



# The Peninsula Project

Working together to protect our people,  
property and environment

*Kia mau ki te mauri o te taiao o Hauraki*



## Stream maintenance update for Tapu ratepayers



**March 2013**

### In this newsletter

- An overview of the recent meeting on stream maintenance held at Tapu.
- Stream maintenance works carried out in the Tapu Stream over the 2011/12 financial year.
- Work being done this summer.

## Background

In 2004 the Peninsula Project was established to improve the health of the environment and reduce flood risks on the Coromandel Peninsula. This was triggered by the devastating effect of the 2002 weather bomb.

Given the impact the weather bomb had on the Thames Coast, addressing flooding problems in Tapu and other communities on this coast has been an initial priority.

One of the first key steps we took was to introduce a rate to carry out stream maintenance works on Tapu, Te Puru, Waiomu, Pohue and Coromandel streams. This rate, which has been in place in Tapu since 2004, enables us to regularly remove sand, gravel, built up silt, plant pests and other obstructions from the stream channel so the water can flow freely.

## Community meeting

A public meeting organised by ratepayers was held in Tapu last November to discuss the stream maintenance rate. Regional council staff also attended that meeting to share information and clarify issues raised. The financial and funding information provided at that meeting is included in this newsletter.

During the meeting, there was much discussion about the need for the maintenance programme and whether it should continue. Regional council staff advised that if the community wants to end the programme, and the associated rate, a change could be made via the council's Long Term Plan process. However, a number of factors need to be considered, including the following.

- Regular maintenance essentially keeps the stream in a good robust condition so that it can carry high volumes of water should a flood event occur.
- If the rate were removed there wouldn't be any specific funds available for Tapu works. In a storm event, for example, Tapu would be subject to prioritisation along with other rivers and streams on the peninsula.

Feedback from some people at the meeting was that the rate should continue for another two years and then be reviewed.

The community elected to form a committee specifically to liaise with the council over stream maintenance. Following the meeting, Bruce Efford, Sacha Sank, Carol Nanning, Chris Snowden and Mike Blackler were elected to the committee, and Carol Nanning was identified as the key liaison person with the regional council. It is understood that the committee is still determining how it will function and protocols are yet to be confirmed regarding liaison with council.

## Expenditure summary 2007/08 to 2011/12

	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	Total
Available budget	\$19,000	\$19,000	\$19,000	\$17,000	\$17,400	\$91,400
Expenditure	\$22,377	\$20,000	\$9,000	\$2,800	\$6,261	\$60,438

## Funding

Stream maintenance work is funded from a combination of local and regional sources, as set out below.

Source	Percentage	2012/13 budget
Waikato region	15	2,810
Coromandel Peninsula	20	3,747
Tapu community	65	12,177
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>\$18,735</b>

## Work completed in 2011/12

Item	Description	Cost
Labour	Inspections, arranging works and materials, consent compliance, enquiry response etc	\$3,339.00
Materials	Grass seed and weed spray	\$253.00
Contracted services	Trucking and supply of topsoil, bob cat/harrowing to level area, seeding labour	\$1,880.00
Vehicle running		\$459.00
Rates collection		\$330.00
Credit	As detailed below	-\$2,560.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$3,701.00</b>

At the community meeting, some concerns were raised about material that had been removed from Cemetery Point as part of the stream maintenance works. Council staff made a commitment to investigate this and we acknowledge that it may not have been clear at the time that the stream maintenance fund would be used to fund this work. On that basis the cost of this work (\$2,560) will be removed from the Tapu stream maintenance expenditure for last financial year. That means the expenditure for 2011/12 identified above will reduce, and a credit will be made against the Tapu account.

## Work proposed for this summer (2012/13)

The budget for this financial year (July 2012-June 2013) is \$18,735 in total. This will cover maintenance works, supervision, rate collection and overhead costs. Should the full budget not be required it will remain in reserve to cover the cost of works that may be needed in the event of a significant future flood.

It should be noted that the NZ Transport Agency covers the cost of removing sediment and other material that accumulates under the bridge.

In addition to ongoing stream maintenance works that may arise due to flood deposition, it is proposed that this summer we will undertake:

- pest vegetation removal works and planting (estimate \$1,700)
- removal of gravel material adjacent to the SH25 bridge and complete foreshore deposition with material removed, in accordance with our resource consent conditions (Tapu community portion estimate \$2,790)
- removal of gravel island upstream of the bridge and remedy adjacent bank erosion (estimate \$600).

### For more information

If you need more information, please call Waikato Regional Council's freephone 0800 800 401 and ask for Julie Beaufill or Kerry Smith. Alternatively, you can write to:

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Private Bag 3038  
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The Peninsula Project partner responsible for stream maintenance is: