

STAFF REPORT

TO: Chairman and Members, Engineering Services Committee
FROM: Utilities Asset Manager, Jeff Cuthbertson
REFERENCE: W199
DATE: 21 November 2006
SUBJECT: **MOTUEKA FIRE-WELLS**

1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform the Engineering Services Committee and to get direction to provide a submission to Council's Annual Plan and LTCCP.

2 COMMENT

Staff have previously reported the status of the Motueka fire-wells. This report was tabled at the ESC meeting on 8 June 2006. The New Zealand Fire Service also made a presentation to that meeting relating to the limitation of the fire-wells.

The Engineering Services Committee resolved:

**Moved Crs Kempthorne/O'Shea
WK06/06/21**

THAT the Engineering Services Committee approve the funding to undertake the feasibility report to:

- a) **Establish a pressurised reticulation system around the Takaka Commercial Business District, including estimated costs and methods of payment for such a reticulation network.**
- b) **Undertake pipework linkages between the existing pressurised reticulation extremities in Motueka including costs and methods of payment.**
- c) **Report back to the Engineering Services Committee by October 2006 with a proposal to resolve the fire-fighting issues in the commercial areas of Takaka and Motueka that satisfies both Council and the New Zealand Fire Service needs.**

CARRIED

3 BACKGROUND

The Motueka water supply is not a normal high pressure water supply in that it has no storage. Pumps located at the Fearon Street camping ground and at the Recreational Centre pressurise the reticulation network.

The pressurised reticulation is disjointed in that it generally surrounds the township and is not ring-mained or joined to give the opportunity to have pressure/water flow in two directions.

The result of this is that if any main linking the two pumps together was to fail in a period when additional water flow is needed, the system would fail.

3.1 Testing of the existing system

Attached is a report on the Motueka fire-fighting investigation undertaken by MWH.

It should be noted that comprehensive field testing of the existing reticulated fire hydrant system has been undertaken.

This testing has indicated that the reticulation network works adequately and the apparent lag time as previously reported is minimal.

There is no change in relation to the operation of the non-pressurised fire-wells. These units are not always reliable and should be used as a secondary system.

4 PROPOSED UPGRADES

In its Long-term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) Council has considered the need to reticulate the whole of Motueka township with its own high-level reservoir. However, the project has not been funded within the next ten years.

As indicated on the attached plan, pipeline 1 (Old Wharf Road to Whakarewa Street) would join the two reticulation systems together and provide both security and for a more equal pressure system to be maintained.

The addition of pipeline 2 (Whakarewa Street) and pipeline 3 (King Edward Street) would extend the network to ensure security to outlying areas.

5 ESTIMATED COST

The estimated cost to undertake the three main upgrades is outlined in the attached report. In summary, the estimated total cost to undertake the works is \$1,035,000.

6 FUNDING OPTION

The Motueka water supply is not part of the Water Group account. It is a separately funded account. The status of the Motueka water account as 30 September 2006 is:

Motueka water account	Deficit of	\$73,908
Value of loans		\$178,482

The estimated cost to install pipeline 1 is approximately \$360,000. A project of this value would be funded by loan. This would mean that the community would need to fund approximately \$40,000 on an annual basis to service the loan.

Presently water charges in Motueka are:

Water meter charges /m³ of water = 72 cents/m³ (incl GST)
(based on 917 connections)

Motueka Urban Water Supply Area = \$56.75 per lot (incl GST)
(based on 2900 rates assessments)

6.1 Increase in water meter charge

To fund the \$40,000 the water rate would need to increase by approximately 18 cents/m³. With such a rate the volume of water would drop and this income may be less than budget.

Note – this increase does not account for any increase in charges proposed by the LTCCP.

6.2 Increase Motueka Urban Water Supply Area charge

To fund the \$40,000 the Urban Water Supply Area charge would need to increase by approximately \$15.50 (incl GST) per rates assessment.

Note – this increase does not account for any increase in charges proposed by the LTCCP.

6.3 Increase both rates

It would be possible to increase both the wastewater charge and the Urban Water Supply Area charge by lesser amounts than shown above. The combined increases in any proportion would need to service the loan costs.

6 RECOMMENDATION

6.1 THAT the Committee recommends that Council include the funding of the water main from Old Wharf Road to Whakarewa Street (pipeline 1) in the 2007/2008 draft Annual Plan.

6.2 Council re-assess the funding for the remaining two water mains in the next LTCCP review.

Jeff Cuthbertson
Utilities Asset Manager