

STAFF REPORT

TO: Chairman and Members, Engineering Services Committee
FROM: Jeff Cuthbertson, Utilities Manager
DATE: 22 February 2010
SUBJECT: **UTILITIES MANAGEMENT REPORT**
Report prepared for meeting of 4 March 2010

1 UTILITIES GENERAL

Council's utilities maintenance contractor, Downer EDi Works has continued to maintain Council's assets to an acceptable standard, and issues have been attended to in a timely manner.

Monthly contract 688 meetings were held on 25 January and 19 February.

Additional maintenance works in the last month have included the installation of extra odour control measures at critical wastewater pump stations in Golden Bay, significant ongoing investigations, leak detection and fixing of pipeline breaks in Dovedale and Redwoods rural water schemes;

Extra effort from the contractor has been required to fix broken pipes and to track and remedy leaks and resolve subsequent air-locks in the expansive Dovedale water network. In spite of activation of the lower intake at Humphreys Creek, the scheme at times has continued to struggle to meet demand.

Extra wastewater chemical dosing units have been installed near Tarakohe and at Delaneys pump station. A dosing agent is proportionally injected into the effluent stream to reduce odour and initial results from the dosing trial into the wastewater reticulation between Tata Beach and Ligar Bay, have shown the dosing to be particularly effective at reducing hydrogen sulphide. As well as reducing the prominence of odour, the agent also helps to protect the pipework against corrosion.

2 WATER

2.1 General

Generally, the water schemes continued to operate at the upper limits of their capacity during the high demand period. Some systems have continued to be affected by minor telemetry communication faults. Significant issues have been experienced on rural schemes, as highlighted above, the Dovedale scheme has been the most commonly affected by ongoing pipe bursts and leaks and subsequent system air-locks. Occasional periods of rain have only just been sufficient to date to prevent the instigation of water rationing.

In relation to the renewal of the Eighty-Eight Valley Rural Water Scheme Water Take consent, the appeal period for the Commissioner's report and Council decision ended on 14 January 2010. An appeal was lodged with the Environment Court by the landowner and

as council staff continue to work through the issues it is likely the appeal will be withdrawn. Investigation work toward a workable point of connection to the scheme for the landowner's property will resume once agreement has been reached, and the appeal withdrawn.

There were microbiological compliance issues for Fearon's Bush Zone, Pohara Zone as well as contamination issues discovered in the vicinity of Faraday Rise, Richmond which have been resolved. Following the testing of supplies at points of connection within Faraday Drive and Hill Street South properties, potential sources of contamination were isolated. Follow-up sample testing after chlorination of the system has shown acceptable clear results.

- **Redwood Rural Scheme**

No significant issues were experienced in the Redwoods rural supply scheme with only a few relatively minor repairs required.

Other general items of water work included:

- Murchison Reservoir went into low level following a break in the Fairfax Street 150mm AC main; plans to install reservoir seismic valving are underway.
- Waimea Treatment Plant chlorinator was overhauled.
- A break on the 200mm Mapua main within the Mapua channel caused multiple outages and also had potentially allowed gravel into the Mapua reticulation.
- Demand on Pohara Water supply during peak period has exceeded supply due to lack of storage; investigations are underway to increase storage capacity/
- Issues occurred with Humphries Creek lower intake and booster pump due to creek debris; investigations are underway to install more effective coarse screening at the lower intake.

2.2 Water Capital Projects

- **Wakefield Reservoir**

Tasman Civil have completed placing the roofing slabs and concrete roof overlay. The issues with the quality of the concrete infill between panels have been remedied. Delays with the project remain and the contractor is expecting the final completion date to be in mid-April.

- **Richmond Reservoirs**

Specific sites have been identified and chosen based on specific criteria and discussions continue with the landowner of the preferred site.

- **Water Renewal Projects 2009/10**

Work has commenced on portions of the Water Renewal Programme. Water meter replacements and rider-main renewals in Murchison are almost complete. Work in Bryant Road, Brightwater is also complete.

