

REPORT OF THE ORDINARY MONTHLY MEETING OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 29 CIVIC AVENUE, GORE ON TUESDAY 10 JUNE 2008, AT 4:00 pm.

PRESENT His Worship the Mayor (Mr Tracy Hicks JP), Cr Davis (Chairperson), Crs Bolger, Dixey, Dixon, Gardyne, Grant, Harvey, Heller, Highsted, McLennan and Sharp.

IN ATTENDANCE The Chief Executive (Mr Steve Parry), General Manager, District Assets (Mr Paul Withers), General Manager, Corporate Services (Mr Russell Duthie), Parks and Recreation Manager (Mr Ian Soper), Asset Manager, Utilities (Mr Ross Haslemore), Building Control Manager (Mr Russell Paterson), Corporate Support Officer (Mrs Jo Waddell) and one member of the public in the Gallery.

APOLOGY The Roading Manager (Mr Murray Hasler) apologised for absence and Cr Gardyne apologised for lateness.

1. OPERATIONS BULLETIN

The Committee perused the operations bulletin containing reports from the Animal Control Contractor, Roading Manager and the Asset Manager, Utilities.

Cr Gardyne attended the meeting from 4:02 pm.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr McLennan, seconded by Cr Grant, THAT the Operations Bulletin be received.

2. PRESENTATION FROM WASTENET SOUTHLAND – UPDATE
(10.23)

The Waste Minimisation Officer for the Invercargill City Council, Donna Peterson and Justin Reid from Southland District Council were in attendance and spoke about WasteNet Southland and the Waste Minimisation Bill.

Cr Harvey said it was admirable to have steps in place for waste, however, there were two divisions in the community, those who wanted the full recycling option and others who would struggle

to pay for it. He hoped the Waste Minimisation Bill would be held up until after the election process and he would like to see alternatives.

J Reid noted that Wastenet's submission to the Bill had been in many ways in opposition to it, because of what was happening in Southland with Wastenet and its own mechanisms in place to deal with minimising waste.

Cr Harvey felt the Government would waste the \$10 gate levy on committee meetings.

His Worship asked about the length of operational time of the Hedgehope landfill.

J Reid said the contract stood for the thirty five year consent and made provision for, if circumstances allowed, Councils to take over.

His Worship asked what capacity was available at the landfill.

J Reid advised it was contract requirement to provide a minimum of five years head space. Over 100,000 tonnes of lime was being taken out every year and being replaced with 50,000 tonnes of refuse. In response to Cr Harvey, the levy had been one of the concerns raised by WasteNet in its submission. The Government had stated that 5% of the levy would be capped for administrative costs and it was expected a regional approach would be more successful in getting money back. Half of the levy would be given back to local authorities, based on population and the balance would be contestable.

Cr Gardyne asked for an explanation of the advantages or disadvantages for a four bin system in comparison to a three bin system.

D Peterson believed the four bin system allowed for glass to be separated.

J Reid advised that glass was probably the biggest problem and spoke of South Australia's container deposit legislation which commercially encouraged the removal of glass from the whole process with the benefits of less breakages and health and safety issues. An advantage of having a three bin system was the separation of organic waste, the single biggest component in the waste stream. The disadvantage was the processing cost, as a controlled environment was required to control the temperature to ensure the end product was useful, which needed capital input. Sorting of recycling was also capital intensive and noted there were mechanical sorting processes at

Queenstown and Timaru. The advantage of a one bin system, from a consumer's point of view, was ease of use. An advantage of the levy was the contestable fund could be used to help build the recycling stations required.

In response to Cr Gardyne, J Reid said Central Otago, Queenstown and Otago had been included in WasteNet's discussions and the Clutha District Council was interested in being involved.

Cr Dixey asked how much of the waste was recovered and sold for profit.

J Reid said WasteNet's model was the procurement of services to control the placement of waste in the landfill.

His Worship asked why central Government was hesitant to adopt the container deposit legislation as had been done in South Australia.

D Peterson said it was essentially up to the packaging companies who did not see it as being cost effective in New Zealand. The Government did not want to annoy those companies but it needed to view it from an environmental perspective.

Cr Dixey thought it was for plastic bottles, not glass.

J Reid said the market had changed to cover both glass and plastic.

Cr Davis felt it was ironic the Bill before Government was quite happy to put a levy on local authorities but were not prepared to make a stance on glass recycling themselves. She thanked them for their presentation.

3. LANDFILL SITE FUTURE USAGE (10.10.5)

A memo had been received from the Parks and Recreation Manager following a request at the May Committee meeting for further information relating to the land use on the now unused and capped Gore and Mataura landfill sites.

A number of issues had been identified with the proposal to plant a crop of trees. With both sites having a soil cap of 0.400 mm, there could be problems with tree stability and currently trees on the Mataura landfill site were showing irregular growth patterns. Landfill sites vent gasses into the atmosphere as ongoing settling and decomposition of landfill matter occurred.

As such it was recommended the Council continue with the status quo.

The Parks and Recreation Manager noted native planting in conjunction with Rotary was still in the planning stages and would be a matter of time until it came to fruition.

Cr Dixey wondered if native trees could be grown by Enviro Schools to put in the landfill.

Cr Dixon thought the Reserves Department could also grow some natives.

The Parks and Recreation Manager advised there would be an ability to grow bigger trees in time.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Harvey, seconded by Cr Sharp, THAT the information be received.

The meeting concluded at 4:39 pm.