

STAFF REPORT

TO: Chairman and Members, Engineering Services Committee
FROM: Jeff Cuthbertson, Utilities Manager
DATE: 17 June 2009
SUBJECT: UTILITIES MANAGEMENT REPORT

1 UTILITIES GENERAL

Downer EDi Works has satisfactorily undertaken all maintenance work on Council's utilities assets during the last period, resulting in the network being well maintained and operational issues being kept to a controlled and acceptable level. The random audits carried out on the networks have indicated the work carried out to be of a high standard and the contractor achieving required targets throughout performance-based audit scores. The contractor completed 94% of jobs on time in May, within the target of 90%.

A monthly contract meeting for contract 688 was held on 14 May 2009.

The upgrade of the telemetry system continues with the installation of additional aerials on Council's Richmond and Takaka office buildings, a first step in the development of the digital data network. A hub for Golden Bay data has been installed at the Takaka service centre. This will reduce the demand on the single existing Mt Campbell channel and reduce the number of communication failures, particularly in transferring data from Golden Bay utility sites to Richmond. Work is also underway by Mt Campbell Communications and Downer EDi Works to upgrade the remaining less critical analogue sites. Approximately 15% of sites have been upgraded and transferred to alternative channels. A noticeable reduction in the overall volume of data via Mt Campbell has been recorded. The volume will continue to reduce significantly as sites are transferred on to the new system.

2 WATER

2.1 General

The water schemes continue to operate without significant issues. Some systems have continued to be affected by telemetry communications failures and equipment failures, resulting in temporary low levels or overflowing in some reservoirs. Some users on the Dovedale scheme have been temporarily out of water due to reservoirs going to low levels with the Datran network locked up by one site. This was remedied but is symptomatic of the age of radios at some sites and will be remedied as those sites are eventually upgraded.

- **Dovedale and Redwoods Rural Schemes**

No significant issues were experienced in the rural supply schemes with only a few relatively minor repairs resulting in temporary low reservoir levels. As above telemetry issues were the cause of several temporarily being out of water on Sunday 14 June.

Progress is slow in upgrading the new reservoir on the Redwoods Rural Scheme. It was hoped that a satisfactory resolution would be reached with the current property owner but following several attempts to resolve location issues, it became obvious that other options

would require pursuing. The various alternative site options for the replacement storage tanks are being worked through with adjacent landowners and it is probable that resolution will be reached shortly.

Other general issues include:

- Several significant leaks occurred on the 150mm main in Stafford Drive, Mapua.
- Burst occurred on 100mm AC main in Beach Road, Richmond.
- The reported radio interference with private radios in Golden Bay has largely been resolved. The issues were primarily due to generally weak radio station signals in the area. The contractor engaged a radio frequency specialist who checked that network frequencies were within allowable tolerances and was also able to work with locals to fine-tune some frequencies of distant radio stations they were attempting to tune into.
- Power failure at 88 Valley chlorinator, resulted in *E. coli* failure, follow up sampling was clear.
- Re-tests were undertaken following positive *E. coli* results in Upper Takaka. This was resolved with chlorination flushing; causes were due to the removal and replacement of a bridge for NZTA, which included removal of a water lateral without notification.
- Watermain repairs were undertaken at the D'Arcy/Herbert Street intersection (Richmond) in association with stormwater capital works.
- Investigation continues into a potential minor leak in Kaiteriteri main reservoir.
- Tapawera main pump is under repair, standby on duty.

Other work includes:

- The Humphries Creek pump station chlorinator was overhauled during May.
- Work in McGlashen Avenue/Richmond Deviation now complete.
- Upgrades to the Tapawera and Upper Takaka water treatment plants are ongoing.
- Installation of flow recorder and data logging on Eighty-eight Valley Scheme.
- Four new water connections were completed in Mapua, Motueka, Dovedale and Eighty-eight Valley.

2.2 Water Capital Projects

• **Wakefield Reservoir**

The contract has been awarded to Tasman Civil and site establishment is expected to commence prior to the end of this month.

Council has received the signed agreement securing the required area of land for the construction of the new reservoir at Wakefield. Land designations amendments have been processed, and amendments to easements are underway to include for power cabling to the new reservoir.

• **Lower Queen Street/Gladstone Road Intersection Upgrade**

The new 150mm main, and realigned 300mm trunk water main are complete and have operated without further issues. The breakages that frequently occurred in lower Queen Street, while the section of 100mm AC main was temporarily out of commission, have not occurred since the system has been returned to normal operation.

- **Talbot Street/ Salisbury Road Intersection Upgrade**

The work involved in the roading upgrade of the Talbot Street-Salisbury Road intersection is progressing well. Watermain upgrade work has been successfully completed as part of the contract.

3 STORMWATER

3.1 General

The months of April and May continued an unusually dry period with minimal rainfall, however intermittent and isolated rainfall events this week have broken the drought. No major issues were reported and no flooding was recorded. Routine maintenance and proactive maintenance were carried out in accordance with the contract schedule.

Work to upgrade the chamber at Chaytor Reserve, Ruby Bay is planned for completion this month. This is to prevent the chamber flapgate blocking from the debris, which has been an ongoing issue.

The intake grill at 21 Blair Terrace and the Mapua causeway floodgates have been added to the regular maintenance and pre-severe-weather-warning inspection registers. The contractor has resumed maintenance of Headingly Lane drain now that the defects period has ended on the construction project. Lammas Drain near Thorp Street Motueka is programmed for clearance this month.

3.2 Stormwater Capital Projects

- **Collingwood stormwater upgrade**

Tenders closed for this work on May 20 and a preferred tenderer has been identified. The tender is due for award and work is expected to commence shortly.

Council staff are continuing to work with residents on solutions to stormwater issues above Gibbs Road.

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

Adcock & Donaldson continue to make steady progress on this contract with a recent run of dry weather. Work on the lower section (below Croucher Street) is now complete (pending inspection) and the contractor has reached Salisbury Road with new stormwater and sewer pipes. Installation of stormwater pipes on side streets is occurring in parallel and the contractor is now working in Elizabeth Street.

- **Kingsley Place Stormwater Upgrade**

Ching Contracting Ltd has made steady progress throughout this contract and is due to achieve Practical Completion. Work has gone smoothly in spite of a period of wet weather. The contract has included a significant portion of work through private gardens and all affected property owners have openly expressed appreciation of the approachability and quality of work carried out by the contractor.

- **Salisbury Road Stormwater Upgrade**

These works comprise design of a new stormwater sewer and additional sumps along Salisbury Road between Arbor-Lea Avenue and Florence Street.

At the last meeting of the committee it was resolved that the first portion of these works (Arbor-Lea to Waimea College) would be funded in the current financial year.

Detailed design of the entire work is now close to completion and tender documentation is underway with a view to advertising tenders in July and works commencing in September. The next stage of Salisbury Road resurfacing is scheduled to occur following completion of this stage of works.

- **Seaton Valley Stream, Mapua**

An archaeological assessment for this project has now been completed and an application has been made to the Historic Places Trust for an Archaeological Authority. Council plans to reach the position that submitters that previously wished to speak to their submission no longer wish to and the consent is able to be processed without a need for a hearing. Council is hopeful of a speedy issue of consents for the proposed works

Tender documents for the causeway improvements are now being finalised and will be advertised following issue of the resource consent. Because the works will occur in a waterway adjacent to the coast the works will be scheduled to commence in late November, outside of the fish spawning season (in accordance with resource consent conditions).

Preparation of tender documents for the remaining works (stream widening and bridge / culvert replacements) will commence shortly, with a view to commencing works in November.

Staff will now be following up with local landowners to reach agreement on land entry and property access during the works.

- **Stormwater Capital**

Park Drive – The design of the culvert under Hill Street and the regarding of the footpath between Hill Street and Riding Grover is near completion.

No further work will be undertaken on the stormwater improvements in the Park Drive area until the proposed rezoning of the area/catchment is completed. At that time any future proposed work will be included in the next review of the Ten Year Plan.

4 WASTEWATER

4.1 General

All treatment plants were routinely checked during the month and pumpstations cleaned. Random audits of a selection of the contractor's work indicated the quality of work was of a high standard, and cyclical maintenance results demonstrated good compliance with their annual programme.

Three new wastewater connections were completed in Richmond during May.

Other general issues include:

- Murchison WWTP dosing pump controller was reinstalled following off-site calibration.
- Brightwater main pump station blockage was cleared (causing generator to start on high level alarm).

- Bursts occurred on Motupipi Rising main, and Rabbit Island 200mm main.
- Blockages in mains were cleared in Motueka in close proximity to public toilets.
- Takaka WWTP has ongoing issues keeping within total suspended solids consent limits in wetland marsh cells, due to lack of vegetation cover. An interim re-vegetation programme is planned to resolve this issue.
- Upper Takaka WWTP has recently experienced low dissolved oxygen levels, but with no typical corresponding odour issues. A lower consent limit may be sought.
- All other WWTP's - Collingwood, Murchison, Motueka, St. Arnaud, and Tapawera, were resource consent compliant in May.

4.2 Capital works

- **Wally's Rest Pumpstation and Sewer Rising Mains Upgrades**

Ching Contracting Ltd has reached practical completion for this contract. Some minor items remain to be completed including the biofilter fan which was delayed but is due to arrive from overseas.

- **Delaneys Pumpstation and Rising Main**

Design has been completed and tender documents are ready to be priced by selected/shortlisted tenderers. The sale and purchase agreement has been with the landowner who has asked for clarification of some items of the agreement. These are minor in nature and the agreement is expected to be signed shortly. As soon as Council receives written confirmation of acceptance, the short-listed tenderers will be invited to submit tenders.

- **Motueka Sewermain Replacements**

The contract was awarded to Ching Contracting Ltd with construction commencing in late May. Some conflicts encountered with existing water main pipe work within the Courtney Place intersection made initial progress difficult but the project is now steadily progressing.

5 SOLID WASTE

5.1 Kerbside recycling and bag collection

Kerbside recycling and rubbish bag collection has continued over the period with good performance by the contractor. Data for the last two months indicates recycling volumes tracking slightly above those recorded in the previous year.

Official rubbish bag sales and collections have been dropping over recent months and are currently standing at 92% of previous year's volumes. The main areas of drop-off have been in Richmond, Coastal Highway and Riwaka / Kaiteriteri; areas outside these however are showing some growth. The Richmond area in particular is a competitive market, with at least four contractors operating and this may be impacting on volumes.

Council has now received a full set of results from a recent kerbside collection telephone survey. This survey was conducted in March and early April, prior to the draft Ten Year Plan. It showed a pleasing increase in satisfaction, particularly in recycling, with 90% of people using the service where it is available. Tasman District Council's satisfaction rating for recycling (95%) is now significantly better than that of our peer group (84%). This survey will be used as the baseline for measurement of Council's levels of service in the coming year.

As indicated in the previous staff report, Council staff have received enquiries from commercial operators regarding disposal of recyclables and greenwaste at Council RRC's. Council have discussed this proposal with the site contractor and are proposing to accept commercial glass quantities at \$18.00 per tonne at three sites: Richmond, Mariri and Takaka, and to accept paper and cardboard, free of charge, at Richmond and Takaka sites only. This proposal is presented in a separate paper to the committee.

Staff are also working with the Council's greenwaste contractor to develop a competitive per-tonne rate for greenwaste, to encourage commercial collection of this material by the private sector.

5.2 Resource Recovery Centres

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

- **Richmond**

Waste tonnages have continued to drop at this site over the last two months, with April and May volumes reducing 8% and 14% on April and May of last year. This reduction is likely to be due to reduced construction and commercial activity and recent slowing of the local economy.

Design is now complete for repairs to the pit and a new bin changeover area at the Richmond site. Staff are addressing potential traffic safety issues for the site, and tenders will be advertised upon completion of this review. Staff will seek a carry-over of funds for this work to the upcoming financial year.

- **Mariri**

Waste volumes at this site are slightly down on the previous period last year, with volumes tracking at 95% for the year to date.

Tenders for construction of stormwater improvements at this site closed on June 10 and a preferred tenderer has been identified.

- **Takaka**

While waste volumes for this site had grown steadily in the first three quarters (9%), volumes have dropped in April and May, so that annual growth is now at 2%.

Construction of a car dismantling shed, extension of the reuse shop and ramp repairs in the lower level are now all complete. Operation of the reuse shop appears to be going well.

- **Collingwood**

Waste volumes for this site continue to reduce substantially, with tonnages reducing 14% on the year-to-date.

The telephone line is now installed at this site and staff are investigating the possibility of a camera to improve security and monitoring of the site entrance.

- **Murchison**

Landfill operations have now ceased at this site, and 18 tonnes of waste was collected in the new transfer pit and transported to the Eves Valley landfill in May.

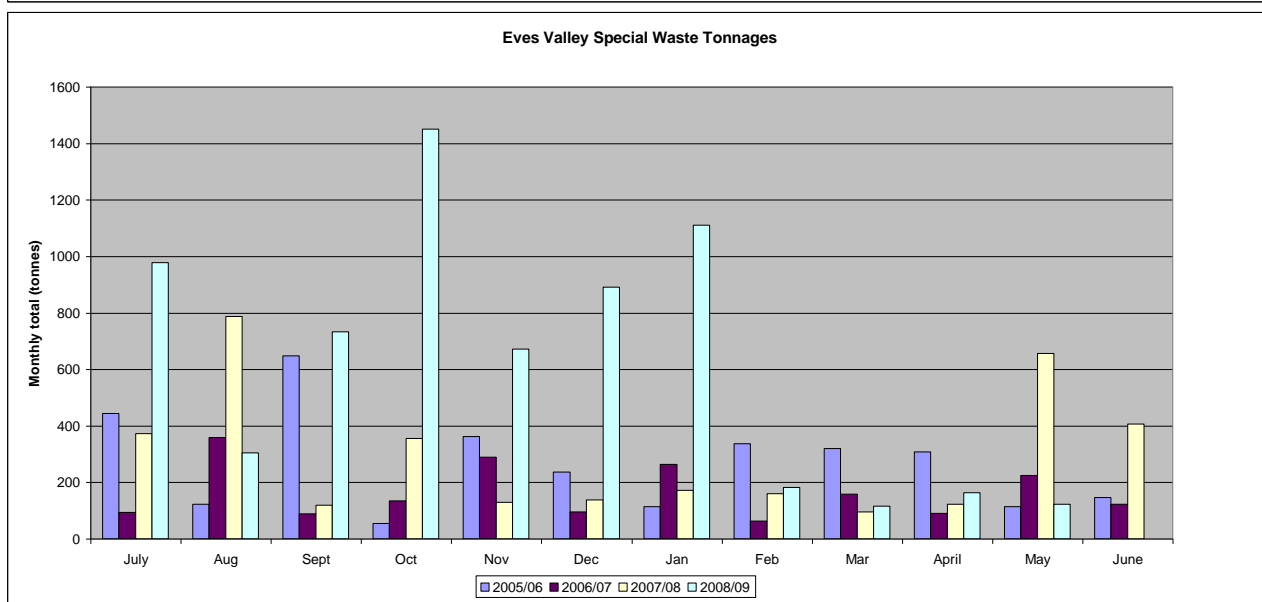
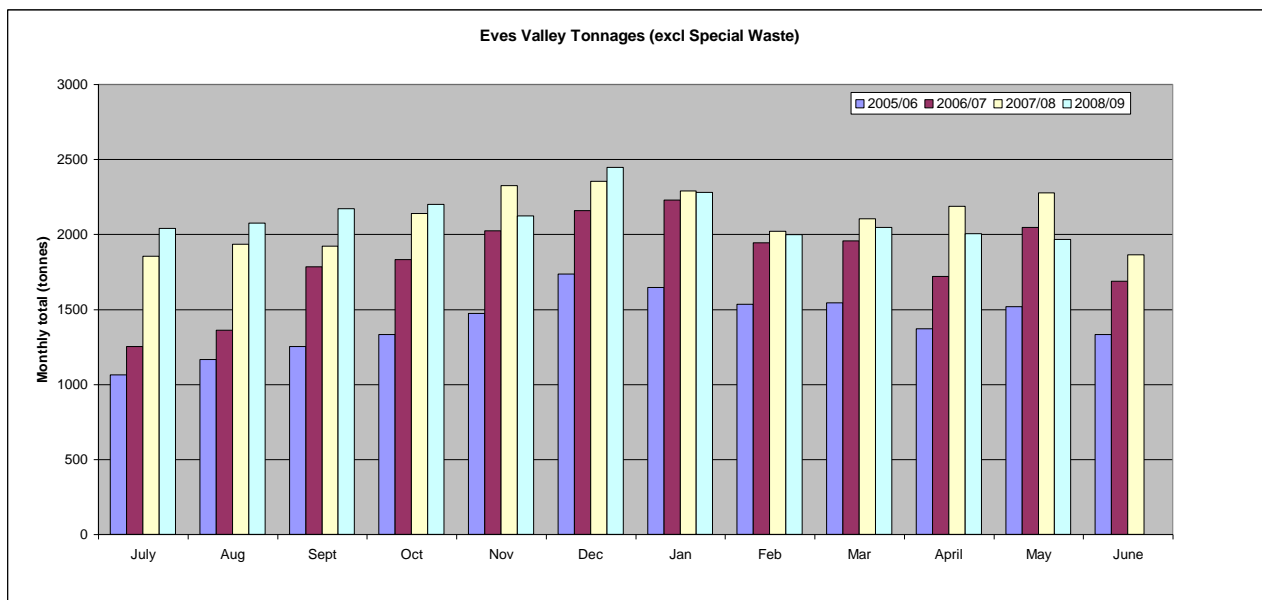
Final capping of the landfill is essentially complete with landscaping to follow in the new financial year. Improved recycling facilities are under construction.

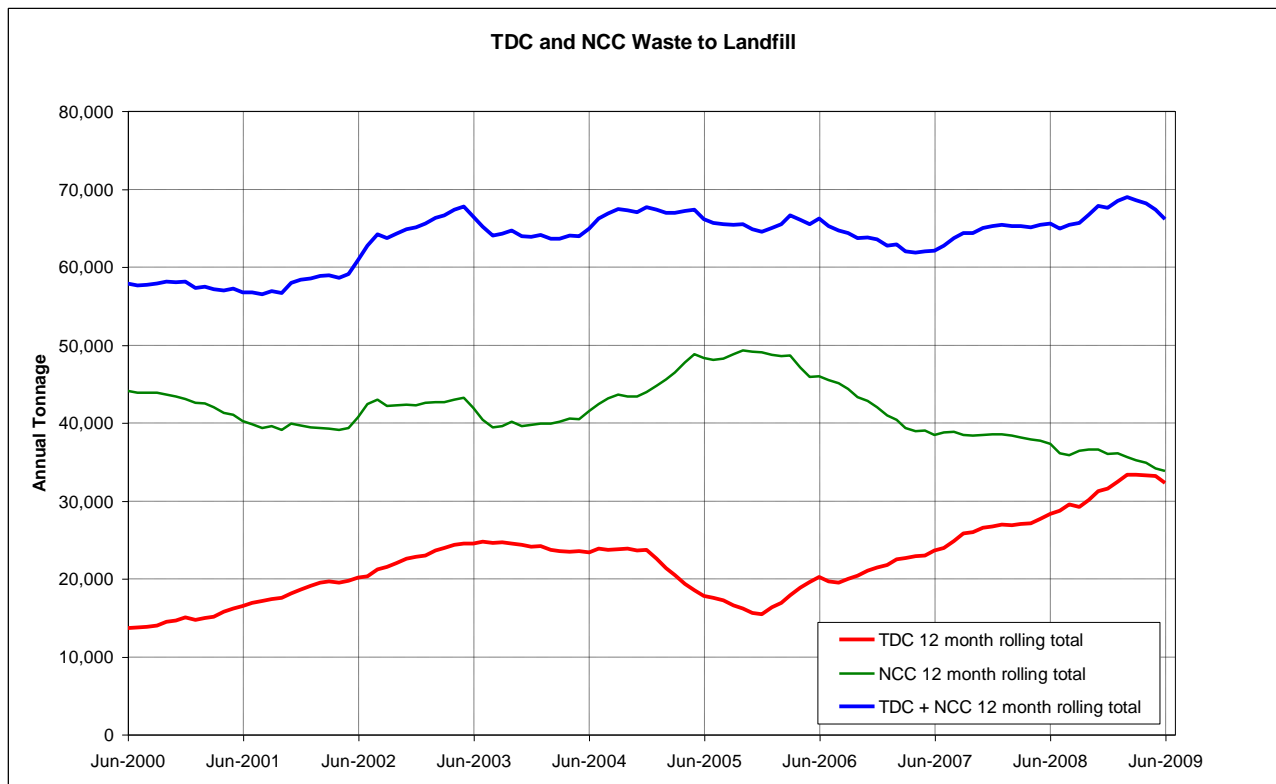
5.3 Eves Valley Landfill

Activity at the Eves Valley Landfill is now slowing, with tonnages (excluding special waste) reducing by 8% and 14% in April and May, when compared with last year. Special waste volumes are tracking at or below normal levels. The reductions in landfill volumes appear to be a result of reduced economic activity and not due to waste flight to other landfills as Nelson City volumes are also tracking downwards.

Site operations are progressing well with much improved wet-weather performance by the contractor following some attention to improved planning over the summer period. The site has been recently revegetated in areas not currently being worked, and it is anticipated that this will reduce sediment runoff from the site.

Payment of the Waste Disposal Levy will commence from 1 July for all waste sent to the Eves Valley site. Staff are working with the contractor and the Ministry for the Environment to ensure systems are in place to record volumes and to pay the levy.





5.4 Waste Minimisation Act 2008 and joint TDC / NCC Waste management plan

Council's submission to the discussion document "Waste Minimisation in New Zealand" was finalised and submitted in May and has been distributed separately to Councillors.

Staff propose to meet with Nelson City Council in the week prior to the committee meeting to discuss waste management planning between the two councils and to plan for preparation of a joint Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP).

5.5 Public place recycling

A deed has now been formalised between the Ministry for the Environment and Council for installation of 36 public place recycling bins in the district (in Richmond, Motueka, Murchison, Takaka and Collingwood), as well as at Nelson Airport. The official launch of the initiative is scheduled for 23 July in Motueka.

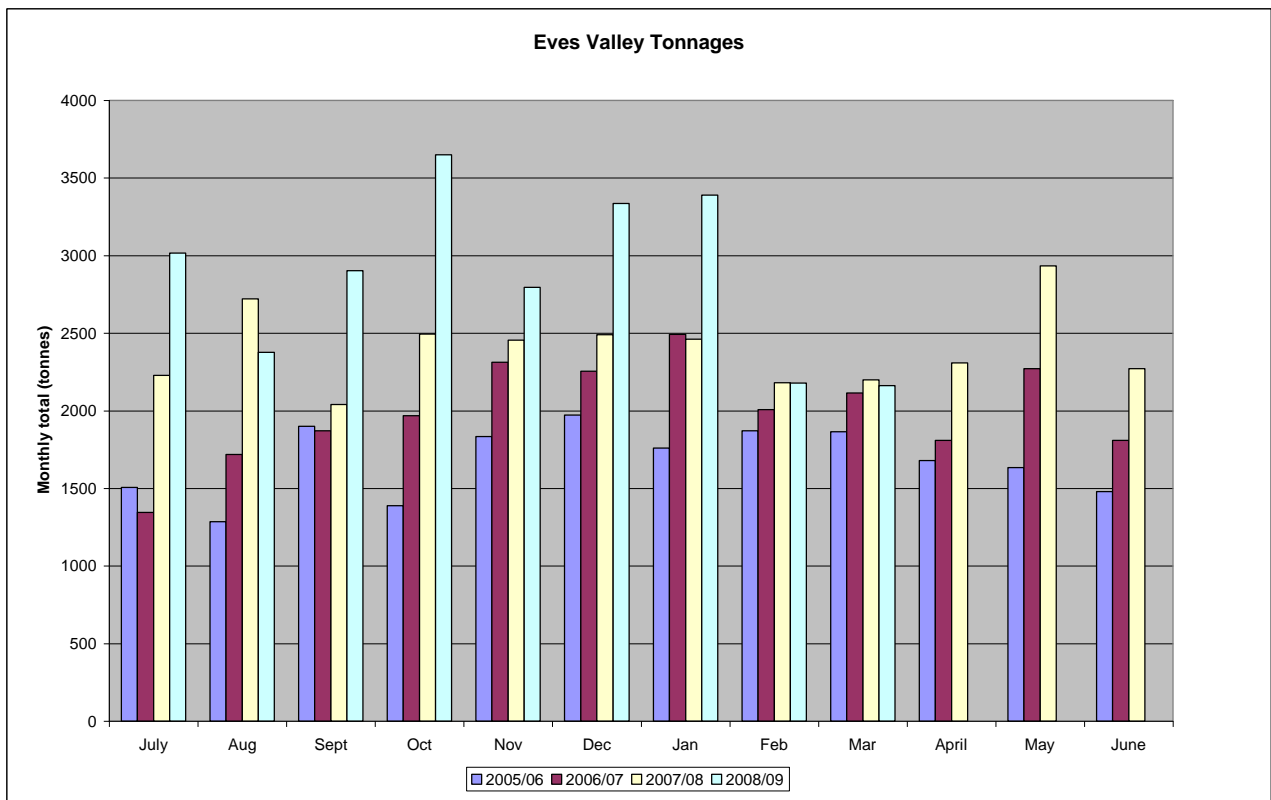
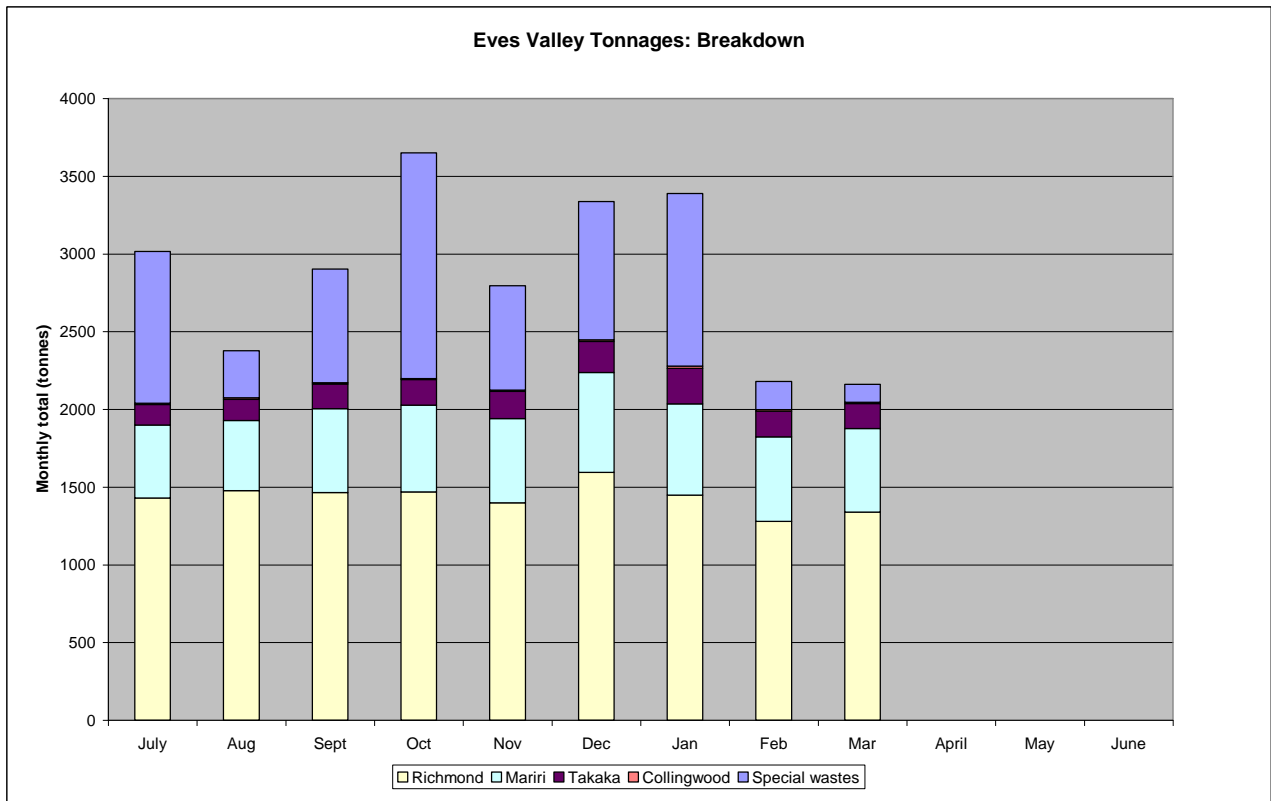
5.6 Waste education

Council has a contract with the Nelson Environment Centre (NEC) for the provision of waste education services in schools, businesses and the wider community. The contractor also provides assistance for events such as eDay and in the processing of Zero Waste Grants. NEC is also the provider of waste education services for Nelson City Council.

Nelson Environment Centre has now held a contract with Council for four years and performed well over the period of the contract. In May of this year Council provided a three month extension to the contractor (to 30 September) to provide continuity of service while longer term arrangements are decided. Council staff will report back at the next committee meeting regarding the long term provision of this service.

Council is also in the process of evaluating a new local government greenwaste initiative

“Create your own Eden”. This programme has been developed by a number of Councils in the upper North Island and provides educational material and guidelines for at-home composting. The programme includes resources for the public, including a website (www.createyourowneden.org.nz), and has been adopted by Nelson City Council in the past 12 months.



6 Tenders

The following tender has recently been awarded:

No.	Contract name	No. of tenders	Successful tenderer	Amount	Highest amount	TDC estimate	Budget for this item	Comment
751	Wakefield Reservoir	8	Tasman Civil Ltd	\$529,660	\$1,084,978	\$661,325	\$585,486	Pioneer Water Tanks disqualified

7 RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be received.

Jeff Cuthbertson
Utilities Asset Manager