3 STORMWATER

3.1 General

The recent period rainfall events have not caused significant issues. Routine and proactive maintenance was carried out in accordance with the contract schedule and reduced the impact of the predicted events. Many of the heavy rain warnings have not resulted in the predicted rainfall occurring.

3.2 Stormwater Capital Projects

- **Salisbury Road Stormwater Upgrade**

Tasman Civil Ltd continue to make steady progress installing pipework in Salisbury Road. The detailed programme of work from the contractor is tight but achievable.

- **Ruby Bay**

Flood modelling of the Broadsea Avenue–Crusader Drive area is nearing completion. Council’s consultant is currently evaluating remedial options with detailed design commencing shortly. The works may include a new discharge to the coast, for which resource consent will be sought.

- **Mapua (Seaton Valley Stream)**

Contract 762 was awarded to Tasman Civil in November of last year for the installation of an additional stormwater culvert through the Toru Street causeway, Mapua. This work is programmed to commence in late April, at the conclusion of the busy summer period.

Contract 777 (for the construction of a single box culvert on the Seaton Valley Stream) was advertised in November last year and tenders closed on 2 December 2009. A preferred tenderer has been identified for the work and approved by the Tenders Committee for award.

Detailed design for a second box culvert (adjacent to the Mapua School) is near completion and contract documentation is being prepared.

Council staff have met with affected landowners to resolve outstanding landowner issues and are hopeful that the two box culverts can be built sequentially in June (the next opportunity under the resource consent).

- **Motueka**

Tenders have been advertised for stormwater work in Old Wharf Road (Contract 780) and will close on 24 February 2010.

- **Brightwater**

Taylor Contracting Ltd commenced widening work at Jeffries Creek, Brightwater (Contract 779). Tree clearance is complete and earthworks commenced on 17 February 2010 with completion scheduled for late March.

4 WASTEWATER

4.1 General

All treatment plants were routinely checked during the month and extra odour control has been installed at critical sites. There were a number of issues during the last period which were attended to and rectified promptly.

These included:

- Bursts occurred on the 100mm main near 4 Winds SPS and at 642 Abel Tasman Drive and subsequent overflows were cleaned up and the sites disinfected.
- Blockages occurred at Waller St, Murchison, and Summit St, St Arnaud.
- Blockages occurred at the Takaka Dump site, and in Motupipi St, Takaka.
- Rising Main burst on Abel Tasman Drive near Four Winds pump station was isolated and repaired; subsequent pump failure required pump to be replaced.
- Stock Effluent facility, Murchison, went into high alarm.
- Motels Pump station, Collingwood, power cable failure had failed due to water ingress, cable replaced.

4.2 Capital works

- **Delaneys Pumpstation and Rising Mains, and Collingwood Motels Pumpstation**
Ching Contracting Ltd continue to make steady progress on this contract. The Collingwood Motels upgrade work is substantially complete. A substantial portion of the gravity sewer main in Abel Tasman Drive has also been completed. Work has commenced at the new Delaneys pump station site and the contract is on schedule for an end of March completion.

- **Motueka Sewermain Renewals**

The sewer upgrade has been tendered and will be constructed in conjunction with the proposed New Zealand Transport Agency reconstruction of High Street from Whakarewa to Tudor Streets. The contract has been awarded to Fulton Hogan and is expected to commence on site this month.

5 SOLID WASTE

5.1 Kerbside recycling and bag collection

Holiday activity over the January period kept the kerbside collections contractor very busy particularly in Golden Bay where Council received reports of a significant number of missed and late collections. Council staff have worked with the contractor to ensure collections are now completed in a timely manner.

Daily rubbish collection and twice-weekly recycling at Kaiteriteri concluded this month. The collection contractor has been returning to Kaiteriteri on a semi-regular basis to clean up illegally dumped and late bags.

Public place recycling has proved popular over the summer period, with newly installed bins being well utilised in visitor and tourist locations. Feedback from local businesses and the general public has been positive. In busy sites (such as Takaka) collections were required twice daily over the three-week holiday peak.

Staff will now be reviewing the success of the initiative and whether to provide bins in additional locations. Staff will also be reviewing the collections at Kaiteriteri over summer and assessing alternatives.

