

The Peninsula Project

Working together to protect our people, property and environment

Kia mau ki te mauri o te taiao o Hauraki



Coromandel flood protection update

Information for Coromandel town ratepayers and residents



Karaka Stream stopbank work, 2010

Background

In 2004 the Peninsula Project was established to improve the health of the environment and reduce flood risks on the Coromandel Peninsula.

Although work to address flooding problems has been carried out across the peninsula, Coromandel town and some Thames coast communities have been an initial priority.

This newsletter gives you an overview of the stream maintenance works carried out in the Whangarahi and Karaka streams over the 2009/10 financial year, and capital works (infrastructure) completed on the Karaka Stream. It also provides information on recent rating changes.

Stream maintenance

A maintenance rate has been in place in the Coromandel catchment since 2004. This rate enables us to regularly remove sand, gravel, built up silt, plant pests and other obstructions from the stream channel.

Work completed in 2009/10

During the past financial year, (July 2009-June 2010) two events of reasonable size were experienced in Coromandel which created significant stream bed disturbance.

As a result, the following maintenance works were carried out:

- silt and gravel was removed from several sites including below Wharf Street bridge, from Hauraki Road, Kapanga Road and above the Greenfields subdivision
- blockages were removed from the stream channel at several sites
- erosion control works to stabilise the stream banks were carried out at several sites
- material has been deposited along the foreshore at the toe of the bank at Jacks Point, with good results.

Work proposed for 2010/11

This financial year (July 2010-June 2011), we propose to carry out the following stream maintenance work, provided no flood events occur. Any work needed to

repair flood damage will take priority over the work identified below:

- further removal of material from the stream channel as and when required
- further erosion control works at key sites, such as below the retirement village
- further vegetation management, such as removal of willows.

The \$74,000 budget for 2010/11 will cover maintenance works, supervision, rate collection, depreciation and overhead costs. Any unused budget will remain in reserve to cover works that may be needed in the event of a significant future flood.

Karaka Stream stopbanks and floodwalls

Work is almost complete on flood protection works along the Karaka Stream. Stopbanks and floodwalls have been constructed on the left bank of the stream upstream and downstream of the Kapanga Road bridge. These works will provide protection for the upper and middle Coromandel CBD in a significant rainfall event.

Unfortunately the weather has delayed the progress of tidy up restoration works (of lawns, for example), but Environment Waikato is committed to seeing this completed to an acceptable standard.

In terms of cost, the work is expected to come in on budget at around \$185,000. Rating to fund the work will commence from 1 July 2010.

Building/planning controls

Proposed planning controls under Thames-Coromandel District Council's (TCDC) Natural Hazard Variation to the district plan to reduce inappropriate development in flood prone areas are due to be finalised this calendar year.

Government funding

In 2004 central government committed funds to support Thames coast communities with flood mitigation measures. Environment Waikato and TCDC received \$1.58 million towards 25 per cent of the cost of any engineering works (such as Karaka channel protection) and 30 per cent of the cost of any property purchase (such as Albert Street).

The original contract was granted an extension this year, making the funding available to 30 June 2011 and providing more time for completion of works. Any part of the grant or interest that has not been used for the project must be returned at that time.

In addition, the Department of Conservation (DOC) was granted a \$4.7 million dollar package to carry out animal pest control on Crown land in the upper catchments of the affected communities.

Animal pest control

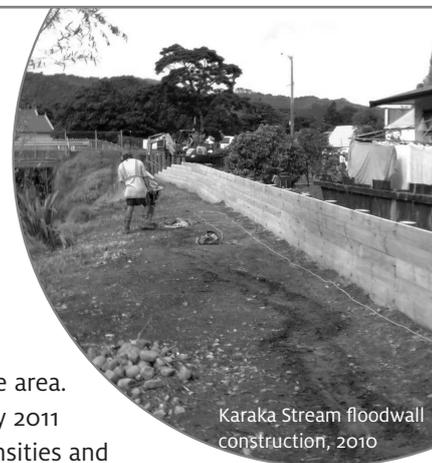
Over the last five years Environment Waikato and DOC have carried out animal pest control operations between the Kauaeranga Valley and Whangapoua Road near Coromandel town. This work has been extremely successful, resulting in a reduction in possum and goat numbers, more leaves on trees and improved understorey. This is also supported by members of the public reporting increased bird numbers along the Thames coast. The project will now move into a maintenance phase, with operations occurring around every 5 years. Ongoing maintenance is crucial to ensure that pest numbers remain low, supporting stabilisation

For more information

If you need more information, please call Environment Waikato's freephone 0800 800 401 and ask for Julie Beaufill or Roger Spooner.

Alternatively, you can write to:
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of the upper catchments and reducing flood effects downstream in smaller rainfall events. Control work originally planned to the south of Coromandel town this coming year has been deferred, as monitoring showed low numbers of possums in the area. Further monitoring in early 2011 will determine possum densities and gauge whether control is needed.



Rating changes

Last year it became clear the stream maintenance rating system in Coromandel town was not in complete accordance with Environment Waikato's funding policy, which recognises direct and indirect beneficiaries. The rating system was changed as a part of the 2009-2019 Long Term Plan process to bring it into line with that policy. The result was a significant increase in rates in the 2009/10 financial year for properties receiving direct benefit in Coromandel town. Community feedback was that people did not agree with the resulting rating impacts. It was felt that the change put an unreasonable burden on ratepayers in the direct benefit areas and did not recognise the benefit of the works received by the wider community.

A review was carried out and a proposal to return to the way in which the work was previously funded included in the 2010/11 Draft Annual Plan. Overall this was supported and as of 1 July 2010 the entire community will fund the local share (65 per cent of the total cost) of stream maintenance work on a flat capital value rate basis.

It should be noted that the rates charged for this work from 2004 to 2009 were in accordance with information provided to the community during consultation in 2004, and Environment Waikato only collected the funding required to complete the agreed work programme over that time.

State highway bridges

The NZ Transport Authority (NZTA) have completed works on the Tararu bridge and hope to have substantially completed works on the Te Puru bridge by the end of August 2010. Following completion of the Te Puru bridge Environment Waikato will commence construction of stopbanks and floodwalls in that community in early 2011. This will see the completion of significant flood protection works on the Thames coast under the Peninsula Project.

The Peninsula Project partners responsible for flood protection are:

