
Asset Manager's Report February 2008



WATER/WASTEWATER

Wastewater

Urban Sewer

The sewerage system and treatment plant operated without any major issues during December 2007 and January 2008

Water Schemes

Urban Water

While several other Local Governments have already imposed or are considering water restrictions, the two water sources for the Waimate Urban water scheme are continuing to cope with the increased demand due to the hot and dry summer this year. The increased water consumption requires the use of the Timaru Road bore almost every day. Consequently there has been one complaint about the taste of water.

There was an incident of a broken water main along Cameron Street in January 2008.

Opus International Consultants are to complete the draft version of the Public Health Risk Management Plan for the scheme by the second week of February 2008. The network modelling is in progress, with field data collection on pressures and flows at key locations within the scheme, also to be done in February 2008.

Rural Water

New Rural Water Connections:

The existing commitments for water supply for all six rural water schemes are near to their maximum capacity. Since the 1st of February 2008, all new applications for bulk supply are being put on a waiting list.

Rural Water Utilities Servicing

With just one new field-staff operator the utilities unit continues to struggle to keep up the service levels. Outsourcing continues, while the process of restructuring & rebuilding the Utilities & Services Unit is underway.

Cannington-Motukaika

The chlorinator for the scheme continues to be erratic, and there was another incident of an E-coli transgression in January 2008. There were also a few pipe failures in the network, resulting in disruption to service exceeding 48 hours in one incident.

Hook Waituna

Disruption of service to the connections feeding from the Simmons reservoir happened again during the Christmas week, necessitating water carting.

Lower Waihao

The capital renewals at the Ferry Road pump station and the new Glenavy link are being delayed due to shortage of staff.

Waikakahi

There was a major pipe failure during January 2008, resulting in prolonged disruption to supply in the Armstrong Road-Waihaorunga Road area, necessitating water carting.

There were recurring problems with the chlorinator at the Stone Wall intake. The faulty chlorinator was replaced with a new one that can adjust the dosing according to demand and continuously report the residual chlorine level, pH and chlorine demand via SCADA. The SCADA equipment at the Stonewall site was also renewed.

Otaio-Makikihi, Waihaorunga and Downlands

No major problems to report.

ROADING

Work Completed

Drainage

Foleys Road Drainage Maintenance and culvert extension.

Seal Repairs

TeAkatara, Hakataramea Valley, Milne and Molloy's Roads.

Minor Improvements

The intersection of Scotts Bridge / Moorland Farm Settlement Road has been sealed.

Unsealed Road Repairs

Menzies Road – ruts filled

McNaughtons Road – Heavy Metal Build-up of a 700m length damaged by heavy traffic.

Scotts Bridge Road - Metalled and shaped

Mcleays, Wains Crossing and Pikes Point minor metalling.

Metal Crushing

Our maintenance contractor has been crushing metal in preparation for this years metalling programme

Work Programmed

Drainage

Daisy Hill Road complete drainage maintenance and culvert replacement

Gumtree Flat Road replace two culverts and widen formation

Bridge Repairs.

It is proposed to install a concrete invert in Middle McKay Culvert, Hakataramea Valley Road. This culvert is a corrugated steel pipe arch culvert. The existing steel invert requires protection from corrosion.

Seal Widening

Youngs Road Hertslets Road to Wilsons Road 400m

Pavement Repairs

Lower Hook and Bluecliffs Road.

Reseal Contract

Blacktop Construction Ltd are completing sealing chip stockpiles. Sealing is now programmed to commence 20 February.

Stock Underpass

A large number a stock underpass are proposed to be installed under District roads. Roading staff are reviewing existing policy for Council financial contribution to the installation cost and when an Underpass must be installed.

Seal Extension for Dust

Carlisle Street Dust Seal will be completed by the 12 February. Applications have been approved for 120m on Bussells Road and 70m on Craigmore Hill Road. Additional sealing will be undertaken on Craigmore Hill with the full cost being meet by the owner.

