



Report of the ordinary meeting of the Operations Committee held in the Council Chambers, 29 Bowler Avenue, Gore on Wednesday 26 April, at 4.26pm

Present His Worship the Mayor (Mr Tracy Hicks, JP), Cr Davis (Chairperson), Crs Beale, Bolger, Dickson, Gardyne, D Grant, Highsted, Phillips, Reid and Sharp.

In Attendance The Chief Executive (Mr Stephen Parry), Chief Financial Officer (Mr Luke Blackbeard), General Manager Regulatory and Planning (Dr Ian Davidson-Watts), Parks and Recreation Manager (Mr Ian Soper), Transport Manager (Mr Peter Standing), Communications Manager (Sonia Gerken), Building Control Manager (Mr Russell Paterson), 3 Waters Asset Manager (Mr Matt Bayliss), Senior Corporate Support Officer (Ceri Macleod), 3 Waters Project Manager (Mr Sam Bunting), Animal Control Administrator (Rowena Burnby) and one member of the public in the gallery.

Apology Cr P Grant apologised for absence.

Cr Davis called for any conflicts of interest. None were declared.

1. REPORT FROM 3 WATERS ASSET MANAGER

The Committee perused a report from the 3 Waters Asset Manager for March to April 2017.

The Manager provided a further verbal update on water consumption for 2017, which at the date of the meeting further increased the gap from 2015 and 2016 levels of consumption. More rain was hoped for and should increase well capacity levels. He stated it would be unusual to have water restrictions in place at this time of year, but whether they would be required was dependent upon well levels increasing.

In response to Cr Davis, the Manager provided an update on the monitoring of the Dolomore Park boil water notice, which had been in place for a number of years, but could be lifted in the near future.

In response to Cr Sharp, the Manager explained the term 'lateral' which referred to the section of pipe between the main pipe in the road and the property connection and/or property boundary.

In response to Cr Gardyne, the Manager confirmed the figure of 550 litres of water consumption per person, per day included in his report, reflected the high levels of water loss still being experienced across the network. He explained he was working with the Communications Manager to raise public awareness of the collective impact of water leaks from private properties.

In response to Cr Phillips regarding the QMRA, the Manager confirmed the analysis was due to commence in the next few weeks.

Cr Dickson expressed concern regarding e-coli levels in local waterways and queried what actions Environment Southland were taking to rectify the problem.

Cr Davis asked for a report to be prepared on this issue by the 3 Waters Manager for the next Committee meeting, and whether Council staff could develop a reporting framework on the issue for regular inclusion on the Committee agenda to monitor progress.

His Worship agreed water quality was an issue for further debate in the future.

In response to His Worship, the General Manager Regulatory and Planning confirmed he was engaged in discussions with Environment Southland regarding its role in maintaining water quality and ways in which the Council could assist in that area.

In response to Cr Phillips regarding Council compliance regarding consents, the General Manager confirmed that on the whole, the Council was relatively compliant.

Cr Beale provided an update on progress of the recently-formed stormwater working party. He noted the group was progressing well, with a further meeting to be held within the next couple of weeks.

Cr Bolger said e-coli was a naturally occurring bacteria that originated from a number of sources. He stated the Council's stewardship was no doubt much improved.

Cr Sharp asked how the Council's 550 litres of water consumption per person compared to other Councils. Cr Davis asked that in the absence of this information a response be prepared by the 3 Waters Manager for the next Committee meeting.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Grant, seconded by Cr Beale THAT the report be received.

2. PLEURA DAM CLEAN OUT (SC0660)

The Committee perused a memo from the 3 Waters Asset Manager regarding the Pleura Dam clean out. The Manager confirmed the dam would be cleaned out as quickly and efficiently as possible and that associated costs had been included in the capital expenditure budget. He proposed the budget be assessed as part of the upcoming LTP review.

In response to Cr Gardyne, the Manager agreed to investigate the possibility of cleaning out the dam using an umbilical cord system, taking into account issues associated with access and ownership of surrounding land.

