
Asset Manager's Report—7th August 2006



WATER/WASTEWATER

Wastewater

Urban Sewer Network

Sewer connection for the proposed development at the old hospital site was established. A few blocked sewer lines were cleared.

Wastewater Plant

The treatment pond and disposal works continued to function trouble-free.

Water Schemes

Submission on Drinking Water Assistance Programme

A submission on the behalf of all the water schemes within the District was forwarded to the Ministry of Health on the Drinking Water Assistance programme (copy attached).

A draft Public Health Risk Management Plan for rural water schemes was presented for review by Peter Burt, the Technical Assistance Programme Facilitator for the South Canterbury region on the 20th of July.

Urban Water System

No significant problems on water quality or distribution were reported in the urban water network. Two new water connections were established.

Rural Water Schemes

Efforts are underway to prepare a detailed inventory of all the components of the head works, pump houses and distribution networks of all the rural water schemes. This information is to be used in the preparation of the Operation & Maintenance Manuals and the updated valuation of assets.

Cannington-Motukaika

All water samples tested were OK and no major faults or anomalies were reported.

Hook Waituna

All water samples tested were OK; no problems in distribution were reported.

Lower Waihao

Over the last few weeks the Rural Water field staff have been busy repairing the leaks in the rising main from the Lower Waihao intake that carry water to the booster pump site along Pikes Point Road.

- After almost two weeks' continuous efforts a point of leak that caused the loss of approximately 4 L/sec was identified, and repaired on the 20th of July. There was still a loss of over a litre per second to be accounted for at that time.
- Over the same weekend the rising main burst again on a different spot, causing the reservoir to go dry. The loss of water as on the 24th of July 2006 was about 10 L/sec, nearly two-thirds of the capacity. This leak was detected and repaired on the 27th of July 2006.
- The same stretch of the rising main broke again on the 2nd of August 2006, and was repaired the same day.

Some 20 faults - mostly leaky joints - were identified and repaired in this 5 km stretch of pipeline over the last few years; it seems that and the cost of maintaining it in service has crossed the limit of feasibility. During July 2006 a total of 152 hours of staff time was spent on leak detection and repairs, on top of the expenses of materials and machine hire. As a result a further detailed look at the possibility of a staged replacement programme for this aged rising main is being undertaken.

The network distribution was widely disrupted due to the repairs and a conserve water notice was issued during the month.

No problems on water quality were reported.

Otaio-Makikihi

No major problems were reported in the supply network or on the water quality.

Waihaorunga

No problems reported; all water samples tested were OK.

Waikakahi

The replacement of the electrical controls at the Stone Wall pump house was completed, and the new unit is now commissioned.

There was one incident of bacterial contamination from the scheme, reported on the 2nd of August 2006. The cause of the transgression was traced to insufficient residual chlorine level and this was corrected. Another sample was collected from the same point on the 3rd of August showed no transgression. The Drinking Water Assessor in Timaru was informed about the incident.

Downlands

Nothing to report.

ROADING

Work Completed

General Maintenance, Metalling

Work Programmed

General Maintenance, Unsealed pavement repairs Hakataramea Pass, Gormans and Kaiwarua Roads

Unsealed Road Sub base failure

Recent inspection of unsealed roads has identified sub-base failure on sections of Hakataramea Pass, Gormans and Kaiwarua Roads. The affected length is approximately 1 km.

Mud on Roads

This winter there has been particularly bad for large amounts of soil being deposited on roads from vehicles exiting paddocks. On several occasions the erection of hazard warning signs has been required. On at least two occasions, this resulted in a late night call out for our roading contractor.

Council has obligations to ensure the road is kept clear of debris to a standard that ensures safety and meets the needs of all road users. Depositing debris on the road contravenes various Acts and Regulations.

Council Debris on Road Policy states

- Where an immediate safety risk exists, debris shall be removed without notice.
- The cost of removal will be recovered from those responsible for the debris being on the road.
- In other situations the person/s responsible shall be requested to remove the debris within a set time frame.
- Debris includes any refuse, rubbish, animal remains, glass, metal, garbage, dirt, filth, rubble, ballast, stones, earth, hedge trimmings or waste matter, or any other thing of a like nature.

We request all property owners and Contractors whose stock or machinery are causing a mess on the road to be aware of their responsibilities, arrange their operations to minimise the dropping of soil on the road and to clean the road if required.

Te Akatarawa Road Rock Fall

On 23 July 2006 a rock fall 1.5km from the Aviemore Dam blocked the road and was cleared. It was also reported that a large rock outcrop was threatening the road 300m from the Aviemore Dam. The rock was about 20-30 tonnes and sitting precariously 100m above the road and threatening to fall onto the road. A helicopter with a monsoon bucket was engaged (with support from Meridian Energy) to dump water on and around the rock to dislodge it. This was mostly successful with the rock eventually disintegrating rather than falling in mass. A small stable portion of the rock still remains.

Road Closure Requests

- The Marathon Rally Car Club (Inc) to hold the Silver Fern Rally, has requested the following roads be closed on Thursday 12 October 2006. This has been advertised for public comment.

Linnfield Road from 3:45pm to 7:45pm

Backline Road from Sodwall Road to Motukaika Road

Motukaika Road from Backline Road to Galways Road

Galways Road from Motukaika Road to 500m North of Neales Road from 4:55pm to 8:55pm

- The South Canterbury Car Club (Inc), requested that Patersons road be closed on Saturday 19 August 2006 for a Gravel sprint This has been declined, as objections to the event were received and the required lead notice prior to the event was not given.

Roading Asset Valuation

Waimate District Council have engaged Opus International Consultants Ltd to carry out an asset valuation of all roading assets owned by council as at 30 June 2006. The valuation is for financial reporting purposes and is in accordance with generally accepted accounting and valuation practices. This asset valuation was completed using the RAMM Valuation Module. This module is part of the RAMM suite of tools. The RAMM valuation module requires set up information supplied by the user. This set-up information takes the following forms:-

- Remaining useful life adjustment based on condition and loading
- Depreciation method
- Standard Replacement Cost
- Residual Values
- Optimal Replacement costs
- Allows for input of Assumptions made during the valuation process for each Asset Component

This report describes the valuation methodology and results of the valuation process. Key outputs from this process are:

- Asset component schedules for each type of asset
- Optimum Replacement Cost (ORC)
- Optimum Depreciated Replacement Cost (ODRC)
- Annual Depreciation (AD)

Draft figures are now to hand but are subject to Opus' figures being peer reviewed. These figures will be reported next month.

Roading Asset Management Plan

Opus International Consultants are now starting their work to revisit our Rooding Asset Management Plan which is required to be updated now. This report should be completed late September/early October 2006.

Development of Joint Safety Management System

A draft of the Joint SMS proposal has been produced by Maunsell Consultants for Waimate DC, MackenzieDC and Timaru DC. The document will be collectively reviewed by the Councils' staff. The final document is scheduled for completion by the end of August 2006.

WASTE

Waimate Creek Remediation Plan with ECan

A plan for minor remediation of Waimate Creek and some protection planting near the Resource Recovery Park site was submitted to ECan in June 2006, following an earlier site visit and requests for additional compliance issues in compliance with the covering resource consent. Feedback is awaited, and work should commence in September 2006. The plan also seeks to improve some aspects of operations at the RRP e.g. a purpose built pad where car stripping takes place.

Recycling Contract Renegotiation

Renegotiation and annual review of Whitehorse Recycling Charitable Trust's contract is under action by staff. The end of year financial report from WRCT had not been received at time of writing. Outcomes will be reported to the Council meeting in September.

Visit to Timaru's Recycling / Composting Centre

The Asset Manager and the Solid Waste Manager were invited to view Timaru District's Resource Recovery Centre on Thursday 3 August 2006. The whole operation is subject to a 15 year contract. The recycling building currently processes 20-27 tonnes of material each working day, with initial contamination levels well within acceptable limits. The processing equipment uses electronic scanners to identify the material of each item e.g. Aluminium, P.E.T. or H.D.P.E. plastic, and separates them by magnets and charged rollers. Hand-sorting on conveyor belts is limited to the initial removing of contamination and the separation of some grades of plastics.

The composting area uses windrows of shredded food/green waste covered by a moisture/heat retaining, breathable 'blanket' produced by Gore of Austria. This is the first implementation of this cost effective technology in New Zealand, with the cover also preventing vermin and insects entering the mulch. The covered windrow is constantly monitored for temperature and moisture and blowers automatically ensure sufficient oxygen is available for the composting process via underground air ducts. The composting process takes approximately 8 weeks to mature.

All operations are housed on the landfill site at Redruth. Surplus capacity has been built into the design of both the recycling and composting systems.

Rural Recycling Drop-off Sites

Currently, three rural sites are in place (St Andrews, Hunter and Waihao Downs), with the kerbside collection contractor bringing the material to Waimate's RRP. Sites at Makikihi, Morven and Glenavy have been consulted with the respective communities and will be in place before the end of August 2006.

Resource Recovery Park Patronage

Customer numbers have risen to 447 in July 2006 compared to 265 last year, with the increase solely attributable to recyclables drop-offs. Revenue is similar to the same period last year. Positive and negative comments have been received regarding the new open hours and a mail-out to households is planned, to explain the recent changes in the solid waste activity.

Waste Minimisation Bill

A submission on behalf of Council is being drafted and will be circulated to the delegated Councilors, and any other interested parties.. Submissions to the Select Committee close 1 September 2006.

GENERAL**Meridian Energy –Hunter Downs Irrigation Open Days**

There are two open days planned: one for St Andrews and one for Waimate on the 8th and 9th August 2006 respectively from 10am to 4pm.

G Hamilton
Asset Manager

7th August 2006