

# STAFF REPORT

**TO:** Chairman & Members, Engineering Services Committee

**FROM:** Utilities Asset Manager

**REFERENCE:** W190

**DATE:** 5 April 2005

**SUBJECT:** Water and Sanitary Service Assessments

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## PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the Water and Sanitary Services Assessments to the Engineering Services Committee so they can be approved to go through the Special Consultative Procedure as set down in the Local Government Act (LGA) and be adopted by Council before 30 June 2005.

## BACKGROUND

Council has been required by the LGA to go through a process of undertaking an assessment on all water, wastewater, stormwater, public toilets and cemetery services within the District, both Council-owned and privately-owned. This assessment has been undertaken to document where systems adequately service the public, how they rank as to risk to that community, and how the services can cope with future demands.

### Local Government Act – Section 126

Section 126(1) and (2) are attached to this report. This Section of the LGA gives the best explanation of what is required in the assessments, what is to be included in the assessments and in general, quantifies the assessment procedures.

## COMMENTS

Council engaged MWH to compile all information from:

- Council staff and records
- Private scheme owners
- Nelson Marlborough District health Board – Public Health Services
- Medical Officer of Health
- Department of Conservation
- Ministry of Education

The issues with compiling information to a satisfactory level is knowing where the boundaries are, especially the lower boundaries of information required. To this end it

was agreed that the definition of a “community” would be “25 people occupying a system for more than 60 days of the year”. This undoubtedly will mean that some systems may fall below that threshold and were not considered by the assessment as being a community, however, people within that area may consider themselves a community. To this end, those groups that have dropped below the threshold that feel overlooked can make submissions to be included in the final assessment.

### **Draft Water and Sanitary Services Assessment Document**

Attached to this report is: (these will be sent under separate cover on Friday 8 April)

- Water and Sanitary Services Assessment - Executive Summary
- Water and Sanitary Services Assessment – Volume No 1

It is proposed to include within the draft 2005/2006 Annual Plan document the Executive Summary of the Water and Sanitary Services Assessment.

Volume No 1 will be made available to the public at the public meetings and upon request.

There is a Water and Sanitary Services Assessment Volume No 2. This document is quite large and goes into a lot of in-depth operations of individual systems. It is not intended to make this volume available on request but it will be available at all Council offices and libraries.

### **Medical Officer of Health**

The Medical Officer of Health’s Senior Public Health Officer was part of the team used to formulate the Water and Sanitary Services Assessments. Comments have been received from the Medical Officer of Health and have been included in the draft document.

### **Special Consultative Procedure**

The draft Water and Sanitary Services Assessment document is now at a stage that it needs to be presented to the public through the special consultative procedure as required in the LGA.

It is the intention that the consultation for this assessment will run parallel to the Annual Plan process in all elements, ie consultation period, submissions, hearing of submissions and finally confirmation.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Engineering Services Committee approve the draft Water and Sanitary Services Assessment document for release to the public through the special consultative procedure in conjunction with the draft Annual Plan so that the final assessment can be confirmed by Council prior to 30 June 2005.**

Jeff Cuthbertson  
Utilities Manager