



Media Release
Friday 20 June 2014

Survey will see stormwater options progressed for Leeston

Leeston residents who took part in a recent survey have indicated they want to see work progressed to upgrade the town's stormwater system.

A survey of Leeston ratepayers was undertaken in April and May on options to upgrade the stormwater system to enable it to cope better with heavy rain and reduce the frequency and impact of future flooding in the township.

Of the 846 surveys sent out, 288 survey forms were returned, providing a 34% response rate. 77.4% of those taking part in the survey said they supported work being undertaken on the stormwater system. 19.1% of respondents said they opposed this and 3.5% had no preference.

People were also asked to comment on two stormwater upgrade options.

Option A would see a stormwater bypass completed which would divert stormwater away from the town centre. A swale will connect the Leeston Creek to the Cunningham Street Culvert through the block of land known locally as the Martin block. Work will also include widening and deepening of drains from the stormwater reserve on Country Lane to culverts at the show grounds. Culverts at the show grounds would be upgraded along with key sections of the Tramway Reserve Drain would be widened and deepened to carry additional water. The estimated cost of option A is \$1.55 million. Per property this would equate to an extra \$110 added to rates for the next 20 years, or a lump sum payment of \$1162.

The other option included in the survey, option F, would involve all the works under option A being completed and the drain along Harmans Road being extended and widened to divert water to the west side of the township. This option could only proceed subject to stakeholder liaison and the resource consent process. The cost of option F is estimated at \$2.15 million or \$185 per household repaid over 20 years. This could also be paid as a lump sum of \$1983.

45% of people taking part in the survey wanted the Council to progress option F, and 30% of people wanted option A progressed. Other respondents had no preference.

People were also asked whether they thought any of the options could adversely affect their household. 78% of people said no and 22% of people said yes. Issues mentioned as concerns included the cost of the works, and whether the works could affect their property.

Mayor Kelvin Coe says that the survey provides the Council with useful information on Leeston resident's views and that the Council will be progressing investigation work on the two options over the coming months, in consultation with the Leeston township committee.

\$500,000 is budgeted to progress investigation work during the next year including finalising designs, land acquisition, and initial diversion works. Council staff will work on more detailed proposals to be included in the Long Term Plan for 2015 -25 for consultation with Leeston residents.

Council contractors recently cleaned a significant portion of classified drains in the Leeston Drainage District on behalf of the Leeston Land Drainage Committees so they are ready for winter. Contractors have cleaned the majority of drains in the Leeston Township including hand cleaning and spot cleaning of Leeston Creek through the township when flows in the creek were low before Christmas. The key stormwater pipes in the town have been cleaned over the last few weeks. Council is continuing to look for minor works to improve the existing drainage in the township.

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