
Asset Manager's Report



WATER/WASTEWATER

Waste Water

Urban Sewer Network

No problems have been reported.

Wastewater Plant

Dissolved Oxygen levels have been satisfactory using a single aerator, while the repaired aerator is on standby. No odour problems have been reported.

The Compliance Monitoring Report by Environment Canterbury on the Resource Consent for the discharge of treated effluent from the treatment plant was received this month. All conditions monitored were graded as fully compliant. Late Spring soil sampling of WWTW effluent disposal fields as required by ECan completed.

Water Schemes

Ministry of Health Water Improvement Programmes-TAP & CAP

The Technical Assistance Programme (TAP) and Capital Assistance Programme (CAP) are being proposed by the Ministry of Health to assist drinking water schemes to become capable of meeting the new standards. There has been a phone discussion with Mr Jim Graham, the Drinking Water Assistance Programme Leader. He advised that the focus now is on TAP aimed at capacity building to prepare the Public Health Risk Management Plan (PHRMP), leading to identification of what is to be done to make the schemes compliant. A new team of Drinking Water Assessors are being trained and will be made available to help the scheme managers to prepare the PHRMP by March 2006. Once this is done the schemes will be well-placed to apply for the CAP. The guidelines and criteria for eligibility are being drafted now and are likely to be made available for discussion before it is approved by the cabinet. As of now, no information is available regarding the percentage or amount of capital contribution that will be made available to water schemes.

Urban Water System

Water samples from the Manchesters Road bore was collected on 17/10/2005 and analysed as part of Environment Canterbury's groundwater monitoring programme. The results indicate full compliance with the health standards and aesthetic guidelines listed in the Ministry of Health Drinking Water Standards for New Zealand 2005.

As the season changes the Timaru Road bore is being used more often. During the entire month of November the Timaru Road bore had to be activated on nine days, with its contribution to the urban water supply being as high as 58% on the 29th of November. There has been only one enquiry about the quality of water, since the seasonal use of the Timaru Road bore.

There has been a useful discussion with Steve Waller, the Canterbury District Health Board's Drinking Water Assessor, regarding the short-term strategy to improve the rating for the urban water supply scheme, in time for the start of the Official Grading process in January 2006. The suggestions include water tests to demonstrate the security of the two sources and monitoring of the distribution network for microbiological and chemical compliance.

Rural Water Schemes

Steve Waller from the South Island Drinking Water Assessment Unit inspected the water intakes at Hakataramea, Waikakahi and Waihoarunga schemes. Though we are yet to receive his documented opinion, Mr. Waller appears to be satisfied with the Hakataramea intake which is nicely fenced, clearly well maintained (with instruction board for filter flushing and valves operation on the fence) and no detrimental activities in the Council's Water Supply Protection Area; the other intakes have a lot to improve, in view of the requirements according to the proposed new MoH Standards.

Cannington

There have been some problems with the filter due to the wet weather. There was also a one-off incident of detection of E-coli during the month (probably related to the filter problems); remedied with adjustment of the chlorine dosage.

Hook / Waituna

The scheme had to be shut off for a day, due to the blockage of the intake filter. All water samples have been OK. Normal maintenance carried out.

Following the application by Willowbridge Hall to be exempted from the Capital Contribution the Water Scheme Committee was informed about the precedents in the case of other community halls receiving water from the scheme, helping them to decide on the matter.

Additional service to Willowbridge Area. Services data for Hannaton Rd water pipeline received. Confirmative 'on-site' exploration programmed. Quotes for pipe supply awaited.

Lower Waihao Water Scheme

The new chlorinator is working fine and the problem with the SCADA link has been sorted out, making it possible to monitor and document the chlorine levels from the WDC office, a first for the district.

The A.C. pipe rising main had been causing frequent problems in the past, with degraded rubber rings at pipe joints. This month also we had a pipe failure disrupting the pumping and highlighting the need for replacement of the entire section.

All the water samples tested were OK and no problems have been reported.

Environment Canterbury has informed the Council that they have taken steps to abate the unauthorised effluent irrigation at the area directly down-gradient from the bore, and to decommission the leaky effluent pond near the intake. However, they have made it clear that any well which draws water from an unconfined aquifer from a depth of less than 30 metres (which is the case with the Lower Waihao intake) would be at risk of contamination from surrounding land use, and *"the Waimate District Council has a clear responsibility to ensure that the water supply from the bore is potable"*. The letter also states that *"while Environment Canterbury has responsibility to manage land uses that could adversely affect water quality"*, they do not think *"it would be reasonable to try to control local existing legal land uses to attempt to protect such a shallow bore supply"*.

Otaio

No problems reported. Normal maintenance carried out. All water samples were OK. Metering exercise to determine incoming power fluctuations at Otaio completed, with variations within normal limits.

Waihaorunga

No problems reported; all water samples tested were OK.

Waikakahi

The tendering process for the main pump house electrical and controls refurbishment has closed. Two viable tenders were received and the Committee Chairman will be consulted on this contract.

