

To: Paeroa Ward Committee and Operations Committee

From: District Engineer

Date: Monday, 6 July 2015

File reference: Document: 1380970

Meeting date: 14/07/2015

Subject: **Proposed Piping of Open Drain: Junction Road Paeroa**

Recommendation:

THAT the report be received, and

THAT the Council makes its decision on which option to choose based on that option being the most cost effective, and good quality for Hauraki District based on the requirements of s10 of the Local Government Act 2002, and

THAT the proposal to pipe approximately 20 metres of open drain on the north side of Junction Road adjacent to No 71 Junction Road at an estimated cost of \$20,300, be approved, and

THAT the project be funded from the Paeroa Urban Stormwater Drainage capital budget.

Purpose

This report seeks Council approval for a proposal to pipe a portion of the open drain adjacent to No 71 Junction Road, Paeroa. This is intended to reduce maintenance requirements and address current and potential erosion problems associated with the existing open drain.

The matter or suggested decision does not involve a new activity, service, programme, project, expenditure or other deliverable.

Background

The layout of the urban stormwater system in the Junction Road area at issue is shown in Appendix A. A 900 mm diameter pipe crosses Junction Road and enters a section of open drain which runs along the southern boundary of 71 Junction Road. At the western end a vehicle crossing with a 900 mm pipe culvert has been constructed. Photographs are provided in Appendix B

The owner/occupier of No 71 Junction Road has objected to the use of chemical sprays to control vegetation in the open drain, believing that this has caused plant specimens in his garden to die.

Issues and options

The following issues are noted with regard to the open drain:

- Its cross sectional dimensions are large
- Invasion of adjacent private property can be expected to result from erosion of the northern bank
- It incurs relatively high maintenance costs
- There is objection to use of chemical sprays for vegetation control due to the house and garden location, and alleged loss of specimen plants
- The timber headwall supporting the access crossing is no longer sound

Upgrading this portion of the drain by installing a pipe offers the following benefits:

- The quality of installed infrastructure is improved
- Maintenance is reduced
- The erosion problem is eliminated
- Safety is promoted by removal of this large open drain from the roadside near an intersection
- The unsound headwall can be removed
- The tidiness of the area is improved

Available options are to upgrade the open drain by piping; or maintain the status quo and deal with erosion issues as they arise.

New deliverable

The Local Government Act 2002 now requires that all local government deliverables (whether it be an activity, service, project, programme, grant or involve any other form of expenditure) must align to the specific purpose of local government as outlined in Section 10 of the Local Government Act.

The matter or suggested decision involves a new project. It is considered, by definition of the Council, to provide:

- *local infrastructure*

Significance and Engagement Assessment

This decision is considered not significant because none of the **Significance Thresholds** or **Other Considerations** set out in Council's Significance and Engagement Assessment will be triggered by the decision.

The level of engagement considered appropriate for this matter, at this point in time, is to consult the key stakeholder and affected party, the owner of No 71 Junction Road.

Engagement with the Paeroa Rural Drainage Committee has taken place through telephone contact with the committee chairman, who supports the project and is satisfied that the committee has no objection.

Funds are available from the Paeroa Urban Stormwater Drainage capital budget, subject to approval.

Conclusion

It is recommended that the proposal to pipe approximately 20 metres of open drain on the north side of Junction Road adjacent to No 71 Junction Road at an estimated cost of \$20,300, be approved, and that the project be funded from the Paeroa Urban Stormwater Drainage capital budget.

Ken Thompson
District Engineer

Appendix A