5.2 Resource Recovery Centres

Site activity remained busy over the reporting period. Sales volumes and refuse quantities remain flat with December volumes down and January up on the previous year. Richmond sales were down and Mariri up over the period. As estimates for the current year projected an increase of approximately 3% on last year, an income shortage remains for the current financial year.

A revised site plan for the Richmond site has now been approved, with detailed design commencing. Vehicles will eventually access and exit the site via Fittal Street. Clearance at the rear of the site is nearly complete so that Fittal Street can be formed through the site, which will also give additional access to the Waimea Estuary.

Drainage improvements at Mariri are now complete. Design is underway for improvements to the recycling facilities and site layout.

The Murchison site pavement is scheduled for sealing in selected areas, with improvements to recycling drop-off also programmed.

5.3 Eves Valley Landfill

Waste-to-landfill increased for the month of January, with special waste for the month on budget.

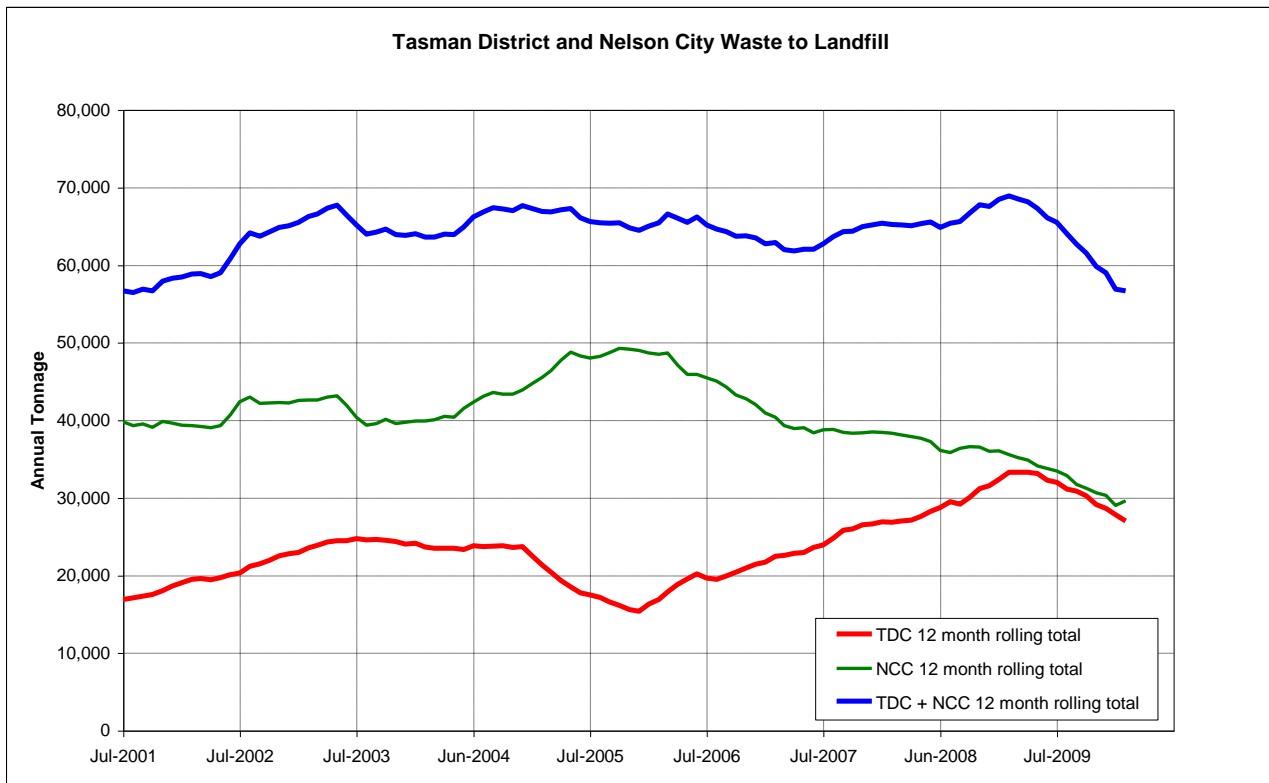
