

21. ESTUARY “GREEN EDGE” PLANNING

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Corporate Plan Output: Liquid Waste	

The purpose of this report is to inform the Council of progress with planning for a co-ordinated “Green Edge” for the western edge of the Avon-Heathcote estuary.

HISTORY

Five units of the Council have had an interest in the western edge of the Avon-Heathcote estuary. These are:

Streets	traffic patterns, bridging options
EPPU	Cobb Cottage, land zoning, planning co-ordination
Parks	ecology, open spaces, recreation facilities
Waste Management	wastewater treatment plant, Linwood paddocks management
Water Services	waterways, wetlands, stormwater treatment

So far there has not been a co-ordinated plan that ties together the interests of all these units.

1999 GREEN EDGE PLAN

In August 1998, when considering desirable options for wastewater disposal, the Council requested a co-ordinated plan for the western edge of the estuary. A contract was let to Woodward Clyde to provide a plan that tied together the relevant Council interests and suggested a way forward. A key driver was the need to make decisions shortly on the future of the wastewater consent and therefore the need to understand how that could impact on the other interests and opportunities in the area. A copy of the plan and report has been circulated to City Services Committee members and a plan is attached as an appendix to this report.

The result so far is an attractive landscaping plan that recognises the ecological values of the estuary environs. With construction of suitable walkways it could provide a highly desirable area of public access and expand the value of the estuary as a passive recreation, scientific and educational experience.

The report stops short of resolving roading options regarding the possible closure of Humphrey’s Drive to through-traffic, and the location of Ferrymead Bridge in relation to Cobb Cottage. It also leaves unresolved the competition between sports fields and wildlife interests in the Linwood Paddocks.

Three options are presented, ranging in cost from \$18.5M to \$21M. Note that these costs:

1. Would be offset by \$2M already approved for pond modifications as part of the CWTP capacity upgrade;
2. Exclude possible roading and bridging work; and

3. Exclude most wastewater work such as UV disinfection or an ocean pipeline (estimated to cost between \$12M and \$48M; the Council has already put \$15M on the 10-year plan for UV disinfection).

Note also that the Strategy and Resources budget committee at its meeting on 23 February 2000 agreed to a further \$14M for Green Edge works associated with the wastewater project and Bexley landfill aftercare and redevelopment. Cost estimates are indicative only and need refinement.

While the plan is conceptual and needs more development on details and strategies it is a useful step forward. It provides the opportunity to implement some of the Green Edge possibilities in a co-ordinated inter-unit program, elements of which could start immediately with the full development being staged over a number of years.

NEXT STEPS

The tasks required from here on are as follows

Unit	Task
Streets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ evaluate traffic impacts of diverting Humphrey's Drive ▪ explore ways to keep access open for scenic traffic via Linwood Ave if Humphrey's Drive is closed to through traffic ▪ co-ordinate with EPPU over Cobb Cottage and Ferrymead Bridge options, and with Parks over Scott Park
Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ consider possibilities for sports fields adjacent to pylons, or as extension to Cuthbert's Green, or on private land, or in Heathcote ▪ co-ordinate with Water Services on final design of Linwood Paddocks, and with Streets over Scott Park
EPPU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ consider impacts of Ferrymead Bridge options on Cobb Cottage ▪ ensure co-ordination of planning
Waste Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ develop possible wastewater strategies that use Green Edge options ▪ fine-tune pond layout design ▪ evaluate environmental impacts of alternative disinfection technologies and nutrient reduction measures
Water Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ co-ordinate with Parks on final design of Linwood Paddocks ▪ consider value and cost of extending wetlands south of Linwood Ave for stormwater treatment ▪ consider integration of western edge design with complete estuary edge design

Key decisions affecting wastewater need to be made by about the middle of 2000 to fit the timetable required for the wastewater consent.

SUMMARY

Consultants Woodward-Clyde, with help from Lucas Associates and NIWA have produced a development plan (the Estuary Green Edge) for the western edge of the estuary that attempts to amalgamate the interests of five different Council units. The result is an attractive landscaping plan that has the potential to co-ordinate wastewater treatment needs with recreation, tourist and wildlife values. The locations for sports fields and the possible roading and bridging options need to be considered further, and other parts of the plan need fine-tuning and verification, including implementation of landscaping with wastewater treatment needs. Cost estimates should be refined.

With the pressing need being to make progress to coincide with wastewater consenting decisions later this year the waste management unit will facilitate efforts to bring to a conclusion key parts of the Green Edge development. Some elements of the Green Edge, including key wastewater components, could proceed without jeopardising other opportunities but it would be helpful to commit the whole western edge development together to make the most of the present opportunities.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the information be received.