

The Peninsula Project

Working together to protect our people, property and environment

Kia mau ki te mauri o te taiao o Hauraki



Te Puru flood protection update

Information for Te Puru ratepayers and residents



Te Puru Stream

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, Te Puru and other Thames coast communities have been an initial priority.

This newsletter gives you an overview of the stream maintenance works carried out in the Te Puru Stream over the 2009/10 financial year, and details stopbank works we aim to undertake this coming summer. It also provides information on recent rating changes.

Stream maintenance

A maintenance rate has been in place in the Te Puru catchments 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

Last financial year (July 2009-June 2010), silt and gravel build up were removed from McCarthy's Corner. The stream maintenance consent for these works was renewed, as the original consent, held by Thames-Coromandel District Council (TCDC), had expired.

Work proposed for 2010/11

This financial year (July 2010-June 2011) will see a significant amount of capital works (infrastructure) including flood protection structures (floodwalls and stopbanks). Downstream of the state highway, instream works will strengthen the existing rock bank protection. Any maintenance required in this reach will be carried out in conjunction with the capital works.

Stream maintenance works arising from flood deposition will take place as usual. The \$37,000 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.

Please note that the NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) covers the cost of removing sediment and other material that accumulates under the bridge.

Stopbank/ floodwall works

Agreement was reached in 2006 with the Te Puru community for the construction of stopbanks and floodwalls along the Te Puru stream to protect the community from flooding. Since then, Environment Waikato has been working on the many components required to make this project happen. Over the last year substantial progress has been made including:

- gaining resource consents from Environment Waikato and TCDC for stopbank construction

- authorisation from NZ Historic Places Trust to modify or disturb any sites found
- finalisation of detailed construction plans
- drafting of contract specifications in preparation for tendering
- further discussions with key landowners/stakeholders
- agreement from the majority of landowners who will be directly affected by the stopbanks/floodwalls for access.

Unfortunately delays have occurred while agreement is reached with two landowners to access their land for construction of the stopbanks. This has meant that construction has been deferred from last summer until early 2011.

State highway bridges

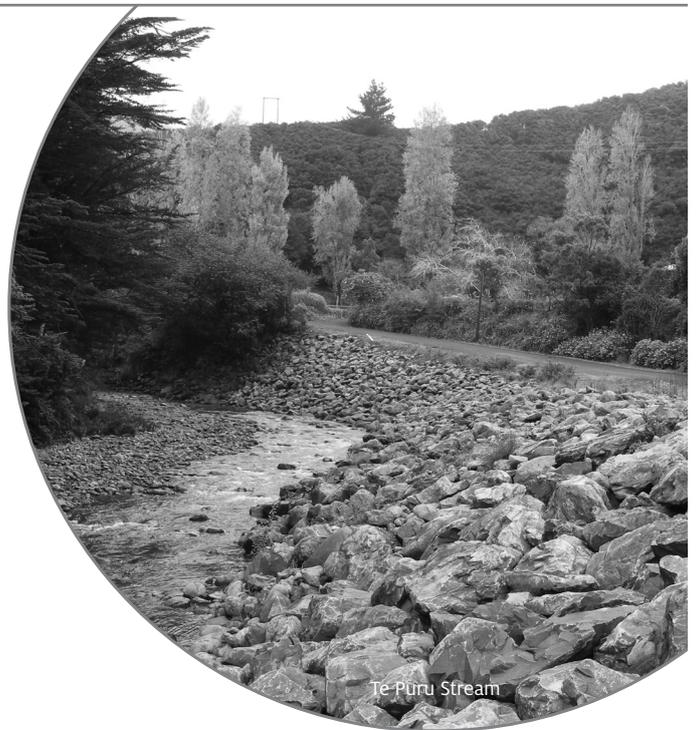
NZTA has completed works on the Tararu bridge and hope to have largely completed works on the Te Puru bridge by the end of August 2010. Following completion of the Te Puru bridge, Environment Waikato will commence construction of stopbanks and floodwalls in early 2011. This will mark the completion of significant flood protection works on the Thames coast under the Peninsula Project.

Building/planning controls

Proposed planning controls under TCDC's 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 Te Puru channel protection) and 30 per cent of the cost of any property purchase (such as Waiomu campground).



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 of the upper catchments and reducing flood effects downstream in smaller rainfall events. The next operation in the Te Puru catchment is likely to be in 2014/15.

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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The Peninsula Project partners responsible for flood protection are:

