
Asset Manager's Report 15th April 2008



WATER/WASTEWATER

Staff issues

The restructured Utilities Service Unit (USU) under the leadership of Steve Bailey has successfully completed its first month of operation. Regrettably, Ross White has resigned from the USU team due to personal reasons; Paul Roberts will be joining the team on the 7th of April; Brian Chave continues as the member of the team together with Craig Wilson, who will undertake a trainee programme.

Following the successful rebuilding of the USU team, the contract agreement with Whitestone Contracting for maintenance support for rural water schemes was terminated with effect from 22 March 2008.

Suresh Unni, the Water / Wastewater Engineer will be on annual leave during the period 3 April – 18 May 2008.

Urban Sewer

The sewer network and treatment plant continued to operate without any major problems.

The public consultation meeting on Timaru Road sewer extension was well-attended. The general public opinion expressed during the meeting was positive, with demand expressed for extended coverage up to the junction of Bathgates Road. As the next step, a survey to assess the area's likely initial uptake and capital contribution that could be collected, will be under taken during April-May 2008.

Water Schemes

The Urban Water Scheme

There excessive use of the scheme water for irrigation by some of the properties is a cause for concern, and need to be addressed through an awareness campaign and stricter metering.

There have not been any major problems with water quality or the network.

Rural Water Schemes

Cannington-Motukaika

No major problems were reported. All water samples during February were OK.

Otaio-Makikihi

Teschmaker Bush Extension:

Following discussions with the applicants by staff and the Scheme Committee, it has been decided that the upgrade will be scaled down subject to the outcome of a

groundwater exploration to be undertaken by one of the applicants. Consequently the physical work for the upgrade is being delayed temporarily.

The scheme functioned without any major problems. All water samples were OK.

Hook Waituna, Lower Waihao & Waikakahi

No major incidents; all water samples were OK.

Waihaorunga

A Boil Water notice was issued in February 2008 and is still in place, as the water quality issues prevail. Another E-Coli transgression was reported in March.

Downlands

Nothing to report on the scheme.

ROADING

Work Completed

Drainage

Gumtree Flat Road: two culverts have been replaced and the formation widened. Seal widening is in progress at these two sites.

Tawai Ikawai: a culvert has been installed at the Elephant Hill river ford

Pavement Repairs

Bluecliffs, Grays Crossing Roads

Metalling

Maintenance metalling has been completed in the Hakataramea Ward

Bridge Repairs.

Bursons Culvert

A concrete invert has been installed in Bursons Culvert, Pentland Hills Road. This culvert is a corrugated steel pipe arch culvert. The existing steel invert required protection from corrosion.

Seal Widening

Morven Glenavy Road (McLeays Road to Crowes Road)- in progress

Culvert Repairs

A concrete invert has been installed in a concrete box culvert on Otaio River road

Footpath Renewal

A 50m length of footpath on Queen Street adjoining the Batchelor Place sub-division has been renewed.

Work Programmed

Pavement Repairs

Morven Area

Unsealed Road Metalling

The maintenance metalling of unsealed roads is in progress.

Drainage

Kowhatu Road

Seal Widening

Barnetts Road

Pavement Marking

Complete Remark.

Minor Safety

Safety Footpath

A safety footpath is to be constructed on Mill road (Hayes Street to Allan Street)

Intersection improvement.

Deep Creek /Corrigans Road

Seal Widening

Two Curves on Lindsays will be widened. A blind brow on Campbell and Forrest will be widened.

Formation Widening

The formation will be widened on a narrow section of Mt Harris Road above the Waihao River. This will include gabion construction to stabilise a short length of road shoulder.

Contract 06/2 Footpath and Kerb and Channel construction

Footpath renewal and drainage improvement on Queen Street adjacent to the Local Government Centre is in progress. This is the final stage of the above contract

No Spray Register

The NO SPRAY register has been advertised in local papers and information placed on the Council web site. Three Applications have been received to date.

Sign Damage

A number road name signs and warning signs have damaged and stolen from Districts roads.

Queen Street Damage

The bollards outside the Waimate Hotel have been repeatedly pulled out of the paving. There has been an increase in the amount of filth, litter and glass to be cleaned off in this area of footpath.

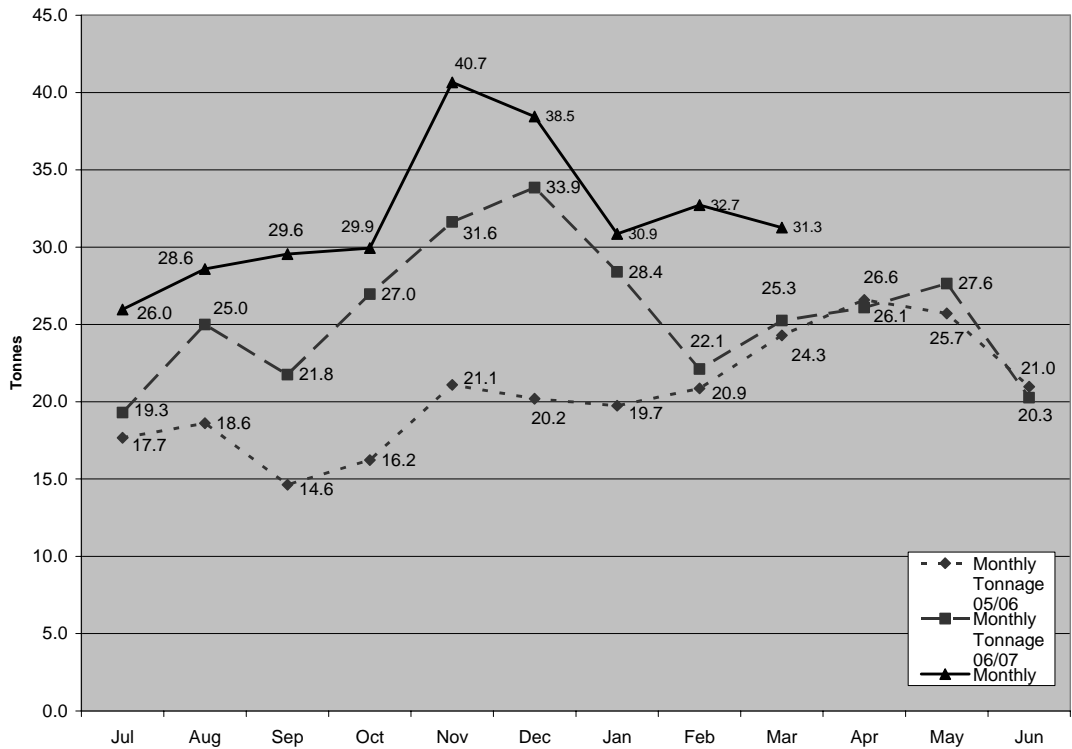
WASTE

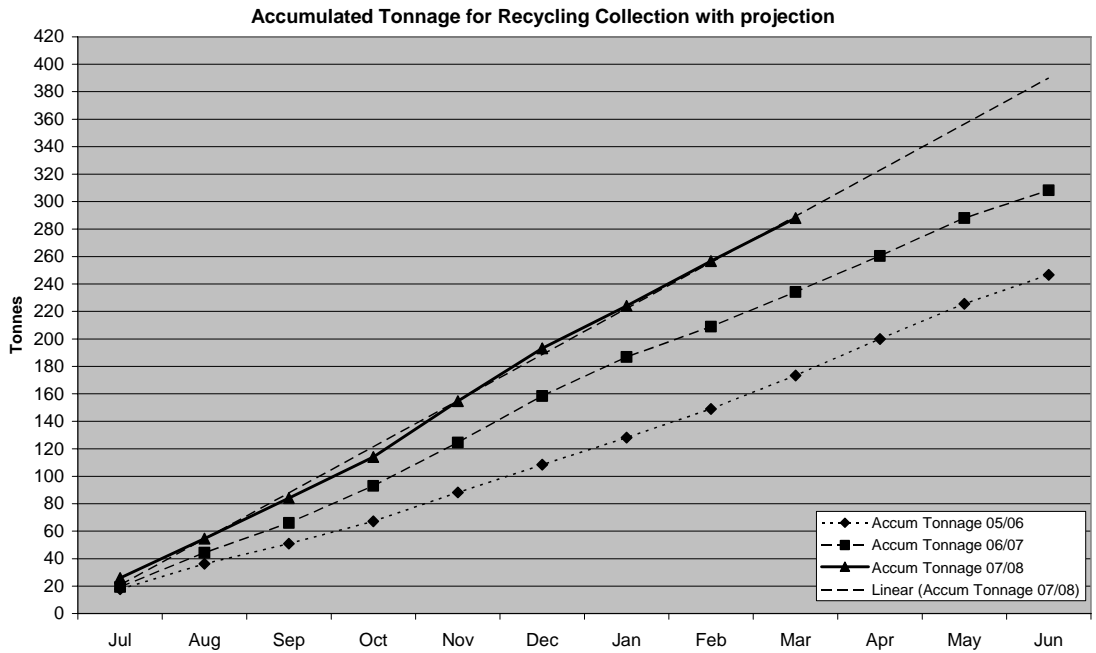
Monthly Tonnage for Recycling Collection

The tonnage of recyclables collected for March 2008 was 31.3 tonnes, exceeding last year's comparable month of 25.3 tonnes.