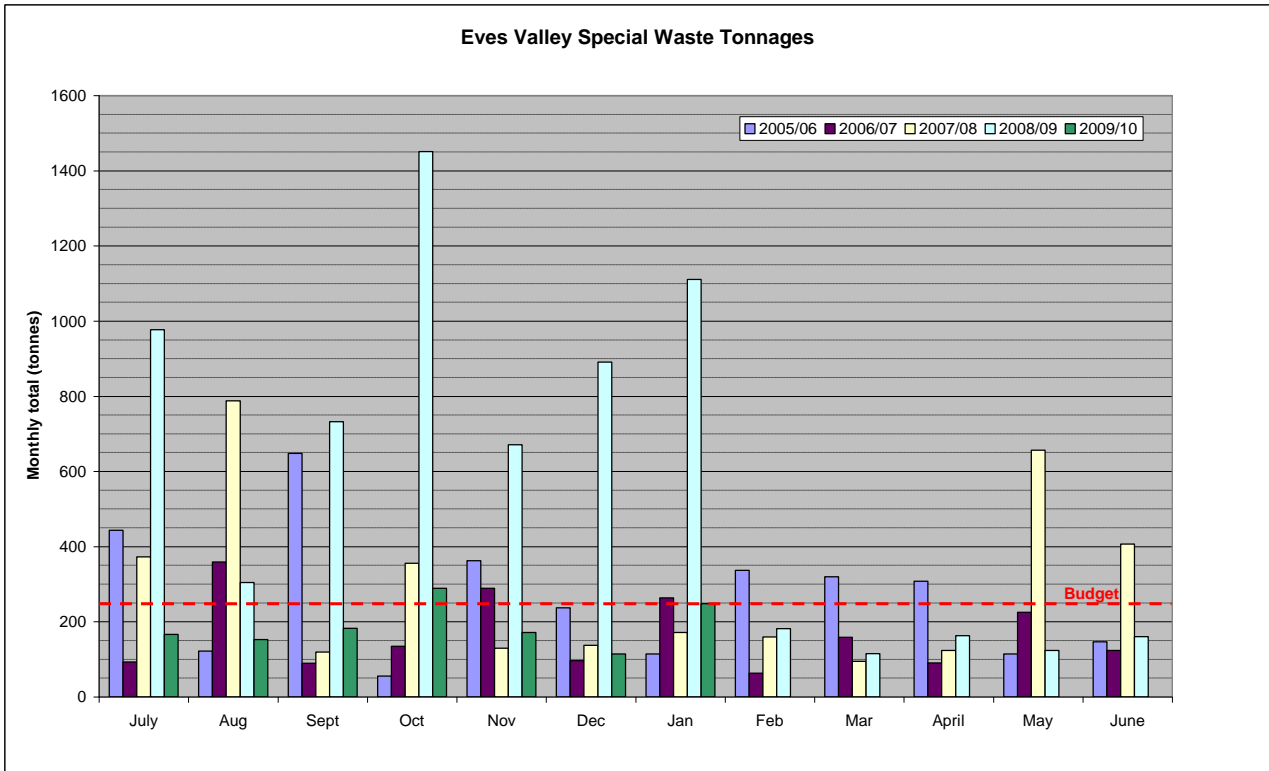
A tender document has been prepared for Contract 781, for refuse haulage and operation of the Eves Valley landfill for a two year period (with two possible extensions of one year). Council is currently in discussions with the current contractor for possible transfer of the assets used for the current contract to the new contract.

The existing contract (611) has been extended by agreement for a period of two months to 31 August 2010.

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

Council staff met with Nelson City Council staff and the Solid Waste Working Party (Crs Dowler and Bryant, Tasman District Council and Crs Holmes and Shaw, Nelson City Council) to review a joint waste assessment for the two councils. The document is being amended with a view to being presented to the Nelson City Council on 25 March and to Tasman District Council shortly afterwards.

The working party will also meet on Friday 5 March 2010 to discuss possible governance options for joint landfill and other waste management activities.



6 RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be received.

Jeff Cuthbertson
Utilities Asset Manager