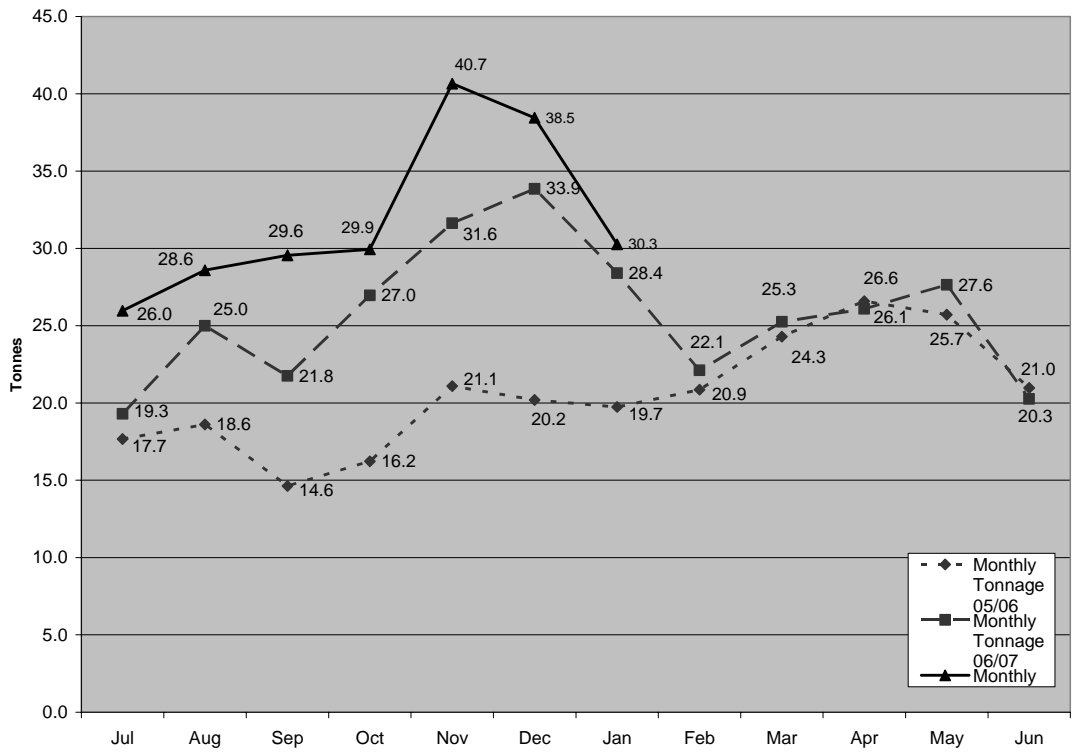
WASTE

Monthly Tonnage for Recycling Collection

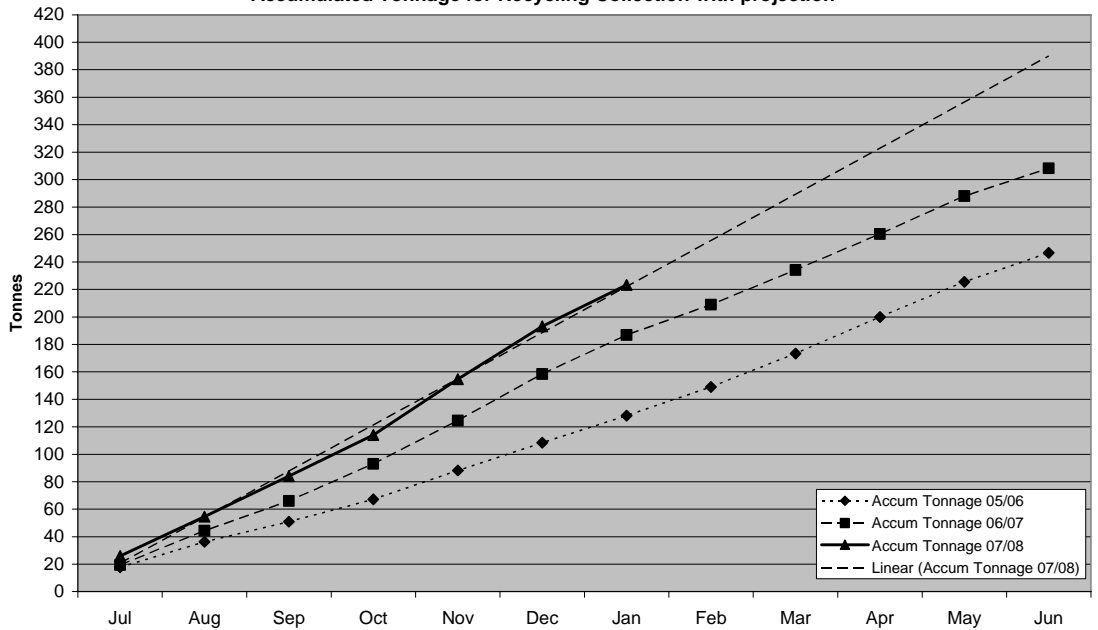
The tonnage of recyclables collected for December 2007 and January 2008 was 38.5 and 30.3 tonnes respectively, exceeding last year's.

Tonnage from the recycling collection for the first seven months of this financial year totalled 223 tonnes compared to 187 tonnes for the comparable period last year. This is still trending towards 350 tonnes of recyclables being collected for the 2007 / 2008 financial year. An additional 400 tonnes per year of recyclables will be taken directly to the Resource Recovery Park. The charts below compare the monthly and accumulative tonnages for the twenty nine months that the recycling collection has been operating:

Monthly Tonnage from Recycling Collection and Drop-off Sites Since July 2005



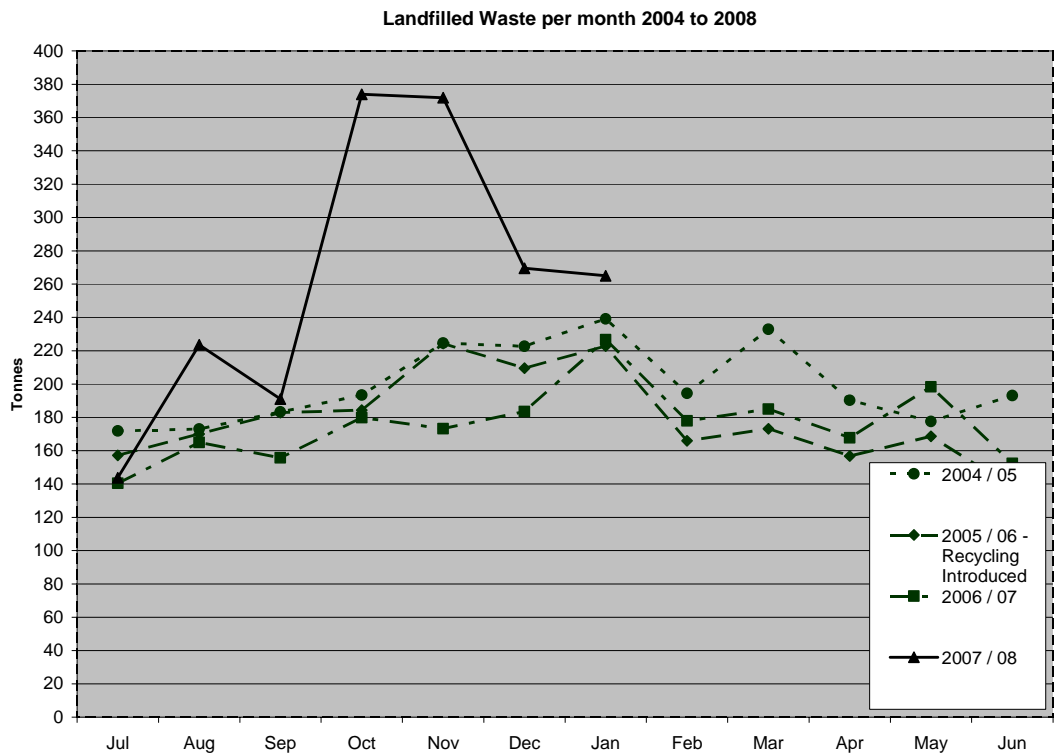
Accumulated Tonnage for Recycling Collection with projection



Tonnage to Landfill

Tonnage to landfill for the months of December 2007 and January 2008 were 269.45 and 264.95 tonnes respectively, compared with 183.44 and 226.62 tonnes for the comparable months last year. NZ Dairies Ltd was the source of this significant increase, land filling 75.38 tonnes in December 2007 and 38.28 tonnes in January 2008. It is pleasing to note that boiler ash from this plant is now being diverted from landfill, hence the lower tonnages being disposed of when compared to October and November 2007.

Using the latest figures, the tonnage land filled now stands at 2719.72 tonnes for the 12 months ending 31 January 2008. This is the largest tonnage of waste land filled from WDC in a 12 month period, since detailed recording began in 2000.



Closed Landfill Consent Review

Monitoring of closed landfills represents a significant cost to Council and an application to seek a rationalisation of these testing and reporting processes has been reviewed, prepared and submitted on our behalf to Environment Canterbury by consultants Montgomery Watson Harza (MWH). To date the mandatory monitoring programme has not revealed any significant contamination originating from WDC closed landfills, since resource consents were issued in 1998. It is hoped that the consent review will be non-notified and that if successful, savings of approximately \$10,000 per annum would be achieved.

Disposal Costs at Timaru District Council Landfill

Timaru District Council (TDC) advised on 14 Jan 2008 that they were no longer meeting their budget requirements for landfill operation costs and that an increase would be sought this coming financial year.

Following explanations and discussions with the TDC Asset Manager on 4 February, the disposal charge at the Redruth Landfill will rise from 1 July 2008, from the current \$48.89 excl. GST per tonne to \$75.00 excl. GST and applies equally to Mackenzie D.C. This increase is largely due to the decreasing volumes entering the landfill and also includes adjustments for inflation. The costs of operating landfills are largely fixed and a decrease in waste necessitates an increase in the unit rate. We do not have a lot of choice in this matter.

The effect of this increase on the 2008 / 2009 budget is an additional cost of \$70,000 from the following sources:

Value	Category	Funding Source
• \$40,000	Kerbside Refuse Collection	Targeted Rate
• \$20,000	Businesses Direct to Redruth	Invoiced Out (Gate Charge)
• \$10,000	Resource Recovery Park	Gate Charges & General Rate

Proposed targeted rates and gate charges have been adjusted to account for these expected increases. These changes are now reflected in the draft Annual Plan.

Waitaki RFP

On Friday 25 January the Asset and Solid Waste Managers met with Waitaki District Council staff to discuss the two proposals received from Envirowaste, and from Delta. It became clear that some clarification was required before meaningful comparisons could be drawn. Further discussions are expected to take place once Waitaki District Council receives answers from the contractors in mid February.

A preliminary assessment would indicate cost savings in operational costs are unlikely but we will proceed with discussions.

Update of the NZ Transport Strategy

Ministry of Transport (MOT) is pressing on with the Next Steps Review, and now has developed targets for achievement between now and the year 2015, as reflected in this latest document "Towards Sustainable Transport" (see summary attached). MOT is keen to press on with legislation to create a Government Strategy Policy and NZ Land Transport Strategy that incorporates such goals, and to later modify the TNZ/LTNZ corporate combination. Comment is sought on this draft report by MOT by 29th Feb 2008.

Unfortunately, many of these goals/targets seem to have been arrived at independently of well founded research and are desirable as independent transport elements but may well need to be reconsidered comprehensively in a total interactive transport context. This outline was presented to the LGNZ Transport Reference Group meeting chaired by Mayor Lawrence Yule, and held in Wellington on Friday 1st Feb 2008.

G Hamilton
Asset Manager