

STAFF REPORT

TO: Chairman and Members, Engineering Services Committee
FROM: Jeff Cuthbertson, Utilities Manager
DATE: 4 September 2009
SUBJECT: UTILITIES MANAGEMENT REPORT

1 UTILITIES GENERAL

Council's utilities maintenance contractor Downer EDi Works has continued to perform satisfactorily during the last period.

The recent 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 through performance-based audit scores. The networks have been maintained and operated to provide a satisfactory level of customer service including times of adverse weather events. Overall, Downer EDi Works has continued to perform well in maintaining Council's assets and are achieving the required levels in customer service requests.

1.1 Telemetry

The upgrade of the telemetry system continues with the migration of utility sites on to the digital network in a controlled and programmed manner. All remaining analogue sites are undergoing a recalibration as well as minor upgrades as required, and transfer to a parallel channel. A noticeable reduction in the overall volume of data via the primary Mt Campbell channel has been recorded and this is continuing to improve throughout the transition.

2 WATER

2.1 General

The water schemes continued to operate without significant issues during the last period. Some systems have continued to be affected by minor telemetry communication failures and equipment failures. Some minor issues have been experienced on rural schemes, with pipe bursts still occurring on occasion.

Committee meetings were held for Redwoods, Dovedale, and 88 Valley water schemes in August and further meetings are planned for late September-early October 2009.

There are no issues to report in relation to microbiological compliance for all schemes.

- **Dovedale and Redwoods Rural Schemes**

No significant issues were experienced in the rural supply schemes with only a few relatively minor repairs required. Localised communication failures continue to cause issues.

Development of the preferred design/layout option is complete for the upgraded Redwoods 1 Reservoir. Staff met with affected landowners to confirm the site layout and it is likely that resolution will be reached so the reservoir can be reconstructed prior to next summer.

Other general issues included:

- Fearons Generator showed to be in fault, now repaired.
- Issues occurred in Murchison following a mains break during the night, causing low levels in reservoir, the break was repaired promptly.
- Humphries Creek chlorinator became airlocked causing pumping issues, now repaired.
- Faults occurred in Valhalla Drive Reservoir radio, radio now replaced.
- Investigation continues into the ingress of fine gravels into the lower end of Mapua reticulation. Regular hydrant flushing continues.

2.2 Water Capital Projects

• Wakefield Reservoir

Tasman Civil has commenced work and excavation of the site to base foundation levels has been completed. Factory construction of the pre-cast wall panel units is underway, with approximately half of the panels constructed.

• CTA Reservoirs and Pipelines

Minor portions of pipework are included in the Ruby Bay Bypass project and are about to be installed in conjunction with the road construction and culvert installation.

Discussions with landowners have taken place in relation to the potential sites for future reservoirs in connection with the Coastal Tasman project, and initial discussions have been positive.

• Richmond Reservoirs

Specific sites have been identified and chosen based on specific criteria and discussions continue with the landowners of the potential sites. A draft report on the implications of the various site options has been received. Negotiations continue with the land owners impacted.

• Water Renewals Projects 2009/10

The schedule of assets that have been identified for renewal has undergone scrutiny to determine necessity of replacement on an item-by-item basis followed by a programme for implementation based on priority and location. Further work is required to verify some of the assessments and to determine long term design requirements for some of the items to be replaced.

3 STORMWATER

3.1 General

During the month of August, intermittent and isolated rainfall events continued to occur. No major issues were reported and no significant flooding was recorded. Routine maintenance and proactive maintenance were carried out in accordance with the contract schedule.

A new upper inlet grill in Bill Wilkes detention basin is being fabricated and soon to be installed. This is to allow for simpler clearing of debris and to avoid the recurrence of recent flooding issues.

3.2 Stormwater Capital Projects

- **Collingwood stormwater upgrade – Upper Gibbs Road**

Ching Contracting Ltd has completed works in relation to this project. The contracted works involve installation of approximately 180 metres of 750mm and 675mm stormwater pipe in Upper Gibbs Road and Washington Street. The contractor has obtained practical completion and the contract now enters a period of defects liability.

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

Adcock & Donaldson have completed the works within this contract apart from trench surface final reinstatement. The additional work to install stormwater pipe from Talbot Street to the new pipe system is also practically complete. The project is expected to be completed this month.

Council staff are currently considering the option of replacing kerbs and channels and the reconstruction of the remaining pavement in D’Arcy Street as part of this work. Funding options for this work have been agreed (between roading and utilities) and the contractor is currently pricing the work.

- **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. Detailed design and tender documentation is now complete and with Council staff for final approval for tender advertising.

Council is undertaking a design of the full length of road but will be advertising tenders for the lower half of the work only. This part of the work is scheduled to be complete in advance of the next stage of Salisbury Road resurfacing.

- **Seaton Valley Stream, Mapua**

Tenders documents have been prepared for improvements to the Mapua Causeway and tenders were about to be advertised at time of writing. These works are scheduled to be completed prior to summer holiday season.

Detailed design and foundation investigations continue for construction of two bridges upstream of the causeway. Tenders for these works are expected to be advertised within one month.

