

REPORT

TO: Engineering Services Committee

FROM: Trevor Norriss

REFERENCE:

DATE: 12 January 2005

SUBJECT: Chairman's Report – January 2005

Welcome to the New Year. Hopefully all Committee members and staff have had a good break and are looking forward to the challenges ahead of us. To staff who have worked through the holiday period my thanks, and especially to Jeff Cuthbertson who will possibly never volunteer again!!

SEWAGE SPILL TAPU BAY

While unfortunate, this was predictable. Council has had the budget to replace this pipe for the last 4½ years, but work has been held up by issues outside it's control. The replacement of this pipe is currently underway.

RUBBISH ISSUES

In hindsight we can all be very wise. The volumes of recycables being deposited in the trial containers has exceeded both Council and contractor expectations, causing overflows of rubbish to be left outside containers. Unfortunately much of this rubbish is not recyclable and is seen by some members of the public as an easy "out" for the dumping of rubbish. There have also been problems at Kaiteriteri and other old rural pick up points.

If we were going through this trial again, it wouldn't be over the peak holiday season or before kerbside recycling was available in the areas serviced by the containers. In Motueka's case, we need to encourage commercial businesses and others to use Mariri recycling which is also free of charge.

A meeting between our contractor, staff and myself will have taken place prior to the Engineering Services meeting and Jeff, Peter or myself will give an update to the Committee. I'm sure you will all have plenty of helpful comments. It is no use throwing our hands in the air - we need to learn from these problems and put them right.

MOTUEKA SEWAGE PONDS

Jeff Cuthbertson will give an update as to where we are at with the odour problems.

ROADSIDE PROBLEMS FROM WIND AND LOGGING

There are many areas where trees and tree stumps are resulting in filling of roadside drains causing blockages. Whose responsibility should this be? In many areas adjoining landowners have made no attempt to clean them up.

COMMUNICATION

I have received rather a large number of comments from Councillors regarding the inability to contact staff and if they finally get a message left, the response time to get back is unacceptable. This problem is being addressed.

This report is rather short but I will give you all the opportunity to raise issues briefly at today's meeting.

Finally, the incident of rubbish dumping at the Motueka Service Centre shows the mentality of some members of the public. My apologies to the staff members who have nothing to do with Council rubbish policy who had to clean this mess up. This will also add to the costs of rubbish collection. We have some information regarding this incident and as Engineering Services Chairman I am prepared to offer a reward for information leading to conviction of those involved.

Regards

Trevor Norriss