

Report to Integrated Catchment Management Committee February 2016 – To be received

File No: 75 00 01

Date: 11 February 2016

To: Chief Executive Officer

From: Director, Integrated Catchment Management

Subject: Rationale for Infrastructure 'Listing' Request for Waikato Region Flood Schemes

Section: **B (for recommendation to council)**

Purpose

This paper sets out the rationale for applying to the Ministry for the Environment for listing of flood protection infrastructure in Appendix 3 National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM). The NPS-FM allows the opportunity for infrastructure managers to seek exemptions from the NPS-FM where existing water quality of a freshwater management unit (FMU) is already below the national bottom line and the regional council considers it appropriate to set the freshwater objective below the national bottom line because existing infrastructure either completely or in part contributes to the level of existing water quality (policy CA3). Staff seeks the committee's guidance as to the whether the application for listing is an appropriate response to NPS-FM and whether it wishes to recommend the endorsement of the application to council.

Recommendation:

1. That the report 'Rationale for Infrastructure 'Listing' Request for Waikato Region Flood Schemes' (Doc #3621322 dated 11 February 2016) be received for information.
2. That the proposed request for council's regional flood protection assets to be listed in Appendix 3 of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) be recommended for endorsement by the council.

Background

The Waikato Regional Council (the council) is an asset manager of flood protection infrastructure that provides the region with an agreed level of service for community protection of towns, community assets such as state highways, telecommunications links, and economic productivity.

The application for infrastructure listing in Appendix 3 of the NPS-FM allows the council to continue to deliver its levels of service pending the outcomes of council's Resource Management Act (RMA) planning processes.

The council is focussed on water quality improvements through integrated catchment management processes including policy and implementation interventions. Any exemption, if

granted, is not expected to impede that process but rather enable the levels of service currently provided to the community to be taken into account in the regional context.

Attached for committee members information is the report that discusses the background for a request to be listed in Appendix 3 of the NPS-FM. A listing of councils flood protection infrastructure does not automatically confer exemption but rather affords a process by which communities could engage with the ministry to consider the relative merits of doing so.

The NPS-FM can be found on the ministry's website via the following link:

<http://www.mfe.govt.nz/fresh-water/freshwater-management-nps>

Clare Crickett

Director, Integrated Catchment Management

Attachments

- (1) Attached is the 'Rationale for Infrastructure 'Listing' Request for Waikato Region Flood Schemes' (document #3621322).