- **Park Drive**

The construction of the culvert under Hill Street and the regrading of the footpath between Hill Street and Riding Grove have been priced. Discussions with impacted property owners continue prior to the work proceeding. Further options on the downstream of the culvert are being investigated to reduce the visual impact of works.

No further work in the Park Drive area is planned 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. There were no reported non-compliance issues during the last period.

General issues include:

- Sunbelt Crescent pump 1 was removed and repaired due to a mechanical seal failure allowing water ingress, the pump was repaired.
- Issues occurred at Tapawera WWTP, due to a temporary localised power outage, causing the aerator to trip out.

4.2 Capital works

- **Delaneys Pumpstation and Rising Main**

Tenders for this contract have now closed and the submissions from the short-listed tenderers are undergoing evaluation. The sale and purchase agreement with the affected landowner has now been completed. The tender is expected to be awarded this month with construction commencing in early November.

- **Motueka Sewermain Replacements**

Ching Contracting have completed the construction works contained within the tender and have obtained practical completion status. The project now enters its defects liability phase. The contract was completed within the tendered programme and within contract budget.

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. Official rubbish bag sales have dropped slightly in recent months and will be monitored by staff in the coming months.

5.2 Resource Recovery Centres

Operations at the five Resource Recovery Centres continued with no significant operational issues over the period. In recent months the contractor has maintained an improved tidiness across most sites.

Over the last three weeks staff have been working with the contractor to roll-out a new point-of-sale system at each of the four sites. The system is connected to Council's offices and is currently being tested. Once completed, the system will offer improved access to sales data for Council, increased security and timely billing for customers.

- **Richmond**

Prices are now being sought for the reconstruction of the pit at Richmond with this work expected to be complete prior to the busy summer season.

Staff will shortly be reviewing the proposed layout and design of this site to ensure that the site is suitable for a wide range of materials and operations in the long term. Once this review is complete Stage One of the works will be advertised for tender.

The short term tenant in Fittal Street has now moved out of the site and a layout plan has been developed in consultation with the new tenant (Kahurangi Employment Trust). Prices for this work will be confirmed and the fit-out will commence shortly.

- **Mariri**

A contract has been awarded to Concrete & Metals Ltd for drainage improvements at this site. As part of these works additional stormwater treatment will be added through the installation of a sediment and hydrocarbon capture unit.

- **Takaka**

This site continues to run well, particularly with recent changes to the re-use shop and lower yard. Minor capital works are proposed this year to improve sealed pavement areas and hazardous materials storage. Staff have been liaising with contract staff around proposed changes at the entrance to this site (car parking for Labyrinth Rocks).

- **Collingwood**

The contractor has recently improved tidiness at this site and staff are looking at reducing the total area available to the public to improve security and reduce clutter. Theft continues to be an ongoing issue and staff are working with the contractor to combat this issue.

It has recently been suggested that varying the opening hours may improve access for the public. The site currently opens on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, when the Takaka RRC is also open. It has been suggested that the opening hours change to Tuesdays and Thursdays, when the Takaka site is closed. This suggestion will be taken to the community for comment, with possible implementation in the new year.

- **Murchison**

Operations continue at this site, with minor teething problems being experienced by the contractor with operation of the refuse pit. Staff will continue to monitor operations over the coming months.

Landscaping, improved recycling facilities and a number of additional site enhancements are planned in the coming financial year.

5.3 Eves Valley Landfill

Mixed refuse and special waste volumes to the Eves Valley site were tracking approximately 25% below the previous year at the time of writing.

Refuse haulage and landfill operations have operated since July 2004 through Contract 611 with Sicon Limited. The contract is for an initial term of six years with a potential roll-over for a further five years.

Council has been advised by Sicon Limited, that they will not be seeking a roll-over of the current contract. Council staff and Council's consultants are now working towards an efficient conclusion of the existing contract and strategising the scope and duration of future contract(s) for landfill and haulage operations.

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

Council staff have agreed in principle a methodology for development of a joint waste management and minimisation plan with Nelson City Council, and are reviewing the capabilities of a number of professional advisors to assist in this work.

5.5 e-Day

Tasman and Nelson Councils are again participating in the national e-Day, set down for Saturday 12 September. Venues this year include:

- ENZA Foods, Nayland Road, Stoke (in association with NCC)
- K&F McLean Packhouse, Hursthouse St, Lower Moutere
- Fonterra, Meihana Street, Takaka and
- Murchison RRC.

The event is again being organised by the waste education contractor (Nelson Environment Centre) and has been supported by a wide range of sponsors. Staff will provide a post-event update at the meeting.

5.6 Waste education

Staff are concluding negotiations for the extension of Contract 651 with the Nelson Environment Centre from 1 October 2009 to 30 September 2010.

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 |
|-----|---------------------|----------------|-------------------------|----------|----------------|--------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| 767 | Mariri RRC Drainage | 9 | Concrete and Metals Ltd | \$80,804 | \$127,408 | \$133,208 | \$78,000 | Carried forward from 2008/09 |

7 RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be received.

Jeff Cuthbertson
Utilities Asset Manager