

# Funding of Manaia Road Causeway Project

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<b>TO</b>	Thames-Coromandel District Council
<b>FROM</b>	Matt Busch - Roading Manager
<b>DATE</b>	5 November 2014
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>Funding of Manaia Road Causeway Project</b>

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## 1 Purpose of Report

To seek Council approval to fund the estimated \$300,000 shortfall for the Manaia Road Causeway project from Tairua stormwater depreciation reserves and loan.

## 2 Background

TCDC has been working with Waikato Regional Council and the community for over eight years to identify a workable solution to address the flooding of properties in the lower reaches of the Grahams Creek catchment upstream of the Manaia Road causeway. The flooding issue was originally raised more than 35 years ago.

Council budgeted \$1.2M in the 2012-22 Long Term Plan (District Transportation) and revised this budget to \$620,000 in the 2014/15 Annual Plan. The revised budget was based on extending the existing two lane bridge by 16m with a single lane bridge and was approved subject to a joint TCDC/WRC project team being set up to drive project completion. There was also a requirement for a Memorandum of Understanding to be finalised between TCDC and WRC to ensure the complimentary works required to realise the full project benefits would be completed by the respective organisations, namely Grahams Creek floodway improvements by WRC and Manaia Road causeway improvements by TCDC.

A working party made up of TCDC and WRC elected members and staff as well as community representatives was established in July 2014 and after careful consideration of the Grahams Creek floodway and Manaia Road causeway improvement options over four separate workshops, the working party agreed on a preferred solution. In reaching this decision the working party developed, and then used as a reference point, a set of principles. They are, that the project outcomes will;

- Achieve minimum cost and meet timeframes for TCDC and WRC funding and agreements; Achieve the highest level of flood protection for the greatest number of properties possible that is cost effective and technically viable; Provide for aesthetic values as much as possible; Maximise ecological enhancement opportunities; Take an integrated catchment approach to the issues; Provide for future planning and needs; and Be acceptable to the floodway landowner.

The working party's preferred solution included a two lane extension to the Manaia Road causeway bridge. The proposed single lane bridge extension was unanimously rejected by the working party's community representatives, due to the reduced level of service for Manaia Road users and therefore did not form part of the preferred solution. The project estimate for a two-lane bridge extension is \$920,000; therefore there is a requirement for \$300,000 in addition to the existing Council approved budget of \$620,000 to fund TCDC's share of the working party's preferred solution. Given the outcomes this project is designed to deliver (the mitigation of property flooding in the lower reaches of the Grahams Creek catchment upstream of the Manaia Road causeway) it is considered that a funding contribution towards this project from the Tairua stormwater activity is appropriate. **Issue**

Council approval is required to approve funding of \$300,000 from the Tairua stormwater activity towards this project. This is in addition to the \$620,000 funding from the District

Transportation Activity as set out in the 2014/15 Annual Plan. It is proposed to fund this \$300,000 as follows:

- a \$180,000 from Tairua Stormwater Depreciation Reserves; and
- b \$10,000 from the Tairua Stormwater Retained Earnings; and the
- c \$110,000 balance funded by a Tairua Stormwater Loan.

#### 4 Discussion

As discussed above, Council's project to increase the Manaia Road causeway bridge waterway area is required to compliment the WRC floodway improvements and ensure effective flood relief to neighbouring properties. The requirement to increase the causeway bridge waterway area is as a result of both the existence of the road causeway and stormwater flows through Grahams Creek. Due to the issue being related to both the Roding and Stormwater activities, a shared funding arrangement is appropriate. Memorandum of Understanding An MOU between TCDC and WRC is imperative ahead of any further commitment by Council to advance this project including this request for additional project funding. The MOU includes a clause that resource consents '....are to be obtained for all elements prior to construction of any part of the package.' This presents a risk that the TCDC project will need to be deferred if any submission received in opposition to the WRC resource consent is not resolved by April 2015 when TCDC needs to commence bridge construction works. At the time of preparing this report, the MOU between TCDC and WRC was being finalised. Staff will update Council on the status of the MOU at this meeting. Resource consents Staff expect to lodge the non-notified TCDC resource consent application with WRC for the causeway bridge extension in early November 2014. A standard consent condition for this type of works is that no earthworks can commence between 1 May and 30 September (inclusive). It is therefore critical that TCDC's bridge extension project commences prior to 1 May 2015 if we are to complete the project within the 2014/15 financial year.

WRC staff have advised their resource consent is expected to be lodged by the end of November, with limited notification by mid-December 2014 and submissions closing mid-February 2015. WRC believe a medium risk exists of receiving an opposing submission with respect to one area of the application, however their staff believe the risk of their consent not being granted is very low.

One requirement to be resolved ahead of WRC lodging their resource consent application will be to finalise an agreement with the landowner on which the part of the floodway improvements will be constructed. At the time of preparing this report WRC have an agreement in principle with the landowner for an easement over the floodway improvements and expect this will be finalised by mid-November. The balance of the land over which the floodway improvements are proposed is administered by the Department of Conservation.

Construction programme Subject to Council approval for additional budget, the current construction programme provides for physical work to commence in April 2015. A critical element of meeting this programme is the lead time of approximately 12 weeks required to procure and manufacture pre-cast concrete bridge components, therefore this process will need to commence in December 2014 in order to complete the bridge extension works within the 2014/15 financial year.

#### 5 Suggested Resolution(s)

That the Thames-Coromandel District Council:

1. Receives the report.
2. Approves the funding of \$300,000 from the Tairua stormwater activity towards this project as follows:
  - a \$180,000 from Tairua Stormwater Depreciation Reserves; and

- b \$10,000 from the Tairua Stormwater Retained Earnings; and the
- c \$110,000 balance funded by a Tairua Stormwater Loan.