Tonnage from the recycling collection for the first nine months of this financial year totalled 288 tonnes compared to 234 tonnes for the comparable period last year. This is still trending above 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 in operation:

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

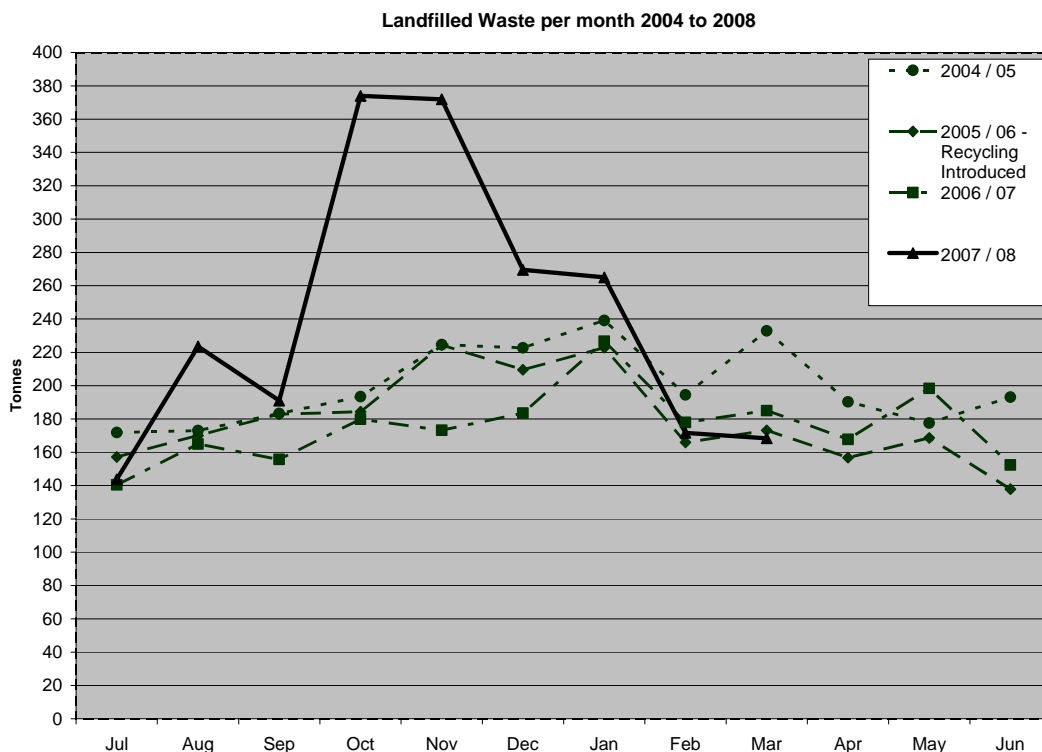




Tonnage to Landfill

Tonnage to landfill for the month of March 2008 was 168.44 tonnes, compared 184.94 tonnes for the comparable month last year, as recorded by the Timaru Landfill. We understand that additional waste from the NZ Dairies factory at Studholme, is being taken to Timaru landfill, however the billing and hence the data is going to the transporting firm. Whilst this is a simpler billing solution, the loss of data prevents an accurate, ongoing representation of this district's waste levels. The transporting company is currently under no obligation to supply the data. This is being addressed within the Bylaw revision process.

With this artificially reduced monthly figure, the tonnage landfilled now totals 2696.91 tonnes for the 12 months ending 31 March 2008.



Closed Landfill Consent Review

Montgomery Watson Harza (MWH) advised that Environment Canterbury have extended the processing time for this application from 20 days to 40 days. There has been no indication whether the consent review will be non-notified.

Waitaki RFP

Following two workshops, Waitaki staff will present a report to the Waitaki District Council at their meeting of 8th April 2008. Staff can update Councillors on the outcomes from that meeting.

Waste Minimisation (Solids) Bill

The Local Government and Environment Committee is reporting back to Parliament on the Waste Minimisation (Solids) Bill on 7 April 2008. An update may be available at the meeting.

Canterbury Waste Joint Committee

The Solid Waste Manager attended a meeting of the Canterbury Waste Joint Committee on 10 March 2008, at which Councillor Sally Buck was elected Chairperson. Recently, the three representative councillors in South Canterbury agreed that Dave Pullen (Mackenzie District Council) will represent the southern councils.

General

Staffing. It is pleasing to see the Utilities Services Unit back to strength and operating flexibly across water and wastewater services. The water/wastewater engineer is on leave until 19th May 2008. The support from Whitestone Contracting during the interim period was appreciated.

Roading. Agreement has been reached with the existing contractor of maintenance services, Downer EDI Works, for a final one year extension terminating 30th June 2009.

RRP Hours. Efforts to negotiate Sunday opening hours continue between staff and WRCT. A separate Agenda item covers discussions to date.

Dairy Conversions. A discussion paper on the impact of Dairy Conversions on water demand (for irrigation, washdown, and winter grazing) and water quality (with effluent runoff) has been prepared for discussion with the scheme Chairmen. Other impacts are also noted in passing such as increased consents for related building/housing and applications/support for stock crossings/underpasses, and tanker loadings on low volume roads.

G Hamilton
Asset Manager
3 April 2008