

STAFF REPORT

TO: Chairman and Members, Engineering Services Committee
FROM: Jeff Cuthbertson, Utilities Manager
DATE: 17 April 2008
SUBJECT: **CCTV OF STORMWATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICES**

1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform the committee of the outcome from the closed-circuit television (CCTV) filming surveys.

2 COMMENT

Council staff commenced routine CCTV filming of the underground utilities for wastewater and stormwater within subdivisions in the middle of 2007. This new standard procedure helped to ensure that Council was taking over new vested assets that were fit for their intended purpose and in full compliance with Council's Engineering Standards.

CCTV filming assisted Council staff to ensure that:

- a) Pipes were not cracked or broken;
- b) No obstructions were present within the reticulated network;
- c) Connections to the reticulated network were finished flush with the inner pipe wall and did not protrude into the pipe thus causing restrictions and blockage.
- d) Pipes were laid on the approved grade, ie they did not pond or hold water.
- e) No hidden defects were visible that Council would possibly need to repair at a later date.

It should be noted that the filming was instigated by Council at its cost. However, if a fault was located the cost of any inspection filming related to that fault was recovered from the developer.

At the time of writing, Council had recovered 100% of the filming costs from developers.

3 FINDINGS

The initial outcome of the CCTV filming found that over five subdivisions:

- a) We did have broken pipework;
- b) There were obstacles within the pipes, for example, gravel, timber, shrubs;
- c) Connection to the new reticulation did protrude beyond what would normally be satisfactory and within the engineering standards;
- d) Some pipework had hollows/low points along its alignment indicating that it was not laid at an even grade;
- e) Pipe rings protruded from joints resulting in the system not being water-proof.

In all cases a meeting was held with the developer, his/her consultant and the contractor where the issues noted in the filming were raised and discussion focused on how the matters were to be put right before Council would accept ownership of the asset.

4 CHANGING ATTITUDE

When we started CCTV filming there appeared to be little resentment from the developers and their contractors and, in fact, many of them now use the tool themselves. This has resulted in a better understanding of the standards required and what Council will or will not accept. It is only a matter of time before CCTV filming will be part of the acceptance requirements of both the developer and the contractor and the result will be a better asset for Council.

5 ENGINEERING STANDARDS & POLICIES 2008

CCTV filming of assets to vest in Council is now compulsory in the new Engineering Standards & Policies and must be completed and approved before a 224 certificate can be issued.

6 PRESENTATION

A presentation of some recent CCTV footage will follow this paper.

7 RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be received.



Jeff Cuthbertson
Utilities Asset Manager