

STAFF REPORT

TO: Chairman and Members, Engineering Services Committee
FROM: Utilities Manager, Jeff Cuthbertson
DATE: 5 September 2007
SUBJECT: **UTILITIES MANAGEMENT REPORT**

1 GENERAL

The maintenance contract works have continued to be carried out in a very good manner and operational issues have been kept under control. The transition between Contracts 508A and 688 continues with some minor items to be completed within the Contract 508A defects liability period.

2 WATER

2.1 General

Public Health Risk Management Plans (PHRMPs') have been completed for Upper Takaka and progressed for Tapawera water schemes. The PHRMP's form a critical part of applications for funding assistance to upgrade the treatment plants for the schemes. Collingwood is also a scheme that is likely to attract some funding assistance for some additional items to enhance the water treatment process at that plant, and a PHRMP for the scheme is also in progress.

2.2 Brightwater Reservoir

The reservoir construction contract is currently out to tender and closes on 19 September 2007. Construction is planned for the coming summer months. The tender has attracted positive interest.

2.4 Dovedale Rural Water Supply

The scheme has continued to operate within its limits and without significant issues. Programmed upgrade works are underway. The Thorn pumpstation electrical upgrade and reservoir control valve installation are almost complete.

2.5 Redwoods Rural Water Supply

A complete round of rural restrictor checks has been completed with the majority found to be operating satisfactorily.

2.6 Seaton Valley Main

The design and contract documents are at draft stage and are due for tender this month for the construction of a new watermain in Seaton Valley Road. The work includes traversing private property and all land entry agreements to complete the work have been obtained.

3 STORMWATER

3.1 General

Modelling of the network is proceeding and will provide a greater understanding of the condition of the overall stormwater system and allow for targeted improvements to be completed. The investigation work and design for the resource consent application for Seaton Valley Drain continues.

There were no issues resulting from significant rainfall events during the period. Programmed proactive maintenance and pre-clearing of stormwater inlet structures has reduced the impact of reasonable rain events.

3.2 Borck's Creek/Headingly Lane Channel

Adcock & Donaldson have almost commenced the physical works for this stage of channel widening. The pre-cast access bridge has been installed. The outstanding work is due to be completed by the end of the month.

3.3 Croucher Street/Bird Street/Elizabeth Street, Richmond

Detailed scoping and landowner discussions have commenced for this work, with a view to advertising tenders for a portion of this work in December 2007.

3.4 Kaiteriteri Stormwater Improvements – Martins Farm Road

Tenders closed for this contract however it is yet to be awarded. Prices were above the budget available for this work and it is proposed to combine the funding with the Tapu Bay stormwater pipeline rehabilitation project.

3.5 Seaton Valley Stream, Mapua

Design investigations and preparation of resource consent applications continue for works in the Seaton Valley Stream. Works for which consent will be sought include: construction of an additional culvert through the causeway, widening of the existing stream and flood channels and replacement of two culverts on private property. Construction work proposed this year will include culvert work at all three locations and some stream widening, as funds allow. Additional channel work will follow in subsequent years.

Discussions have been held with potentially affected parties (adjacent landowners, iwi, Department of Conservation and Parks & Reserves) and consent application is expected to be lodged in late September.

4 WASTEWATER

4.1 General

The wastewater system on the whole has performed well with the majority of pipe breaks or blockages being of a relatively minor nature.

Brightwater Sewer pumpstation has experienced some ongoing blockages. Investigations into the effectiveness of a baffle plate to disperse debris are underway.

Minor electrical work continues toward completing the upgrade of a number sewer pump stations. Some upgrade work on the pump station at 217 Thorp Street, Motueka, is also planned.

4.2 Lodder Lane Sewermain replacement

Tenders closed for this contract on 29 August 2007 and submissions are currently under evaluation using the two envelope/Weighted Attributes system. The contract includes the construction of the shared off-road cycleway/footpath along the length of Lodder Lane, above the proposed pipeline, and a separable portion of pipework beneath the Motueka River Bridge. Five tenders were received and the contract is expected to be awarded this month.

4.3 Waitapu Pumpstation

Negotiations with the landowner have been successfully completed in securing the appropriate size of land required for the upgraded facility. The work will be re-tendered this financial year as part of a larger combined contract with upgrades of Cassidy's pumpstation and Takaka Primary School pumpstation. Negotiations are underway with Takaka Primary School to secure an alternate route for the proposed pumping main.

Investigations continue to determine the feasibility of constructing a new pumpstation on higher ground in road reserve, at Burnside as an alternative to upgrading the pumpstation on the flood-prone Cassidy's Corner site.

4.4 Wastewater Renewals Projects

The contract for Wastewater Pipeline replacements in Motueka is complete and has attained practical completion. The project was completed within time and budget constraints and of particular note was the effective traffic management planning throughout.

The programme of pumpstation electrical upgrades is under evaluation for the next group of highest priority sites.

5 SOLID WASTE

5.1 Kerbside recycling and bag collection

Over the next month a separate kerbside collection of paper and cardboard is being rolled out on a trial basis to selected businesses in Richmond and Motueka. This trial is running on the back of existing "at-source" diversion and schools collection that the contractor is operating. Evaluation of the success of this trial will indicate the feasibility of rolling this collection out over a wider area.

5.2 Resource Recovery Centres

Operations at the five Resource Recovery Centres continued over the period, with no significant operational issues.

Richmond

Installation of the weighbridge at Richmond was in progress at the time of writing, with

foundations complete and access ramps in progress. The weighbridge is expected to be operational in the third week of September 2007.

Additional site works (drainage improvements, traffic layout, glass bunkers and pit improvements) have been programmed to commence after the completion of the weighbridge.

Mariri

A location for the proposed weighbridge at Mariri has been finalised with foundation investigations scheduled over the next month. Additional work programmed for the site this year will include improvements to signage, roading and drainage and investigations into a water supply for the site.

Takaka

Works programmed for the site this year include provision of water supply and a car dismantling shed. The operator has also recently purchased a compactor for processing of recyclables (particularly cardboard) on site. It is proposed to construct a small processing shed to house the compactor and materials, using cost savings achieved in kiosk improvements last financial year. This work and construction of the car dismantling shed are expected to be complete prior to December.

5.3 Waste Education and Waste Minimisation

A focus of waste education works this financial year is Construction and Demolition ("C&D") Waste. Council hosted a successful Builders Breakfast on Thursday 30 August 2007 where 35 staff from building, construction and waste companies attended. Seven building companies and at least two waste companies have indicated a willingness to participate in a number of waste minimisation pilot studies commencing October 2007.

5.4 Waste Management Plan

Council staff have contacted Nelson City Council staff with a view to meeting in October 2007 to discuss the feasibility of a joint waste management plan in the 2008 calendar year.

5.5 Murchison Landfill Operations and Future Development

Site operations continue, with good performance by the contractor. The existing cell is currently being backfilled to its final profile; this is approximately 30% complete, with approximately 4-5 months remaining capacity.

Tenders for the next stage of operations (landfill or transfer station) closed on Wednesday 15 August 2007. A report discussing future development of the site and a tender recommendation is included as a separate agenda item.

6 COASTAL WORKS

6.1 Old Mill Walkway Stage 1

Physical works for Stage 1 of the Old Mill Walkway Coastal protection (Contract 700) substantially concluded on 31 August 2007 with only planting and site remediation outstanding.

7 Professional Services Contract 461

In accordance with Council's previous resolution staff have embarked on the preliminary work necessary towards the extension of Contract 416 for Utilities Services. The process that has been followed is that work teams for each significant activity area are working through and reviewing the full scope and scheduling of contract deliverables. A number of meetings between Council and MWH have been undertaken to complete this work over the first two weeks of September. A summary of all documentation and a record of discussions or agreements will then be prepared and presented to the Engineering Manager and Chief Executive for formal approval towards the end of September 2007.

8 RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be received.

Jeff Cuthbertson
Utilities Asset Manager