

STAFF REPORT

TO: Chairman and Members, Engineering Services Committee
FROM: Jeff Cuthbertson, Utilities Manager
DATE: 6 October 2008
SUBJECT: **UTILITIES MANAGEMENT REPORT**

1 UTILITIES GENERAL

The utility maintenance contractor has continued to perform well during the last period and managed resources adequately. Operational issues were kept to an acceptable level.

Some periods of rain have continued to occur during August and September, however although some further delays have resulted for some projects and portions of maintenance work, no significant associated flooding issues have arisen.

A monthly Utilities contract meeting was held on 17 September 2008.

Proposals have been assessed, for the reconfiguration and upgrade of the telemetry radio and repeater network. A recommendation by the evaluation team has been made and proposals will be reported to the next Engineering Services Committee meeting. A digital radio link is being installed at Beach Road sewer pumpstation, and also between the Tapawera water treatment plant and Council's Richmond office.

2 WATER

2.1 General

The water schemes continued to operate during the last period without significant issues. Water cyclical maintenance results received in September showed good compliance with the annual programme for Contract 688.

No significant issues were experienced in the rural supply schemes, with only a few relatively minor leaks needing repair.

Some repeat vandalism occurred at Valhalla Reservoirs with lids removed and rocks thrown through solar panels. Details were referred on to the New Zealand Police, and investigations are underway into the feasibility of installing power to the site.

Other work in progress includes:

- Wakefield Water Treatment Plant – chlorinator was overhauled
- Replacement of Laing's Reservoir – Redwoods Scheme
- Upgrades to Tapawera and Upper Takaka water treatment plants
- Replacement pump at Waimea treatment plant
- Extension to Permin Road of 63mm diameter watermain

- Spillway testing and final commissioning of Wai-iti Valley Community Dam

2.2 Water Capital Projects

- **Brightwater Reservoir**

The reservoir is now in its commissioning phase and undergoing pressure testing. The project is behind schedule overall, in part due to some alterations in pipework design, and it is expected to be completed by mid October. Extensive landscape planting with native trees and shrubs is to occur in the appropriate planting season to screen the reservoirs from view.

- **Motueka Watermain Renewal**

Adcock & Donaldson are nearing completion of this project and have made steady progress without significant issues.

- **Wakefield Reservoir**

Progress has been made toward securing land for the construction of a new reservoir to increase the storage capacity for Wakefield's water supply. Preferred sites have been valued and we are in negotiation with the landowners.

2.3 Dovedale and Redwoods Rural Schemes

Both schemes have continued to operate satisfactorily over the last month and only a few minor leaks required repair.

3 STORMWATER

3.1 General

Further sporadic periods of rain occurred in September. Utilities networks were not significantly impacted. This continued rainfall following on from a wet June-August, has resulted in saturated soils and high groundwater levels throughout the district, and ongoing delays to some capital projects and programmed maintenance works.

Routine stormwater maintenance was undertaken in accordance with the annual schedule.

Repairs were required to the structural supports of the Broadsea Avenue/Chaytor Road reserve outfall, due to recent heavy seas undermining the piles and supports. The remedial works have been completed, and overall the supports are more secure with deeper embedment of piles.

3.2 Stormwater Capital Projects

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

This contract has been awarded to Adcock & Donaldson Ltd.

The works include construction of approximately 2000m of stormwater sewer and 450m of wastewater sewer between Salisbury Road and McPherson Street, Richmond.

Physical works will commence in late October, crossing over the Richmond deviation first and then working up to the deviation from downstream. From February next year pipes will

be laid upstream of the deviation along D'Arcy Street to Salisbury Road, followed by works in side streets. The work is scheduled to be completed in September 2009.

- **Seaton Valley Stream, Mapua**

Submissions on a resource consent for this work closed earlier this year. Staff have been working with submitters with the aim of avoiding a public hearing. Steady progress is being made resolving issues and it is expected that the works will be completed in the new year after the seasonal holiday period.

- **Reservoir Creek – Templemore Drive section**

Adcock & Donaldson are nearing the completion of contract work on the Templemore Drive section of Reservoir Creek. While good progress has been made, works have been delayed due to the wet weather early in the work programme. The contract is now scheduled for completion by late-October.

- **Cornwall Place, Tata Beach**

This contract has been awarded to Tasman Civil and is due to commence by mid-October. Initial site pre-start meetings have been held with the contractor, landowners, Historic Places Trust and iwi. The work is programmed for completion by mid-December.

Other Projects Underway

Design and feasibility work is also underway for Kingsley Place stormwater upgrade in Richmond, and Gibbs Road stormwater improvements in Collingwood.

4 WASTEWATER

4.1 General

All treatment plants were routinely checked during the month and pumpstations cleaned. Even with the occurrence of some reasonable periods of rainfall, operational issues were still minimal, and although some pumpstations were operating at higher levels in Motueka and Mapua with extra stormwater infiltration, no associated overflows were recorded.

Other work in progress includes:

- Completion of upgrade of sewer gravity main, St Arnaud.
- Installation of aerators, screen, and associated equipment and cabling at Collingwood WWTP.

4.2 Capital works

- **Takaka Sewer and Pumpstation Upgrades**

Ching Contracting Ltd are progressing well with many aspects of the contract, however again the recent wet weather, has caused delays. Work is nearing completion at the Waitapu Road pumpstation, Primary School pumpstation, and also at the Burnside site. The rising main from Burnside to Sunbelt is complete as is the rising main from the Primary School pumpstation to Waitapu pumpstation. The contract is still on track for completion by end of October.

- **Collingwood, Takaka and Upper Takaka WWTPs De-sludging**

Work is now finished for the de-sludging of the oxidation ponds at the Collingwood, Takaka

and Upper Takaka wastewater treatment plants. The total volumes extracted were slightly less than anticipated, resulting in some overall cost saving.

- **Tapawera Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade**

Adcock & Donaldson Ltd have experienced some significant delays with this contract at the Tapawera WWTP due to the wet weather. They have utilised specialised equipment as an alternative method of suitably drying the remaining pond sludge which it is hoped will help to bring the project back on programme.

4.2 Camper Van Dump Stations

- **Jubilee Park**

Staff are still trying to find a suitable site to relocate this caravan dump station. Any suitable site needs to be able to accommodate caravans, camper vans, converted buses and trucks.

- **Collingwood**

As part of the work to provide a new entrance to the boat ramp, this site will be relocated in the near future. In the meantime some minor gravelling and shaping work will be undertaken to allow easier access to the present site.

5 SOLID WASTE

5.1 Kerbside recycling and bag collection

Kerbside collection continued over the period with no significant issues and generally good contractor performance.

The collection of paper and cardboard for most business properties within the targeted rating area is programmed to commence in the coming weeks, starting with the Richmond CBD. Information will be sent to businesses in the CBD inviting their participation in the service. One 140 litre wheelie bin will be provided to each rateable commercial zoned property.

Council staff are currently reviewing potential methodologies for collection of recyclables and organics in future contracts, and investigating the feasibility of introducing some of these into the existing contract. As part of this investigation staff are reviewing methods used in New Zealand and overseas.

5.2 Resource Recovery Centres

Operations at the five Resource Recovery Centres continued over the period with few significant issues.

- **Richmond**

In accordance with the resolution at the last meeting, Council's property manager negotiated the purchase of the property and building at located at 11 Fittal Street, Richmond. Council staff are now working with the current lessee of the re-use facilities to conclude the current lease and commence a new lease at Fittal Street. This negotiation will consider the timing of the proposed changes to site layout and entrance.

At the same time Council staff are working with the site operator and Council's consultants to identify those scheduled capital works that will assist in the transition of site layout and those that will not.

This site continues to be busy, with sustained increases in commercial waste stretching the capacity of the existing waste compactor and bin load-out facility. Staff have been assessing potential improvements to load-out arrangements and have identified a need for a new bin parking area adjacent to the compactor. It is proposed to complete these works this financial year from existing budgets (by deferring other scheduled works on site) and to have the works complete by December.

- **Mariri**

Weighbridge installation at this site is now fully complete. A new water supply line has recently been installed to the site from Robinson Road with work scheduled very shortly to connect this line to the Lower Moutere Water Supply Scheme.

Work continues to assess the water quality of runoff from this site and potential treatment options. This work is proposed with funds carried forward from the previous year.

- **Takaka**

Staff are considering options for improvements to the re-use facilities at this site. Quotes are being sought for construction of new shed facilities on the lower part of the site.

A quotation for work has been recently accepted for construction of fall barriers adjacent to the waste chute.

- **Collingwood**

Minor improvements to the surfaced area on the front of this site are scheduled for this year.

- **Murchison**

Site development works and construction of the transfer facility are continuing, albeit at a slower than expected rate. The pit portion of the new facility is complete with roof construction expected to commence very shortly. Drainage works are largely complete with improvements to the wastewater (leachate) pumping system in progress.

Waste disposal to landfill continues in order to maximise the last landfill cell and to contour the cap of the cell to shed water. Capping of the cell with clay material will commence once waste transport to Eves Valley commences.

5.3 Eves Valley Landfill

Operations at the Eves Valley Landfill continue albeit with a very wet winter period. A combination of the wet weather and larger than normal special waste quantities over the last two months has led to lower than normal performance at the site. Council staff are now working with the contractor to identify potential improvements to the site operation.

As indicated in previous reports, increasing waste quantities in recent years has led to a reduction in remaining life of the current stage of the Eves Valley landfill. Staff are working with Council's consultants to identify options for extending the life of the current stage and planning for the third and subsequent stages of landfill development.

5.4 Waste Education and Waste Minimisation

Council's waste education contractor organised two very successful e-Day collection venues for this recent event: one in Fonterra Takaka, and a second at Enza Nayland Road, in association with Nelson City Council. Preliminary estimates indicate over 1100 vehicles visited the two sites, dropping off over 4400 items, weighing 48 tonnes.

Over 50 volunteers including Council members and staff, and generous support from local businesses ensured a successful event. This event was part funded from Council's existing waste minimisation budgets.

5.5 Waste Minimisation Act 2008

The Waste Minimisation Act was read for a third time on September 10, and was passed into law on September 25.

In a similar way to the LGA, the Act requires a review of waste management plans and allows for joint waste management plans to be prepared by a number of territorial authorities. Both Nelson City and Tasman District Councils have indicated a willingness to develop a joint waste management plan.

Under the Act, the process is to:

- Make an assessment of the existing plan
- Review the existing plan – with the outcome of either
 - continuing the plan without amendment, or
 - amending the existing plan or revoking the plan and substituting another
- Use the special consultative procedure to prepare a new plan or continue with the existing plan unchanged.

Nelson City and Tasman District Council staff will now commence an assessment of each waste management plan in accordance with s51 of the Act, with a view to reporting back to each Council in the new year.

5.6 Public place recycling

Council staff met recently with the Ministry for the Environment and staff from other TLA's to discuss provision of MfE-funded public place recycling. Staff are working with MfE, landowners at potential sites and bin suppliers to finalise options for bin designs and locations.

7 TENDERS

Tenders awarded since the last meeting:

No.	Contract name	No. of tenders	Successful tenderer	Amount	Highest amount	TDC estimate	Budget for this item
727	Bird/Elizabeth/Croucher St Stormwater Upgrade	6	Adcock & Donaldson Ltd	\$2,005,392.20	\$3,213,778	\$1,788,600	\$2,286,368
733	Cornwall Place Stormwater Improvements	3	Tasman Civil Ltd	\$202,970.00	\$305,669.40	\$264,210	\$268,000

8 RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be received.

Jeff Cuthbertson
Utilities Asset Manager