

Report of the ordinary meeting of the Operations Committee held in the Council Chambers, 29 Civic Avenue, Gore on Tuesday 2 September 2014, at 5.21pm.

Present His Worship the Mayor (Tracy Hicks, JP), Cr Davis (Chairperson), Crs Beale, Byars, Bolger, Dixon, Gover, P Grant, Highsted, Page and Sharp.

In Attendance The General Manager District Assets (Mr Paul Withers), Roading Manager (Mr Murray Hasler), 3 Waters Asset Manager (Mrs Sarah Crooks), Chief Financial Officer (Mr Luke Blackbeard), Communications Coordinator (Sonia Gerken), Senior Planner (Mr Howard Alchin) and Corporate Support Officers (Mrs Tracey Millan and Mrs Kylie Weir).

Apologies The Chief Executive and Cr D Grant apologised for absence.

Cr Davis asked for any conflicts of interest. None were received.

1. ASSET MANAGEMENT REVIEW OF GORE AND MATAURA STOPBANKS (SC0913)

A memo had been received from the General Manager District Assets together with reports provided by Environment Southland, giving an update on the status of the stopbanks.

Cr Davis said it was heartening to read in the report that the stopbanks in the District were in reasonably good condition.

The General Manager said Environment Southland had a significant responsibility around stopbanks and flood control and were keen to understand the level of flood protection the community felt it required while it completed its 30 year asset strategy plans. Whilst the plans were not required to be finalised until 2018, the next three years provided an opportunity to consult with the community and the methodologies and costs to achieve that. The first item it wanted to consider was the smoothing of the floodway from Gore to Mataura, so flood water could move

through it quicker and make the floodbanks more effective. Further work would need to be carried out over time to keep the flood risk at an acceptable level.

Cr Bolger said he thought the predictions from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) contained in the report around climate change were wrong. He would support the enhancement and maintenance of stopbanks as it had been proven that higher stopbanks prevented flooding.

Cr Sharp said there was scientific proof around the climate change predictions.

Cr Davis said that was a subject for outside the current meeting.

Cr Sharp said it was a serious issue and not something the Council should turn its back on.

Cr Bolger said a maintenance plan for the floodbanks was required and should be budgeted for in the Long Term Plan.

His Worship said the issue could be debated for a long time. The challenge now was how to handle the information received. The Council needed to take the issue seriously and work constructively with Environment Southland to come up with a plan that could span a couple of generations. The Council could not walk away and say it was too hard as flooding could wreak havoc on the community.

In response to Cr Highsted, the General Manager said he considered a joint option with Environment Southland was the best way forward.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Highsted, seconded by Cr P Grant, THAT the report be received,

THAT the Council establish a joint working party with Environment Southland to identify realistic options for mitigating flood risks to Gore and Mataura townships, identified by the September 2011 report of NIWA,

AND THAT the Council representatives on the working party comprise Cr Beale, Cr Bolger and Cr Sharp and the General Manager District Assets.

2. GORE TRANSFER STATION ACCIDENT MITIGATION WORK (SC0699)

A memo had been received from the General Manager District Assets together with a copy of an ergonomic report of a recent review of both facilities in the District.

The General Manager said the risk at the Gore transfer station was what a person could potentially land on if they fell into the pit. The risk needed to be mitigated. An ergonomic review had been completed and a rail was proposed to be installed in front of the tipping edge and a wheel stop put in place two metres from the edge. A similar set up had been successfully installed at the Winton transfer station. A gate for tipping trucks would be available.

In response to Cr Dixon, the General Manager advised costs were not yet available, however, would be funded from the operational budget as it was a health and safety issue.

In response to Cr Highsted, the General Manager advised staff at the transfer station were now Bond contract employees.

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

3. REPORT OF 3 WATERS ASSET MANAGER – JULY-AUGUST

The Committee perused the report from the 3 Waters Asset Manager.

In response to Cr Dixon asking who would pay for the realignment of a new water main that had been completed for a new dairy underpass at North Chatton, the Manager said several realignments had been done and were charged to the Otama water scheme, who then on charged to the property owner.

In response to Cr Dixon, the General Manager said the Ajax pump station was a multi-year project and design work would continue in years to come.

In response to Cr Beale asking how many cast iron pipes were in the system, the 3 Waters Manager said a review of the renewal programme was currently being carried out by senior staff. There were several cast iron pipes in the network. The lifespan of a cast iron pipe was 80-100 years.

In response to Cr Sharp advising that he had not yet received a report on the Racecourse Road drainage issue offered by the Chief Executive, Cr Davis said a note would be made for the Chief Executive to contact Cr Sharp about the issue.

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

4. REPORT FROM ROADING MANAGER – MAY-AUGUST

The Committee perused the report from the Roading Manager.

The Manager said although the weather had been persistently wet, there had been no major problems, although it had caused the grading of gravel roads to only last a couple of weeks so staff were in catch up mode. The wet weather had also caused slight imperfections on sealed roads to turn into potholes. They were being repaired at present.

He advised Fulton Hogan had been experiencing staffing problems with the paving marking contract that had initially been going to be a long term contract. It had been mutually agreed not to extend the contract. He was in discussions with

Downer about undertaking the pavement markings for the next couple of years as it was the only company in the province with appropriately skilled staff.

In response to Cr Davis asking where that left the Council's contract with Fulton Hogan, the Manager said it paid in stages and reduced payment for reduced services, so had not paid for anything it had not received.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Sharp, seconded by Cr Page, THAT the report be received.

5. WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT – ALBANY STREET, GORE (SC0650)

A memo had been received from the 3 Waters Asset Manager regarding the scheduled works to replace water mains in Albany Street and Devon Street.

The Manager said it had been exciting to get work underway on the Albany Street project.

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

The meeting closed at 5.56pm.