

STAFF REPORT

TO: Chairman and Members, Engineering Services Committee

FROM: Utilities Asset Engineer, Kim Arnold

DATE: 21 March 2007

SUBJECT: **UTILITIES MANAGEMENT REPORT**

1 GENERAL

In general the maintenance contract works have been carried out in an excellent manner, and most operational issues have been kept well under control. The contractor has undertaken a large number of reactive repairs promptly and efficiently and within the appropriate standards. Although there remains a significant portion of work to complete before the end of June the progress toward this goal is firmly on track.

A significant upgrade of the telemetry base station hardware and software has been completed. The system was proving problematic when receiving large volumes of information sent via Mt Campbell. Following site audits it was verified that the radio units were capable and functioning correctly. Some minor software issues have also been rectified which has helped to reduce the number of communications failures.

2 WATER

2.1 General

The continuing dry period has caused concern and put considerable strain on all TDC water supplies. Water restrictions have been introduced and some are likely to remain in place until a significant period of rainfall occurs. Overall, water consumption volumes have tapered off slightly due to the number of cloudy/cool days, which has helped to reduce the impact of restricted levels of supply.

The following failures occurred recently:

- Mapua 200mm Trunk watermain burst adjacent to Greenacres Golf course, split full length of 6m pipe section
- The Richmond zone/lower Richmond reservoir returned a positive E.coli result. Follow up testing was completed. The sample point is considered to be inappropriate and is being investigated

2.2 Appleby Well Upgrade

Due to the Transit road widening project the Appleby Well requires some alteration work to ensure it is positioned in a safe location. A cost share arrangement is in place for such occurrences.

2.3 Brightwater Reservoir

Detailed design is complete for the Brightwater Reservoir. The documentation for building

consent application has been submitted. The contract is to be tendered prior to June 2007 but construction is planned for the 2007/2008 financial year.

2.4 Dovedale Rural Water Supply

The scheme has not experienced its typical problems during the peak period but continues to operate at its capacity limit. The lower intake has been activated a number of times only however the draw off from the upper intake remains at its maximum possible level.

2.5 Mapua Trunk Main

The tender for the renewal of the section of main across the two estuary channels between Best and Rabbit Islands closes 28 March. The installation of the two connection junctions has been completed successfully by Works Infrastructure in preparation for the main contract.

3 STORMWATER

3.1 General

The wetter than usual month of January was followed by a dry February with low rainfall levels district-wide. No major issues were reported during February. The tide flap-gate at Trewavas Street, Motueka, was jammed open by debris, which resulted in some localised saltwater influx and killing of grass. It along with Woodlands and Thorps drains were cleared.

The tide flap gates at the Mapua Causeway were purposefully held open for a series of tidal cycles to help flush stagnant estuary water.

Minor works to repair the Broadsea Avenue reserve floodgates was completed.

Outlets at Tata Beach, Patons Rock and Collingwood were cleared.

The following Waimea drains were maintained this month: Borkes Creek, Eastern, Humes, Andrews, Beach Road, Brightwater, Ellis, Wakefield and 88 valley.

A number of stormwater upgrade projects are on hold awaiting on the results of the hydraulic modelling project.

3.2 Borck's Creek / Headingly Lane Channel

The pre-cast concrete bridge beams have been constructed for the access to the end property and will be installed within the coming weeks. The physical works contract for the next stage of channel widening is to be tendered next month.

4 WASTEWATER

4.1 General

The following incidents have recently occurred:

- A pipe blockage at Main Road Tapawera was attended and cleared by Punts, a minor overflow occurred but was contained
- The Takaka primary school #2 pump was removed for repair and temporary backup installed

- The pumps at 217 Thorp Street pumpstation blocked again with the pumps originally installed (as subdivided) remaining unsuitable for the task. The station is programmed for a full electrical upgrade in 2008/2009.

4.2 Motupipi Street Sewermain Replacement

Works Infrastructure have commenced this contract and have had difficulty dealing with the sheer volume of groundwater while excavating the trench to the design depth. They are now making steady progress with sound systems in place to treat the pumped groundwater.

4.3 Waitapu Pumpstation

An alternative site has been found for the upgraded Waitapu pumpstation and negotiations with the landowner continue to secure the appropriate size of land.

Design continues on this pumpstation upgrade project and land valuation is underway to complete negotiations for the purchase of the appropriate portion of land.

4.4 Wastewater Renewals Projects

Price quotes have been obtained and a programme of pumpstation electrical upgrades has been established for the eight highest priority sites. The work is to be completed prior to June 2007.

4.5 CCTV Contract

Survey of Richmond wastewater and stormwater sewers and Motueka stormwater sewers is complete, with Motueka wastewater sewers near completion. Results from this project will identify priority sections of pipeline for renewal.

5 REFUSE

5.1 Kerbside collection

Kerbside refuse and recycling collection continues with generally good performance from the contractor. Recent improvements to the service include the purchase of GPS vehicle-tracking equipment. This equipment will allow the contractor to know the location of all vehicles in real time, and will give scope for enhanced customer service.

5.2 Resource Recovery Centre Operations

Refuse and recycling tonnages have now started to drop following the traditionally busy summer season.

Progress towards site improvements include:

- Detailed design and tender preparation for site improvements at Richmond, including the provision of a weighbridge, improved load-out facilities for compactor bins, preparation the site for improved car and scrap metal processing, and provision of a weighbridge.
- Provision of a new kiosk and ablution facilities at the Mariri site.

- Small improvements to site layout and improved kiosk facilities at the Takaka site.

Opening hours at the Takaka site have reverted to the winter schedule, with some modification. Initial feedback from the public has been generally positive.

5.3 Landfill operations

Site operations continue at both sites, with no significant issues. Landfill volumes at Eves Valley continue to track upwards, with a projection of 23,500 tonnes for the 2006-2007 year, an increase of approximately 4000 tonnes over the last financial year.

Landfill operations at Murchison and discussion of a regional landfill are discussed under separate cover.

5.4 Agrecovery

Commencement of this national service is scheduled for 1 April, with the Tasman District Council facilities to be located in the Richmond Resource Recovery Centre.

This example of extended producer responsibility will be officially launched at the Richmond site on 19 April, with Agrecovery Foundation, Brand Owners and the Minister for the Environment in attendance.

6 RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be received.

Kim Arnold
Utilities Asset Engineer