

4. OCTOBER 2000 STORM EVENT

Officer responsible Parks and Waterways Manager	Author Paul Dickson, Parks and Waterways, DDI 8392
Corporate Plan Output: Emergency Response Procedures	

The purpose of this report is to update the Board on changes and improvements to the Council's emergency response procedures following the 12 October 2000 storm.

In a report to the July 2001 meeting the Board received a report entitled "*Storm 11-13 October 2000 – Follow-up Report*" which:

- (a) Summarised the progress of and major events within the storm
- (b) Described remedial actions and procedural changes in:
 - Storm Emergency Procedures
 - Inlet gratings and debris trap clearance
 - Heathcote River middle reaches flood capacity

Further progress with remedial actions and procedural changes are described in this current report.

Storm Emergency Procedures

The following is a summary report of the 11-13 October 2000 Storm to the April 2001 Strategy and Resources Committee meeting. (Authors: Allan Watson, Infrastructure & Facilities Management Leader and Murray Sinclair, Emergency Management Planning Officer):

"A number of teams were formed to further investigate some of the points raised following the (post-storm) debriefing sessions. Improvements recommended from investigation undertaken are as follows:

Communications between field staff and the Emergency Control Centre

A new reporting structure is to be introduced whereby field staff will report to a 'Field Supervisor' who in turn will report to the Emergency Control Centre. This will reduce the number of staff making contact with the Emergency Control Centre and improve co-ordination of information being received.

Better Communication with Other Organisations/Information from the Public

In future all calls to the Emergency Control Centre will be received by the Council's Call Centre which in turn will log the call on the 'Request for Service' (RFS) system. The RFS will then be sent to a printer in the Emergency Control Centre for action. Once actioned, the Emergency Control Centre staff will update the RFS system so the Call Centre staff are updated on developments – this information can then be passed on to other callers reporting on the same incident. Discussions have also been held with other organisations that were involved during last October's storm regarding contact numbers etc. The Council's after hours contact list has been reviewed and updated.

Trunk Radios versus Cellphones

The recommendation is that trunk radios remain in use during emergencies because of the group calling ability and that cellphones also be used in conjunction. It was also recognised that with the increasing use of cellphones staff need to receive training on how to use the group calling function available on the trunk radio system.

Information from the field being mapped for easier reading within the Emergency Control Centre

Investigations are still being undertaken on how information received from those in the field can be captured and displayed electronically. Once such information has been captured electronically it could then be made widely accessible to others involved in the emergency. Greater use of video recorders and digital cameras will allow the personnel manning the Emergency Control Centre to appreciate the scale of the emergency.

Sandbags

A review of the stocks and availability of sandbags has been undertaken since October. Civil Defence has developed an NZQA accredited sandbagging course and consideration is being given to requesting Civil Defence to run a course for appropriate Council staff."

Inlet Grating and Debris Trap Clearance

The following list of inlet upgrades was compiled from an inspection of troublesome hillside waterway gratings and debris traps. The list covers only those inlets in the Spreydon/Heathcote wards.

Waterway	Improvement	Location	Progress	Estd Cost	Year
Patchetts Drain (S)	Alter inlet grating	Gunns Crescent	Design	\$ 5,000	2001/02
West Victory Drain	New debris trap	Top end Albert Tce	Planning	\$ 10,000	2001/02
Alderson Ave (S)	New inlet grating	Alderson Reserve	Built	\$ 10,000	2001/02

S = supercritical. Priority clearance by one of between 4-10 two man crews depending on the scale of the event.

Supercritical gratings are ranked as first priority for clearance in any storm event and may require continuous staffing in a major storm. The clearing is carried out by City Care Ltd under the waterways maintenance contract.

Heathcote River Middle Reaches Flood Capacity

The discrepancy between the expected and actual depth of flood water in the Heathcote River middle reaches has not been fully resolved because of the somewhat contradictory nature of the evidence. It may be that some years' further flow recording, and targeted data collection in future floods will be required to improve our understanding of the October 2000 event.

Meanwhile planting and bank improvement work in this part of the river will not proceed without close scrutiny and will probably include channel capacity improvements. This strategy conforms with the Heathcote River Floodplain Management Strategy.

Recommendation: That the information be received.