The preliminary investigation for the new 110mm diameter pipeline linking from Clayton's Reservoir to Dog Kennel Road Pump House, a distance of 16km over some very rugged country, is ongoing with assistance from Andrew Hare, the GIS Officer, and the pipeline route survey is nearing completion. *It is noteworthy that a design detail colour contour map submitted for a map competition by Andrew Hare at a recent Local Government MapInfo User Group held in Napier on 10th November 2005, won first prize. The underlying work has resulted in part from the rapid uptake of hand-held data-loggers used by field staff being incorporated directly and quickly in to the mapping process to facilitate decision-making and the accuracy of design processes.*

Downlands

At a recent meeting of the Asset Managers of McKenzie DC, Timaru DC, and Waimate DC it was advised that Timaru can appoint maintenance staff/contractors under a warrant to maintain the system. If there were access issues, then the staff/contractors also needed an enforcement authority warrant. Timaru will need Waimate & Mackenzie CEO's to approve such access approvals before Christmas, as Timaru operates on behalf of the other 2 jurisdictions. A joint standing Committee approach would facilitate, should this form of management be chosen and approved.

ROADING

Work Completed

Drainage Maintenance

Park View Road

Culvert Installation

Pareora Gorge Road, Limestone Valley Road, Gumtree Flat Road, Donnithornes Road, Park View Road.

Pavement Repairs

Large heavy truck volumes on Gordons Valley and Gumtree Flat Roads have caused some seal failures. Gumtree Flat Road has been completed and Gordons Valley road is in progress.

Other Repairs:

Ikawai Middle Road, Dog Kennel Road.

Pavement Repairs in Preparation for resealing

Gumtree Flat Road, Pareora George Road, Waihaorunga Back Road, Serpentine Valley Road, Limestone Road.

Unsealed Road Pavement Repair

A dig out has been completed on a failed area of Donnithornes Road.

Metalling

Clay modified gravel has been placed and compacted on McNaughtons road to repair a deteriorated metal surface.

Scour Repairs

Minor flood damage scour repairs have been completed on Galways and Coulters roads.

Bridge Repairs

Bourdale Homestead Bridge has had some deck planks replaced.

St Andrews Drainage, Footpath Construction

Work is in progress on Transit NZ contract for Pavement strengthening and intersection improvement at the intersection of SH 1 and Thackeray Street.

This work includes installation of a culvert from the Highway Dinner to Thackeray Street and construction of a Paved footpath as charge to Council.

Work Programmed

Pavement Repairs

Completion of pavement repairs for in preparation for resealing and general pavement repairs on sealed roads.

Minor Safety Projects Sealing Intersection

Seal will be extending the seal an additional 35m down McLeays Road from SH 1. This work will be completed as a part with a State Highway pavement strengthening contract being undertaken by Fulton Hogan.

2005/06 Resealing Contract

Resealing is programmed commence in January 2006.

Development of a Safety Management System

The Contract for the Development and initial implementation of the combined Safety Management System for Waimate, MacKenzie and Timaru Districts has been let to Maunsell Consultants by Land Transport New Zealand.

WASTE

The Solid Waste Manager has been involved preparing the 06/07 Budget and Proposed Funding Policy and will report separately on current operating costs. The two contracts between WRCT and WDC covering the recycling operation, and the site/kiosk operation have been duly signed.

Solid Waste Statistics

Inspite of increasing volumes of recyclables being collected (>4 tonne a week), refuse continues to almost match the 2004 tonnage, with only limited reduction of tonnages resulting to date:

	Refuse Collection		Total Refuse to Landfill	
	2004	2005	2004	2005
July	120.45	101.59	171.87	157.16
August	102.32	114.02	172.98	169.99
September	125.53	124.52	183.24	182.81
October	118.43	120.41	193.33	184.33
November	143.93	143.45	224.61	224.28
Total Tonnes	610.66	603.99	946.03	918.57

The difference between Refuse Collection Tonnages and the higher Total Refuse to Landfill Tonnages is because of the addition of commercial direct loads and loads from the recycling operation. A key issue is the public's continuing to fully utilise bin capacity, thus preventing some of the anticipated cost savings from being realised.

Staff and the WRCT are addressing measures designed to change behaviour and promote greater diversion from landfill, to achieve longer-term cost-savings.

The average number of vehicles using the RRP continues to exceed the same period last year i.e. 18.5 vehicles vs 13.4 vehicles per open day (1 Jul to 30 Nov). This activity results in part from the reduced RRP charges applicable this last year, and the activity generated by the recycling operation.

OTHER

- Two field staff have attended a refresher course on traffic management.
- A meeting of the Chairmen of the Rural Water Committees will take place at 4:00pm on the 14th December 2005.
- A meeting was held with Dr Marlene Kanga, risk assessment engineer, on 8th November 2005 to address the LAPP Insurance Trust (underground infrastructure insurance trust covering 50 Local Authorities in NZ). Dr Kanga commented that *"the LTCCP was very impressive, especially the GIS diagrams of your (infrastructure) schemes"*.

G Hamilton
Asset Manager

12th December 2005