



# The Peninsula Project

Working together to protect our people, property and environment

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



## Tapu flood protection update

Information for Tapu ratepayers and residents



Tapu bridge

### 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, Tapu 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 Tapu Stream over the 2010/11 financial year, and outlines the work we hope to complete this coming year.

### Stream maintenance

A maintenance rate has been in place in the Tapu 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 2010/11

Last financial year (July 2010-June 2011), work which was planned, such as vegetation management, did not happen due to the Cyclone Wilma weather event and reprioritisation of works. It was pleasing to note that during this storm the stream system performed well. As such, little work was undertaken on the stream within the community rating area. Works were carried out on properties further up the catchment following the cyclone.

#### Expenditure

	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	Total
Budget	\$19,000	\$19,000	\$19,000	\$17,000	\$74,000
Expenditure	\$22,377	\$20,000	\$9,000	\$2,800	\$55,177

The identified budget for this financial year (July 2011-June 2012) is \$17,400 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.

Note that the NZ Transport Agency covers the cost of removing sediment and other material that accumulates under the bridge.

#### Work proposed for 2011/12

In addition to ongoing stream maintenance works that may arise due to flood deposition, it is proposed that:

- further vegetation control be done in the stream channel if needed
- willow removal be undertaken approximately 500m above the bridge
- spraying of weeds be carried out above the bridge along with some restoration planting.

## Building/planning controls

Proposed planning controls to reduce inappropriate development in flood prone areas are soon to be finalised by Thames-Coromandel District Council. A hearing for Plan Change 3 was held in June 2011 and the commissioner's decision approved by the council in September. The decision has been publicly notified and submitters have the right to appeal. Once the appeal period has finished the plan change will be made operative and the District Plan and planning maps amended to reflect the decision.

## Animal pest control

Since 2004 Waikato Regional Council and the Department of Conservation 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. The project has now moved into a maintenance phase, with operations occurring around every five years. Ongoing maintenance is crucial to ensure that pest numbers remain low.

Maintenance work is planned for the area between Manaia and the Whangapoua Road next calendar year and we are currently consulting with a number of organisations that have an interest in possum control in the area. Consultation will also be undertaken with landowners and occupiers in the proposed control area to determine which control methods can be used on their properties. Possum control will contribute to the overall catchment health of the area, protect and enhance native biodiversity and benefit agricultural production.

Goat control this year is being carried out in the Kauaeranga Valley and in the Waiwawa catchment to provide a buffer to reinvasion on the Thames Coast.

The next operation in the Tapu catchment is likely to be in 2014/15.



Tapu community and floodwall

## For more information

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

Alternatively, you can write to:  
Waikato Regional Council  
Private Bag 3038  
Waikato Mail Centre  
Hamilton 3240

The Peninsula Project  
partners responsible for flood  
protection are:

