

STAFF REPORT

TO: Chairman and Members, Engineering Services Committee
FROM: Jeff Cuthbertson, Utilities Manager
DATE: 20 March 2009
SUBJECT: UTILITIES MANAGEMENT REPORT

1 UTILITIES GENERAL

The utility maintenance contractor, Downer EDi Works has satisfactorily undertaken all maintenance work on Council's utilities assets during the last period, resulting in the network being well maintained and operational issues being kept to a controlled and acceptable level.

Monthly contract meetings were held on 19 February and 18 March 2009.

The upgrade of the telemetry system continues with the digital link to the Tapawera sites in place and functional. The parallel standby base station at Council's Richmond office has been created to allow development of the network to be carried out and tested offline before final implementation on the 'live' network. Work is planned to add an additional duplicate channel at Mt Campbell solely for traffic from the analogue sites in Golden Bay. This will reduce the demand on the single existing channel and reduce the number of communications failures.

2 WATER

2.1 General

The water schemes continued to operate without significant issues. Some systems have been affected by telemetry communications failures, resulting in temporary low levels or overflowing in some reservoirs. The contractor has managed these issues by operating assets manually when required. Some positive *E.coli* results occurred in Upper Takaka and Dovedale, following rain events, and these issues which were managed closely by the contractor, were resolved following extra flushing and chlorination of the systems.

- **Dovedale and Redwoods Rural Schemes**

No significant issues were experienced in the rural supply schemes with only a few relatively minor repairs. As mentioned above, some issues from telemetry communications failures have caused low levels in some reservoirs, with Redwoods Valley and others overflowing. These issues will continue to decrease as the telemetry system is upgraded.

Other general issues include:

- Low levels occurred in the Collingwood Reservoir due to a faulty flow switch at the pumpstation.
- Communications failures also caused issues in 88 Valley reservoirs, Collingwood WTP, Kaiteriteri and Waimea Basin.
- Several leaks were repaired in the 50mm ridermain near the corner of Rata Avenue/Main Road Tapawera resulting in a noticeable reduction in daily water take volumes.

- Positive *E.coli* results in Upper Takaka and Dovedale, resolved with chlorination flushing.
- Split 200mm main on Rabbit Island was repaired.
- Burst 100mm AC main in Lower Queen Street was repaired.
- The contractor worked closely with the Mapua Fire Brigade to carry out a comprehensive flushing of mains and reticulation in Mapua to remove some gravel from hydrants.

Other work in progress includes:

- The 150mm watermain installation across Gladstone Road at Queen Street intersection by Fulton Hogan is programmed for early April.
- The 88 Valley WTP chlorinator was overhauled during February.
- Work in McGlashen Ave/Richmond Deviation now complete.
- 300mm trunk main diversion across Gladstone Road at Queen Street intersection – joint project between Fulton Hogan and Downer Edi Works, planned for end March/early April.
- Replacement of Laing's Reservoir – Redwoods Scheme.
- Upgrades to Tapawera and Upper Takaka water treatment plants - Drinking Water Assistance Programme funding has been approved.
- Motueka draft PHRMP has been prepared - a separate report is to be presented to the committee.
- Flow testing of the test bores in Spring Grove – initial results were positive and further testing is planned.

2.2 Water Capital Projects

- **Richmond Reservoirs**

Survey of the identified sites has been completed so that initial geotechnical feasibility can be completed and the preferred sites can then be determined. Landowner negotiations and agreements will then be able to commence.

- **Wakefield Reservoir**

Agreement has been reached toward securing the required area of land for the new reservoir and as soon as Council has received written confirmation, the construction contract will be tendered. Detailed design of the reservoir is complete and building consent has been granted conditional upon the land agreement.

- **Lower Queen Street/ Gladstone Road Intersection Upgrade**

Installation of a new 150mm main is required as a replacement for the existing 100mm AC watermain and is planned for late March/early April. The watermain will be completed by Fulton Hogan following the installation of the 1500mm diameter stormwater pipework.

The existing 300mm trunk water main will be realigned so that the existing stormwater box culvert can be removed. The work will be a joint project involving Fulton Hogan and Downer EDi Works, and will commence with the installation/cut-in of valve/hydrant assemblies in late March. The remaining pipework is programmed for installation in mid-April, and will also involve a carefully managed temporary shutdown of supply. Both shutdowns and installations will be carried out at night to minimise the disruption to normal supply.

- **Talbot Street/ Salisbury Road Intersection Upgrade**

The tender for the roading upgrade of the Talbot Street-Salisbury Intersection has been awarded and is due to commence shortly. Watermain upgrade work will be completed as part of the contract.

3 STORMWATER

3.1 General

There were regular periods of rain during February and warm temperatures resulting in continued vegetation growth. No major issues were reported and in spite of several weather warnings, no flooding was recorded. Routine maintenance and proactive maintenance was carried out in accordance with the contract schedule.

3.2 Stormwater Capital Projects

- **Croucher / D'Arcy / Bird / Elizabeth Streets, Richmond**

The contractor continues to make steady progress on this contract. Work is near completion in the lower section (between D'Arcy Street and McPherson Street). A special section of watermain was successfully installed recently underneath the new stormwater in McPherson Street and the contractor is now completing works in this area.

Pipe installation in D'Arcy Street commenced this month and Council has worked with the contractor to provide information and advance warning to residents in the surrounding streets.

Staff have finalised a variation to the original design to accommodate flows from the Talbot Street intersection upgrade scheduled to commence shortly.

- **Seaton Valley Stream, Mapua**

Conditions for the Resource Consent for these works have now been issued to Council for review and agreed. Following sign-off of these conditions by submitters Council expects consent to be granted. Tender documents are now being prepared for the construction of a new culvert through the causeway. Construction is scheduled for May and June.

- **Salisbury Road Stormwater Upgrade**

These works comprise construction of a new stormwater sewer and additional sumps along Salisbury Road between Arbour Lea Drive and William Street. A detailed design for this work is near completion. Tenders are expected to be invited in April.

- **Kingsley Place Stormwater Upgrade**

Tenders for this contract closed on 4 March. Eight tenders were received, five conforming and three alternative. The submissions have been evaluated and a recommendation will be made to the tenders subcommittee. The contract is expected to be awarded by end of this month, with work commencing on site in April.

- **Park Drive – Riding Grove Stormwater Upgrade**

Survey work is now complete and detailed design has commenced for this work. However it is proposed, in a separate report to the committee, that tendering for this work is placed on hold due to other pressing and unforeseen stormwater requirements.

- **Collingwood stormwater upgrade**

This work comprises improvements to the stormwater network in the Gibbs Road area, Collingwood. Detailed design is near completion and the work is proposed to be advertised for tender in April.

4 WASTEWATER

4.1 General

All treatment plants were routinely checked during the month and pumpstations cleaned. Random audits of a selection of the contractor's work indicated the quality of work was of a high standard, and cyclical maintenance results demonstrated good compliance with their annual programme.

Other general issues include:

- Minor odour issues continued in pump stations in Courtney Place, Collingwood Motels, Waller Street, and Ruby Bay. The contractor installed additional odour control devices and carried out extra cleaning to resolve the issues.
- Faulty level sensors at Goodman's pumpstation required replacement.
- Issues at Waller Street pumpstation causing pumps 1 and 2 to trip were attributed to power supply fluctuations.

4.2 Capital works

- **Wally's Rest Pumpstation and Sewer Rising Mains Upgrades**

Ching Contracting Ltd are making steady progress with this contract and have successfully completed some difficult portions of work at depths requiring careful management of groundwater. The contract is on track for completion by mid-May.

- **Delaneys Pumpstation and Rising Main**

Design has been completed and tender documents are ready to be advertised. Negotiations continue with landowners to secure the preferred site prior to tendering the contract. An offer has been made and as soon as Council receives written confirmation of acceptance, those short-listed will be invited to submit tenders.

- **Motueka Sewermain Replacements**

Tenders have closed for this contract and the submissions are currently under evaluation. Four tenders were received. The contract is expected to be awarded by the end of March, with construction commencing in April.

5 SOLID WASTE

5.1 Kerbside recycling and bag collection

Kerbside recycling and rubbish bag collection has continued over the period with no substantial operational issues.

In the period since the last report Council staff have continued discussions with the kerbside contractor regarding recyclable commodity prices and any potential impact on the kerbside collection. These discussions are nearing conclusion and staff will provide a verbal update at the committee meeting. Of note has been a modest recovery in commodity prices in recent weeks.

Council has recently commenced work on a satisfaction survey of kerbside collection customers.

5.2 Resource Recovery Centres

Operations at the five Resource Recovery Centres continued over the period with only minor operational issues.

- **Richmond**

This site continues to be busy, and showing some additional wear and tear in recent months. Council has now prepared a draft layout of proposed changes to the site layout and is working with the site operators to review the proposal. Included in this work is a proposal to relocate the site entrance and the reuse shop to Fittal Street and to include a new caravan dump site and access to the Waimea Estuary walkway.

Upon completion of the layout design Council will be preparing estimates and tender documents for site works.

- **Mariri**

Detailed design for stormwater management on this site is in progress with a view to completing significant improvements this financial year.

- **Takaka**

Construction of a shed on the lower level and minor improvements to the bin loading area are now in progress. Prices have been received for extension of the existing reuse shop with construction expected to commence shortly.

As reported previously staff have been working with the contractor to establish a safe and efficient method for reuse of materials from this site. It has now been agreed that materials in demand will be selected by the operator and made available on the upper level, adjacent to the kiosk. This will eliminate the risks associated with unsupervised access to stock-piled materials in the lower site.

- **Collingwood**

Staff continue to review options for the relocation of the kiosk to allow better visibility and control of the site.

- **Murchison**

Site development works continue at this site and the transfer facility is now substantially completed. While initial capping of the final landfill cell is essentially complete, there remains a residual capacity within the existing landfill cell and the contractor is continuing to landfill on site to maximise capacity. Further work, including landscaping and construction of improved recycling facilities are programmed for this year.

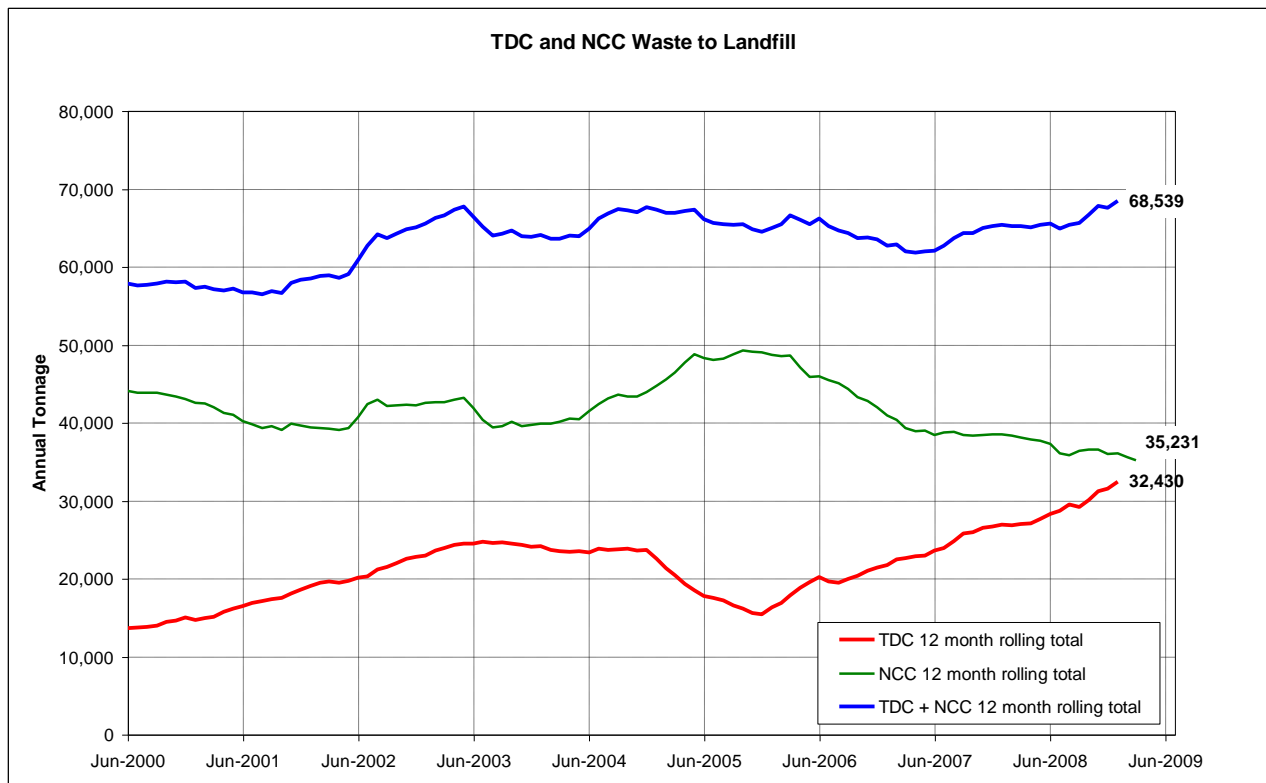
5.3 Eves Valley Landfill

Operations at the Eves Valley Landfill have now returned to a more normal level, with a significant reduction in special waste and landfill volumes more in line with previous years.

Staff are continuing to work with the contractor to achieve additional operational capacity

in the landfill prior to the winter period.

The following figure summarises regional landfill trends for Tasman District and Nelson City Councils. It shows landfill volumes at Eves Valley (Tasman) and York Valley (Nelson) continue to converge, although the bulk of the Eves Valley increase and the Tasman-Nelson regional increase is due to recent one-off special waste disposals.



5.4 Waste Minimisation Act 2008 and joint TDC / NCC Waste management plan

Guidance has recently been prepared by the Ministry for the Environment on the preparation of Waste Management and Minimisation Plans. This guidance has been released for public comment and is currently being reviewed by Council staff. Once this review is complete staff will return to the committee with a recommendation for progress on development of a Waste Management and Minimisation Plan.

In parallel with this guide, the Ministry for the Environment has released a discussion paper on waste management (“Waste Minimisation in New Zealand”).

The document was released in late March and includes:

- Proposed amendments to the targets in the New Zealand Waste Strategy.
- Identification of the first proposed “priority products” for product stewardship under the WMA.
- Proposals for increased monitoring of waste quantities.
- Proposed regulations for the operation of the landfill levy (“waste levy”) from 1 July.
- Proposed criteria for contestable fund applications from the Waste Minimisation Fund (funded by the levy).

The discussion document invites feedback on the proposals, with submissions closing on Friday May 15. The proposals contained in the document are potentially significant for Council. Staff will be attending a presentation on the discussion document, which is unfortunately scheduled for the morning of the committee meeting.

It is proposed that Council staff will prepare a submission on the document, with the submission presented to the committee on May 14 for approval.

5.5 Public place recycling

Staff have recently been advised by the Ministry for the Environment that funding for Council's proposal has been confirmed. The recycling bins are scheduled for installation prior to July 2009. Staff will now work with Ministry staff to secure agreements between the Council and the Ministry.

6 RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be received.

Jeff Cuthbertson
Utilities Asset Manager