

2005/06 Annual Plan Submission - Received by Email

Name: Upper Kaputone Residents Group

CC:

Sent: Sun 15/05/2005 16:30

Your Submission:

Submission to CCC Budget Committee From Upper Kaputone Residents Group

Who we are:

The Upper Kaputone Residents Group was formed some 3 years ago from property owners / rate payers whose properties adjoin the Kaputone Stream reaches west of the Main North Rd. The group was formed to take whatever action is required to reinstate baseflow in the stream.

What we know:

- Stream flow abruptly ceased coinciding with the construction of service trenches / ponds for Northwood and with Clearwater.
- Consents for these developments were granted with little or no regard for effect on groundwater flows to Kaputone Stream except in respect of drainage.
- In 1996, Council Greenspace Unit selected Kaputone Stream as a priority for enhancement work, with a view to native plantings to encourage bird life as a link between the Styx project and the Groynes, as well as providing shade for aquatic life forms. A considerable effort involving substantial sums was made to this end including extensive plantings, blueprint plans for property owners, rock walling, see-through fencing on street culverts and much else. Shortly after that, the stream died with the advent of Northwood and Clearwater.
- There is now general recognition that the major causative factors in loss of baseflow in the stream are: ~
 - [a] Extensive interference with groundwater flows during Northwood / Clearwater developments.
 - [b] Lower average water levels in the Waimakariri River.

Funding is required to reinstate the baseflow in the Kaputone.
Guardians of the Styx are also making a submission in support of funding.

Previous reports:

Copious reports have been issued from 2001 onwards on the subject of de-watering of the Upper Kaputone, commencing with an ecologist's report of April 2001, which advocated immediate remedial action. That report was ignored. Two more extensive reports from CCC authored by Nina Nikora spelt out the possible causes and these led to funding for research.

Data collection:

In the last year, collaboration between CCC, Ecan and Lincoln University saw wells installed in Northwood monitoring groundwater flows via automatic transducers reporting levels at 15-minute intervals. Additionally, the Residents Group has continued stream flow monitoring and is now into its 3rd year of provision of data. Also, at the Residents Group suggestion, a re-survey of streambed levels has been completed; with the finding that considerable silting has occurred, particularly where the stream flows through Englefield Reserve.

Baseflow Remedial Options:

The options to return flow to the Kaputone are as presented by the CCC [Nikora] 12.05.05

- [1] Artesian groundwater well [own pressure, no pumping]
- [2] Shallow groundwater well [no pressure, pumping required]
- [3] Pump groundwater flows ex Northwood central pon
- [4] Take surface flows ex South Branch Waimakariri River.

Considerable investigative work will be required to determine which of the options for baseflow reinstatement are most appropriate, together with more thoroughly considered cost estimates, both capital and maintenance. Consents will be required in most cases.

Immediate action:

At a meeting 12.05.05 with CCC, Ecan and Residents Group, it was decided that the most prudent immediate action is to remove without delay, the excess sediment from the streambed at Englefield Reserve.

No-one expects this work to cause baseflow to recommence. It would, however, be necessary work in conjunction with one of the remedial options above. Sediment removal will be required in some other locations on the stream, additional to Englefield Reserve.

Funding Requirements:

- A balance of funds from last years application, \$17,000 will almost suffice to do this work, currently estimated at \$22,000. [-\$5,000]
- This submission seeks funding for \$50,000 to cover: ~
 - [1] The estimated balance cost of sediment removal in Englefield Reserve [\$5,000]
 - [2] The estimated cost of sediment removal in some other locations
 - [3] The estimated cost of investigations into options for baseflow reinstatement.

Committee hearings:

A representative of our group would like to attend the hearings. Would you please confirm to b.anderson@actrix.co.nz