

Report of the ordinary meeting of the Operations Committee held in the Council Chambers, 29 Bowler Avenue, Gore on Tuesday 14 March 2017, at 4.24pm.

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

In Attendance The 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), Policy and Planning Officer (Miss Emma Williams), Animal Control Officer (Mr David McKewen), 3 Waters Project Manager (Mr Sam Bunting), Director, Signal Management Group (Mr Shokit Ali) and one member of the public in the gallery.

Apologies Cr Highsted and the Chief Executive apologised for absence.

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

1. REPORT FROM 3 WATERS ASSET MANAGER - DECEMBER 2016 – JANUARY 2017

The Committee perused a report from the 3 Waters Asset Manager for December 2016 – January 2017.

Cr Davis asked the Manager for an update on the Otama boil water notice. The Manager advised the notice had been lifted and explained that the water contamination issue had been linked to flooding of the Mataura River.

Cr Davis asked for a description of the processes involved in issuing the boil water notice for the benefit of new councillors.

The Manager said boil water notices were communicated to the public via text messages, radio announcements, Facebook posts and press releases. All Otama water consumers had been recently contacted by letter to advise them of the notification process and to request that they register for the text alert system.

His Worship questioned the possibility of upgrading the Council's text alert system. The Communications Manager confirmed that the system and the analytics behind it were being reviewed by the Council.

The 3 Waters Manager added that a concrete apron was being added to the Otama well to improve water protection.

Cr P Grant asked why concrete aprons were not already around all wells.

The 3 Waters Manager said there were barriers around all except the Otama well, hence the need for a concrete apron to be installed.

Cr Beale asked the Parks and Recreation Manager to congratulate the Gore Aquatic Centre staff on their management of the recent pool closure.

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

2. REPORT FROM THE TRANSPORT MANAGER

The Committee perused a report from the Transport Manager.

Cr Davis asked for an update on the Pyramid Bridge project.

His Worship noted a single lane was being proposed, but felt the ideal situation would be for a dual carriageway to be in place. He said plans were set to be reviewed in the future and suggested the potential for a dual carriageway bridge be investigated.

The Transport Manager said that a comprehensive business case had been submitted to and accepted by NZTA, resulting in its decision of a single lane bridge.

His Worship acknowledged the decision, but stated the Council needed to future-proof the bridge and therefore should explore every possibility with the NZTA regarding the possibility of a dual carriageway. He agreed to facilitate a meeting with interested parties, including the Southland District Council and NZTA.

Cr P Grant had noticed a lot of milk tankers using Main Street during the early part of the evening.

Cr Davis provided background information to this issue for the benefit of new councillors. She explained that tankers had been avoiding the Gore bypass in favour of Main Street, and that work had been undertaken with interested parties in trying to overcome the issue. She requested the Transport Manager re-engage with the organisations involved to remind them to use the bypass rather than Main Street.

Cr Gardyne said he would like to revisit the Pyramid Bridge issue and emphasised the need to continue discussions with NZTA to reiterate the positions of the Gore District Council and Southland District Councils. He said this would only help support a review into whether a dual lane bridge could be built.

In response to Cr Phillips, the Transport Manager advised that discussions were being progressed with PowerNet regarding LED lighting and this would be an issue to be considered by the Council in the future. He provided an outline of the key issues to be considered and would prepare a report in due course. In response to Cr Beale, the Transport Manager confirmed that subsidy timeframes would be factored into his report.

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

3. UPGRADING WATER TREATMENT PLANTS - STRATEGY REVIEW (SC1433/SC1759)

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive regarding the upgrading of urban water treatment plants in the District.

The Chief Financial Officer said that drinking water compliance represented a key component of the Council's Long Term Plan. He introduced Mr Shokit Ali from Signal Management Group to the Committee.

The 3 Waters Project Manager said significant issues had been identified with the Hilbre Avenue site and that subsequent development of upgrade plans had been commissioned to undertake this work. He advised that a report on this should be available within the next 12 weeks.

Mr Ali provided background to the work he had undertaken in partnership with the Council, and the activities he had been working on locally.

In response to Cr Gardyne, the Project Manager advised that the UV treatment costs would roughly equal those identified in the LTP budget. He noted that the outcome of the Matura review and the receipt of engineer reports in approximately 12 weeks time would help determine whether these costs were in fact within LTP budget.

In response to Cr Reid, the Project Manager advised that the Mataura treatment should be completed within the next six weeks.

Cr Beale noted his cautious excitement regarding the manganese issue, despite the \$1.5 million price tag. He said that whilst being early days, he was very positive about the proposals.

In response to Cr Davis, the 3 Waters Manager advised that the buildup of manganese and iron in water levels had not been the fault of the contractor. It was in fact the contractor removing high volumes of water that had brought the issue to the surface.

Cr Sharp asked whether one water source could have affected the overall water quality results and questioned whether the testing was conducted at source or at end use.

The 3 Waters Project Manager said that varied depending on the nature of the water quality complaint, but understanding the potential nature of the complaint (for example whether pipes could be affecting the result) was factored into the testing process.

The 3 Waters Manager said water sources were interlinked and in response to Cr Sharp, said that testing conducted in East Gore had resulted in low levels of manganese, therefore he had not expected there to be an issue there.

In response to Cr Dickson, the 3 Waters Project Manager said that there had not been any feedback regarding sharing some of the associated costs with Clutha District Council.

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

THAT the Council endorse the revised strategy for water treatment in Gore and Mataura,

THAT the Council note the strategy involves the deferral of installing plant to eliminate manganese from the Gore water supply until more tests, which can accurately identify the source of the problem, have been conducted,

AND THAT the Council note that given the low number of complaints about odour and taste in Mataura, the proposed PAC treatment for the Mataura plant be postponed.

**4. MANGANESE AND IRON ISSUES WITHIN GORE WATER RETICULATED NETWORK
(SC1737/SC1433)**

A memo had been received from the 3 Waters Project Manager regarding manganese and iron removal from water supplies.

Cr Davis welcomed the report and said that the diagram used to illustrate the removal process had been particularly helpful.

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

AND THAT \$155,000 of the \$1.6m proposed for the manganese and iron removal be used to accept the proposal put forward by Detection Services.

The meeting concluded at 5.01pm