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| Report No: | RESC11-12-07 |
| File No: | |
| Date: | 22 November 2011 |
| Information Only – no decision required | |

REPORT SUMMARY

Report to: Engineering Services Committee
Meeting Date: 8 December 2011
Report Author: Jeff Cuthbertson, Utilities Asset Manager
Subject: **Manhole Lid Security**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report outlines what Council is doing to ensure that manholes throughout the District are secured.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the report be received.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

THAT the Engineering Services Committee receives the Manhole Lid Security report, RESC11-12-07.

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1. Background

- 1.1 In October 2009 a child died in Auckland when she fell into a Council-owned manhole.
- 1.2 The Auckland Coroner has recently released his report into the accident. The report includes recommendations to Local Government New Zealand urging its members to establish guidelines for public safety around surcharging manholes. The Coroner has suggested several solutions including:
- Robust systems to identify and rank public safety around all manholes;
 - The filling of safety gullies.
- 1.3 A copy of the Local Government NZ memorandum and Coroner's findings are attached.

2. Tasman District Council Network

- 2.1 The Tasman District Council's reticulated stormwater and sewerage networks include manholes. There are approximately 6200 manholes spread over all of these networks.
- 2.2 Since 2009 the reporting of all manhole lids that have been removed or broken is included as part of Council's maintenance contract. From November 2009 to November 2011 a total of 34 manhole lids have been reported as broken or missing. The majority of these relate to broken manhole frames within the road reserve.
- 2.3 The Council's contractor is instructed to replace the cover and frame with a new 600mm diameter heavy duty ductile iron hinged cover. In addition to being

hinged these covers have a catch arrangement so when the cover is closed unauthorised entry is prevented and the cover cannot bounce open if it is run over by a vehicle. Lifting the covers involves a bar to release the catch and then lifting via the hinge.

- 2.4 Lockable covers have also been installed as required. Currently Council's maintenance contractor is in the process of replacing six covers and frames on and around the Beach Road/Fittal Street area in Richmond. Lockable covers have been chosen in this area as it is subject to surcharge from the Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit's Beach Road pumping station.
- 2.5 It should be noted that all new manholes will comply with the improved standard.

3. Public Information

- 3.1 Soon after the Auckland accident, a story in *Newsline the Mag* asked residents and landowners to identify any issues with manholes and to report the issue to Council staff. A number of reticulation networks pass through private property, are located adjacent to waterways or generally follow the lowest contours of the area. It was hoped that the Newsline article would generate "new" issues that Council staff were not aware of. However, this was not the case as feedback identified sites that our contractor had previously attended.
- 3.2 A further article to reinforce the message regarding manhole safety will be included in a future edition of Newsline.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 That the report be received.

5. Draft Resolution

- 5.1 THAT the Engineering Services Committee receives the Manhole Lid Security report, RESC11-12-07.**

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Local Government NZ memorandum and Coroner's findings

Appendix 2 – Korum Manhole Covers

Appendix 3 – Newsline article, October 2009