

4. EXTENSION OF THE LAND DRAINAGE RATING AREA

Officer responsible Water Services Manager	Author Ken Couling, Waterways and Wetlands Team Leader
Corporate Plan Output: Waterways and Wetlands	

The purpose of this report is to:

1. Inform the Council of requirements to carry out land drainage, waterway and wetland works in areas currently located within the Christchurch City but outside the existing Land Drainage District.
2. Request the Council to approve for inclusion in the draft Council plan a proposal to extend for rating purposes, the existing 'Land Drainage District, to include two specific parcels of land that currently lie outside the existing drainage district where drainage works are needed to be carried out.
3. Signal the Water Services Unit's intention to move costs within the waterways, wetlands and drainage budget which apply to the whole Christchurch District from the land drainage rate to the general rate.

DISCUSSION

The present Land Drainage District was defined by the old Christchurch Drainage Board pursuant to Sections 3 and 59 of The Christchurch District Drainage Act, 1951 and Amending Acts. The drainage district has not been changed since amalgamation and covers approximately two-thirds of the current Christchurch City District including all urban areas of Christchurch except Templeton township (see plan attached). Otukaikino Stream catchment located between Johns Road and the Waimakariri River is also outside the existing drainage district.

The Water Services Unit plans to carry out stormwater drainage improvements in the Templeton area. These works are estimated to cost in the vicinity of \$623,000 spread over a number of years and represent a commitment to the Canterbury Regional Council to eliminate the existing untreated stormwater discharge to groundwater.

Secondly, with the development of the Clearwater Resort off Johns Road adjoining The Groynes, esplanade strips along Otukaikino Stream and its major tributaries will be vested in the City Council through subdivision. The Water Services and Parks Units will jointly share the responsibility of managing and developing the esplanade strips for conservation and public recreation purposes.

Another area outside the existing drainage district gradually changing in character from rural to rural/residential with subdivision lies between the Halswell township urban area and the south-west boundary of Christchurch City. This land is at present within the Halswell drainage district administered by the Canterbury Regional Council.

Discussions about future drainage management for this area have been held with Canterbury Regional Council staff. It was agreed that officers should recommend that this part of the Halswell drainage district lying within Christchurch City should be removed from the Halswell drainage district and become part of the Christchurch land drainage district.

This process will take some time and needs to be tied into the City Council's next review of its revenue policy. This change cannot be implemented before 1 July 2001 at the earliest.

The three areas referred to above are shown on the attached plan. A larger plan will be displayed at the meeting.

Ultimately, extending the land drainage district to the Christchurch City boundary is an attractive option in terms of a consistent rating policy. However, this report does not seek such a change to the land drainage district at this time. Council approval to bring in the Templeton and Clearwater/Groynes areas of the drainage district areas only at this stage enabling necessary land drainage works to be carried out is recommended. Further extension will be examined when the Council next reviews its funding policy.

Also moving costs within the waterways, wetlands and drainage budget which apply to the whole Christchurch District from the land drainage rate to the general rate is recommended. Advance planning outputs associated with city growth estimated at \$482,500 in the 2000/01 draft budget are in this category and the Water Services Unit has signalled this proposed change in its draft Annual Plan and Budget (pink pages).

PROCESS

If the recommendations in this report are adopted, opportunity for public consultation will be provided through both the reporting process to the two community boards affected by the proposed extensions and through the 2000/2001 Annual Plan process.

- Recommendation:**
1. That extension of the land drainage district from 1 July 2000 to include Templeton township and the Clearwater Resort/Groynes area from 1 July 2000 be approved for inclusion in the draft Annual Plan.
 2. That the proposal to fund the advance waterways, wetlands and drainage planning activity from the general rate, rather than from the land drainage rate, from 1 July 2000 be approved for inclusion in the draft Annual Plan.
 3. That the Christchurch City Council and Canterbury Regional Council commence discussions with a view to initiating the appropriate statutory processes to transfer responsibility for administration and management of drainage for the area between Halswell township and the Christchurch City boundary from the Halswell drainage district administered by the Canterbury Regional Council to the Christchurch land drainage district administered by the Christchurch City Council.
 4. That extension of the land drainage district to the Christchurch City boundary be considered as part of the next funding policy review.

Chairman's

- Recommendation:** That the above recommendation be adopted.