

**Report of the ordinary meeting of the Operations Committee held in the Council Chambers, 29 Civic Avenue, Gore on Tuesday 25 November 2014, at 4.32pm.**

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

**In Attendance** The Chief Executive (Mr Stephen Parry), General Manager District Assets (Mr Paul Withers), General Manager Community and Strategy (Mr Aaron Fox), Roothing 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), Corporate Support Officer (Mrs Kylie Weir), Senior Regulatory Office (Mrs Frances Shepherd), Building Control Manager (Mr Russell Paterson) and Animal Control Officer (Mr David McKewen).

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

**1. FUNDING ASSISTANCE RATES FINAL REVIEW DECISIONS (SC0788)**

The Committee perused the report from the Roothing Manager. The purpose of the report was to advise the Council of the amended decisions that the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) had made regarding the Financial Assistance Rate (FAR) review.

The Roothing Manager advised the committee that this was the final FAR rate. The Manager stated that he was personally pleased with the changes that had been made and that as Councillors were aware, the main things to change were the minimum FAR across the country being dropped by one percent. This would also affect the big metros like Auckland City and the extra funds would be spread over the rest of the country. They had also changed the formula that was used to

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calculate the financial assistance rate applicable towards each individual Council. In three years' time when the Council reaches its destination FAR it would be at 54% which was two percent higher than expected. If the Councillors looked at the existing FAR funding and compared it to the new FAR funding the Council would lose around \$72,000 per annum which is less than what was originally expected to be lost.

In response to Cr Sharp, the Manager advised that there was no surplus. The Government had not changed the total of funds available but had worked out a new distribution formula.

His Worship stated that it was a much more transparent system and more relevant to what was going on compared to past systems. There had been some strong engagement with NZTA and the response was good so far. However it was just the beginning of a two part programme and the Council was now waiting on the one road network classification to be released.

In response to His Worship, the Manager advised that he expected that the Council would know the outcome of the one network system shortly. This would assist the Council in knowing exactly what it would receive.

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

## 2. REPORT FROM ROADING MANAGER

The Committee perused the report from the Roading Manager.

The Manager advised that since the report was written the only issue that had arisen was the havoc created with the weather causing damage to gravel roads in the District.

In response to Cr Davis, the Manager advised that the Targa Rally Committee were pleased with the running of the event and the Council was pleased with the effort Targa had put in to the event. He said the committee had put in a lot of thought to coordinate with all the affected parties such as school buses and truck companies to minimise disruption.

In response to Cr Davis, the Manager advised that the Tour of Southland went well this year. There had been no negative feedback and almost all previous issues had been dealt with.

In response to Cr D Grant, the Manager advised that the weather that had closed Terry Road was for the whole road from the golf course to Charlton Road. Although the flood waters only affected a small part of the road for a short time, it had made the area difficult for road users to turn around if they had to.

The Communications Coordinator advised the committee that the four posts regarding the bad weather and flooding issues on Facebook had reached an average of 1,000 people per post.

In response to Cr Beale, the Manager advised that the footpath replacement programme would eventually replace the entire footpath along Railway Esplanade to Wentworth Street as funding became available. The next section was planned for the new year.

In response to Cr Beale, the Manager advised that sumps were cleaned twice a year and during heavy rainfall the contractor cleaned the tops of the sumps if they could get to them to reduce flooding issues.

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

3. WATER STRATEGY UPDATE MEMORANDUM (SC0647)

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

In response to Cr Dixon, the Manager advised that the Council had not purchased all the zone meters yet. She said staff were currently working out how they could install the rest into the network as other work progressed.

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

4. REPORT OF 3 WATERS ASSET MANAGER

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

In response to Cr Davis, the Manager advised that when an issue on the Otama Water Supply occurred, it was a matter of having to drop tools on other projects to fix the issue on the rural scheme. There was other scheduled work programmed that the water team would like to get on top of but it had to be put aside. She believed the Otama Rural Water Committee underestimated the time it took in the field as well as the time spent in the office to ensure the water scheme operated safely. There were conflicts developing around health and safety, expectations of work quality and the response for work on the scheme.

In response to Cr Sharp, the Manager advised that the non-compliant hydrants in Mautara had now been repaired with water main renewals that were carried out in 2012.

In response to Cr Beale, the Manager advised that the map only showed the hydrants that had been tested. She advised that the fire brigade try to get around and check all the hydrants every five years.

In response to Cr D Grant, the Manager stated that when something like the broken water pipe on the Otama Water Scheme happened. The Council could only cover the actual cost of loss of wages, for staff time and the recovery of materials used. There was no penalty for damage caused.

The General Manager District Assets advised that the cost to the Council was that there was only so much work that could be carried out per year and when it gets dropped to be reactive on jobs like that, the Council work does not get carried out and is therefore set back.

In response to Cr D Grant, the 3 Waters Asset Manager advised that the scheme was operated and maintained by the Council staff but it was owned by the Otama Scheme Committee. The Council staff report to the Committee, which advises what work it would like to achieve and if anything was required.

His Worship advised that this was a historic arrangement that had gone back over 20 years.

Cr Highsted stated that he thought it might be time to call for a report and review the process of how the Otama scheme was run.

Cr Byars stated that if the Council was going to do a report there was a need to do this in conjunction with the Committee, as some of the members had been involved from the start and they would have a lot of history and knowledge that the Council may not possess.

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Highsted, seconded by Cr D Grant THAT a report be requested to review the relationship with the Otama Water Scheme Committee and if it is still fit for purpose.**

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

The meeting concluded at 4.57pm.