Cr Sharp asked whether there was any merit in having a sediment trap at the top of the dam to avoid unnecessary expenditure on sediment removal in the future. The Manager confirmed this would be included in investigations moving forward.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Bolger, seconded by Cr Phillips THAT the report be received,

AND THAT the clean out of the Pleura Dam be deferred and reconsidered as part of the 2018 – 2028 LTP.

3. CHEMICAL DELIVERY CHANGES (SC1351)

The Committee perused a memo from the 3 Waters Asset Manager regarding changes to tankerage costs for water treatment chemicals.

Cr Beale requested confirmation of the increase in costs, ie what the 58% increase represented in monetary terms. The 3 Waters Asset Manager confirmed it was around the \$50,000 mark.

Cr Phillips asked whether the upgrade would be sufficient to meet future requirements.

The 3 Waters Asset Manager confirmed the proposed changes were necessary to ensure the chemicals could be pumped and stored effectively and efficiently.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr D Grant, seconded by Cr Beale THAT the report be received,

THAT the required \$10,000 of upgrade to receive aluminium sulphate at the Actiflo plant under the new delivery method be funded out of the 2017/ 2018 operational budget,

AND THAT \$20,000 of loan funding from the proposed Mataura water treatment plant upgrade be bought forward to complete the upgrades required to receive aluminium sulphate under the proposed new delivery method.

4. REPORT FROM THE TRANSPORT MANAGER

The Committee perused a report from the Transport Manager.

His Worship and the Transport Manager confirmed no progress had been made in relation to the Pyramid Bridge. The Manager agreed to chase a response from the NZTA.

The Manager provided a verbal update on fly tipping on Maitland Street, which appeared to be on the rise. In response to Cr Davis, he said motion-activated cameras may represent a solution to the problem, as would limiting road access to the area.

In response to Cr Davis, the Parks and Recreation Manager advised two to three cameras were already in use by the Council, and that a further camera could be installed if required.

In response to Cr Davis, the Chief Executive agreed to provide a report to a future meeting of the Committee on this issue, particularly in relation to limiting road access.

Cr Dickson requested an update on footpath repairs. The Transport Manager confirmed a considerable amount of work was due to be undertaken over the next couple of months, prioritised against severity of damage.

In response to Cr D Grant, the Transport Manager confirmed the NZTA was offering an 85% subsidy for LED street light conversions and PowerNet had offered to meet the remaining 15% of the costs. He said the Council would need to put a business case to NZTA to include an estimate of costs and the approximate number of lights. He said there were 1,220 lights in the District of which 1,050 were Council-owned and prioritised for the upgrade.

In response to Cr Davis, the Transport Manager agreed to pursue more detail from NZTA regarding timeframes for upgrading the roundabout near the Police Station.

In response to His Worship, the Parks and Recreation Manager confirmed planting for the Mataura beautification project would be undertaken soon.

In response to His Worship the Transport Manager confirmed reflectorised, raised pavement markers would be placed to highlight planter islands. He also confirmed that painting the island ends in a reflectorised paint could help their visibility at night. The Transport Manager said that painting the ends of the islands was not necessarily a standard industry approach.

Cr Phillips assured the Council this was an issue being discussed by the Community Board.

Cr Beale said maintenance costs for the painted surface would be minimal as the white painted ends would not be driven on and therefore should last many years.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Reid, seconded by Cr D Grant THAT the report be received.

5. SILVER BIRCH TREES – JOSEPH STREET, GORE (SC1351)

The Council perused a report from the Chief Executive regarding councillor membership of a hearing panel to consider the petition received to remove silver birch trees in Joseph Street, Gore.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Reid, seconded by Cr D Grant THAT should a hearing be deemed necessary following preliminary consultation with Joseph Street residents on the matter of potential removal of silver birch trees, Crs Davis, Highsted (being current certified commissioners) and Cr Bolger be appointed to a hearing panel to consider all submissions and make a determination on the matter.

The meeting concluded at 5.20pm.