



Asset Manager's Report - March 2005

WATER/WASTEWATER

Waste Water

Urban Sewer Network

There were no blocked sewers reported and two new connections made.

Wastewater Plant

The WWTW continues to operate reasonably satisfactorily with no instances of malodour reported. Dissolved oxygen levels and therefore the biological processes are being maintained with a single aerator in operation. A second remains on standby.

The recent heavy rains were dealt with satisfactorily by the plant despite a significant volumetric increase due to infiltration requiring treatment and causing sludge lift. Work is required to investigate and divert rain water run off (generally from roof downpipes) from foul sewers.

A draft asset management plan is being prepared for the sewerage and waste water treatment plant.

Water Schemes

The Public Health Amendment Bill which was expected to come into effect in January 2005 has been delayed. Dr Michael Taylor of the DOH has advised me that they are aiming to have the new standards printed by June 2005, coming into effect on 30th December 2005. Although the standards would become operative from 30th December 2005, the provisions of the legislation that relate to the standards would not become operational for perhaps another year, and even then may only enter the arena from 1st July 2007. With the 5 year implementation provisions that the government has agreed to, one would be looking at medium, small, and very small suppliers being affected in the 3rd, 4th, and 5th years out from that start up date.

The new Bill (which will replace the Public Health Act 1956), and intended revisions to the New Zealand Drinking Water Standards (which will become mandatory under the Bill) will require significant improvements to the district's water supplies. The current Drinking Water Standards are not mandatory under current legislation.

An assessment of all the water supplies within the district has been carried out as required by the Local Govt. Act and water quality improvement studies are in hand in anticipation of the legislation described above. Significant upgrades and renewals are also identified as being required due to the poor condition of much of the existing plant.

Enhancements to the Lower Waihao intake are to be considered as a priority due to the near proximity of a dairy farm effluent pond to the intake.

Drawings of all schemes are also being drafted and a study comparing water allocations and water rates has commenced.

Draft asset management plans for all water schemes have also been prepared.

Rural Water Schemes

The recent significant rainfall event caused problems and turbidity issues for all rural water schemes.

An option to source water from Lower Waihao Rural Water Supply Scheme to serve parties to the east of the Waikakahi scheme thereby freeing up additional water to serve Waikakahi west was approved by Council but rejected by the scheme committee due to the requirement to pay a contribution to Lower Waihao.

Otaio Water Scheme

The Otaio trunk water main which was washed away at a creek crossing and outages at Otaio were obviated by the new main recently installed to serve the Otaio scheme having sufficient capacity to serve demand whilst repairs are effected. Enhancements to the Otaio Rural Water Supply Scheme have been successfully concluded with all applicants receiving their desired allocation of water. Approximately an additional one third of a million litres of water per day has been allocated to serve ratepayers on the scheme. A new pressure reducing valve was fitted in Makikihi township.

Lower Waihao Water Scheme

The 150mm on Ferry Rd has been repaired, and other minor repairs to lines were carried out.

Waikakahi Water Scheme

A triennial meeting is planned for the Committee for the 8th March at the Arno Hall. The Committee are still pressing for a longer term solution to the water increments that the scheme is seeking.

Hook Water Scheme

There has been significant damage to the Hook Waituna intake which suffered the loss of the dam and damage to the water intake gallery, and flows are being maintained through the Hook intake by the current high water levels, whilst repairs are instigated.

Waihaorunga Water Scheme

A new water meter has been fitted.

Cannington Water Scheme

There was minor damage to the intake after recent flooding.

Urban Water Supply

The Timaru Rd bore was called upon for about 8 hours per day during the hot weather of early February to supplement the Manchesters Rd bore. Lately however, the Manchesters Rd bore has reverted to being the only source required and is running full time. Three broken water mains in Goldsmith St were repaired. Tobys and laterals were repaired, as usual.

ROADING

Work Completed

Pavement Maintenance

Preparation of surface for sealing Uretane/Horgan/ Waihao Back Road intersection.

Storm Damage repairs to Corrivals Road

Drainage

Minor drainage improvements have been completed on the following roads: -

Brasells, Pareora River, Wards, Gunns, Englebrechts, Bussells, and Backline Roads

Culvert installation

New culverts have been installed on Lyalls, and Davisons Roads

Queen Street Power Overhead Conversion

Networks –South Ltd has completed this work

Work Programmed

2004/05 Resealing Contract

Resealing is programmed to be completed in March by Blacktop Construction Ltd.

Blacktop has indicated that overall adverse seasonal weather has interfered with their programmes nationally.

Culvert Repairs

Pentland Hills Road Twin 1200mm dia. pipes concrete invert.

Pleasant Valley Road Install concrete pavement at wash over culvert (seal damaged by flooding).

Gunns Road - Clear channel down stream of wash over culvert.

Bridge Repairs

Prices are being sort for upgrades at Hursts Bridge, Hursts Road and Goulds Bridge Teschemaker Valley Road.

Minor Safety Projects Sealing of Bridge Approaches and Intersections

Parkers Bush Road – Sutherlands Bridge.

Studholme Settlement .

Storm Damage

Heavy rain on 13th/14th of February has resulted in road damage especially in the Otaio and Cannington Areas.

Some surface flooding of streets in Waimate Township has occurred after the downpours.

Roads Closed

Horseshoe Bend -Thomsons to Tavistock, Soured culvert (opened 18th)

Hillbro - Marshells to Otaio River, Scouring (opened on the 15th)

Backline – Pakihi to Campell Forrests gravel on concrete fords (open 15th)

Otaio River Fords

Roads with Major Scours to repair

Howells, Pratts, Coffeys, Motukaika, Frenchmans Gulley, Corrigals.

Other Repairs

Clear Bridge and Culvert Waterways.

Open Otaio River gravel fords.

Speed Limit Bylaw

A Statement of Proposal has been prepared for the Speed Limits Bylaw.

As part of the special consultative procedure required by the Local Government Act 2002 Council wishes to hear from any person, group or business that would like to make a submission on the proposed bylaw. Submissions close on 24 March 2004.

Transit New Zealand State Highway 10-year Plan

Transit New Zealand has released the Draft State Highway 10-year Plan for consultation. A summary document for Canterbury is attached.

Is this an opportunity to request that priority be given to introduce passing lanes on SH 1 between central Waimate and Oamaru?

Submissions close 16 March 2005

WASTE

Resource Recovery Park (RRP)

There appears to be an ongoing effect from the reduced gate charges introduced from the 1 July 2005. Preliminary figures to the 17 February 2005 indicate a 10% increase in customers at the RRP compared to the same period last financial year. However, revenue for the corresponding period is approximately 30% lower (\$5,000 less).

Solid Waste Management Strategy and Solid Waste Asset Management Plan

The Solid Waste Management Strategy for inclusion in this year's LTCCP has been completed by staff. This is a strategy laying out how the activity will change in the short and medium term. Beca Consultants will draft an Asset Management Plan for solid waste. These documents provide the strategic framework for this activity and are a requirement of legislation.

Rural Hazardous Waste Collection

The agchem collection was successfully completed, accumulating approximately 5.3 tonnes of waste. One property with 4 tonne, suitably stored, awaits disposition. A decision will be made in May 2005 whether to remove it this financial year or include it as part of next year's final collection.

Feedback has indicated a high degree of appreciation for this service.

The Recycling Operation

At time of writing, it is intended that a preliminary draft recycling contract will be available for review shortly. Once approved in principle, it will be referred for a legal opinion and finalised. A contract must also be written for the recyclables collection.

Representatives of Whitehorse Recycling have been involved in the process at each step along the way. A Manager / Supervisor position is intended to be advertised by them early in the process. Equipment is being accumulated in anticipation e.g. bailer, conveyor belt etc. Funding has been secured for these.

STAFF ACTIVITIES

Two staff members have been recruited. An administration person, Belinda Winter, predominantly to assist with the water schemes administration, but also in support of the team's administration and general office support, as well as a labourer, Brian Shave, in support of urban water/sewer maintenance activities.

Graeme Hamilton
Asset Manager – 21 February 2005