

8. SURFACE WATER STRATEGY – CHANGE TO THE ORDER OF PREPARATION OF STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLANS



General Manager responsible:	General Manager Strategy and Planning Group, DDI 941-8281
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. Recovery work, following earthquake damage, is critically required within the Avon River catchment. For this reason, Council is asked to approve a change to the order in which Stormwater Management Plans (SMPs) are prepared, so that it differs from that set out in the Council's Surface Water Strategy. The specific change requested is to prepare a stormwater management plan for the Avon River, ahead of the Lower Heathcote River SMP.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Christchurch City Council Surface Water Strategy 2009-2039 (p46) details 13 stormwater catchments in the Council district and the order in which SMPs need to be developed, and discharge consents lodged, with Environment Canterbury (ECan) (**Attachment one**).
3. Stormwater Management Plans are required under ECan's Natural Resources Regional Plan and are integral to the Joint Christchurch City Council and ECan Stormwater Management Protocol, revised November 2010, which outlines the need to manage stormwater discharges through development of the SMP programme.
4. Stormwater Management Plans establish how stormwater within a river catchment will be managed to meet water quality and quantity objectives and standards in response to current and planned land-use activities and changes. Once an SMP has been completed and a resource consent is granted, the Council has a responsibility to meet the objectives of the SMP and conditions of consent.
5. To date, the South-West Area Plan SMP and Styx River SMP have been completed and are awaiting consent applications to be processed and granted.
6. Of all the Christchurch City rivers, the Avon River catchment was impacted most by the earthquakes, with much of the river corridor to the east and through parts of the central city extensively damaged. Greenfield development being fast tracked within the catchment, such as Prestons subdivision, are set to discharge stormwater into the Avon River. Residential red zone areas alongside the river provide opportunity for placement of flood detention basins for controlled release of stormwater. These discharge requirements will need to be considered alongside proposals further up the river catchment, especially in the central city. The Central City Plan (Green City Chapter), states that 'the health of the river will be enhanced through initiatives to reduce and clean stormwater entering the waterway, the expansion of the river corridor and the introduction of native habitat'. This presents a timely opportunity to take a holistic approach for developing a stormwater management plan for the Avon River catchment, combining this with wider development proposed for the Avon River catchment and associated recovery plans and programmes of work.
7. Greenfield development being fast tracked for the Heathcote River catchment falls within the South West Area for which a stormwater management plan has already been prepared. Delaying work on the Lower Heathcote River does not compromise development upstream and is not expected to adversely affect recovery in the lower catchment. Given the recovery work required across the city river catchments and the growing community focus for development of the Avon River corridor, it is recommended that the Avon River is the next SMP to be developed in the Surface Water Strategy SMP programme.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8. A change in the order of SMPs will not affect the overall budget required to complete the SMP programme. Funding for this work is covered within the Strategy and Planning Group budget.

8 Cont'd

Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2009-19 LTCCP budgets?

9. Yes – covered in existing budget.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

10. There are no legal issues arising from this change as there is no directive within the Natural Resources Regional Plan regarding the order in which river catchment SMPs should be completed.

Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?

11. Yes – see above.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

12. The development of SMPs will assist in meeting activities and services described in the 2009-19 LTCCP associated with Waterways and Land Drainage (p134), and City and Community Long-term Policy and Planning (p185).

Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2009-19 LTCCP?

13. Yes as above.

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

14. The Stormwater Management Plan Programme is set out in the Christchurch City Council Surface Water Strategy 2009-2039 (p46), and supports the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy and Change 1 to the Regional Policy Statement.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

15. A consultation process, including hearings, was carried out on the Surface Water Strategy. The proposed change to the order of SMPs is a change to that document which will affect timing for individual catchments but not the overall SMP programme.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council amend the order of preparation of Stormwater Management Plans to differ from that in Council's Surface Water Strategy 2009-2039 so that the Avon River Stormwater Management Plan is developed ahead of the Lower Heathcote Stormwater Management Plan.

Attachment One

Surface Water Strategy Stormwater Management Plan Programme and Maps

1. Table from the Christchurch City Council Surface Water Strategy 2009 – 2039 showing the order in which the river catchment ICMPs¹ will be prepared

Table 8.2 Implementation Programme: ICMP Development					
Short-term (0-3 yrs)		Medium-term (4-10 yrs)		Long-term (10 plus yrs)	
Task	Approx. Cost	Task	Approx. Cost	Task	Approx. Cost
8.n Revise planning and consents protocol.	Within existing budgets.	8.d Avon River ICMP developed.	\$500,000 (partly funded within existing budgets).	8.i Sumner/Redcliffs ICMP developed.	\$250,000
8.a South-west ICMP (completed).	Within existing budgets.	8.e Estuary ICMP developed.	\$500,000 (partly funded within existing budgets).	8.j Lakes ICMP developed.	\$250,000
8.b Styx/ Puharakekenui ICMP developed.	Within existing budgets.	8.f Lyttelton ICMP developed.	\$500,000 (partly funded within existing budgets).	8.k Southern Bays ICMP developed.	\$250,000
8.c Lower Heathcote River ICMP developed.	Within existing budgets.	8.g Akaroa ICMP developed.	\$500,000 (partly funded within existing budgets).	8.l Northern & Eastern Bays ICMP.	\$250,000
		8.h Coastal ICMP developed.	\$500,000 (partly funded within existing budgets).	8.m Outer Christchurch ICMP developed.	\$250,000

¹ Stormwater Management Plans were formerly called Integrated Catchment Management Plans

2. Christchurch City Council Stormwater Management Plan Boundaries

