fonterra.
- 9 August 2007; Open day for Edgecumbe (and surrounding) residents at the Edgecumbe Community Hall. Staff from WDC, Environment Bay of Plenty and Opus to attend.

In addition WDC have been progressing consultation with the Edgecumbe Community Board.

Consultation with ratepayers concerning the likely impact on their future rates remains to be fairly difficult at this stage as the final position can't be estimated until the level of Government contribution is known.

4

## Where to from here?

The first objective is to get the draft business case adopted by both WDC and Environment Bay of Plenty. WDC councillors attending the joint councillor workshop meeting on 12 July 2007 'approved' the business case subject to carrying out further consultation with Edgecumbe urban residents (planned for 9 August 2007) and then formal adoption by their council.

The next objective is to present the finalised business case to the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management and Department of Internal Affairs. It is important that it is demonstrated that the two council's are collaborating closely on this project. Accordingly it has been suggested that the business case be delivered by a delegation comprised of selected councillors and senior management staff from each of the councils.

## Recommendation

**That the Regional Council:**

- 1 **Receives the report.**
- 2 **Notes that the decision(s) recommended below have been assessed in accordance with Environment Bay of Plenty's Policy on Significance as having a low degree of significance.**
- 3 **Adopts the draft Business Case funding application for financial assistance toward the Edgecumbe/Lower Rangitaiki River Flood Mitigation Project.**
- 4 **Appoints a delegation to combine with WDC representatives to meet with appropriate Government Ministers to deliver the Business Case.**



Bruce Crabbe  
**Operations Manager**

**for Group Manager Rivers and Drainage**