

## OPERATIONS COMMITTEE AGENDA

WEDNESDAY 26 APRIL 2017

### 1. REPORT FROM 3 WATERS ASSET MANAGER - MARCH – APRIL 2017

#### **Summary**

Aquifer levels are still relatively low and will continue to be monitored. With autumn now upon us the likelihood of further water restrictions this year is reducing.

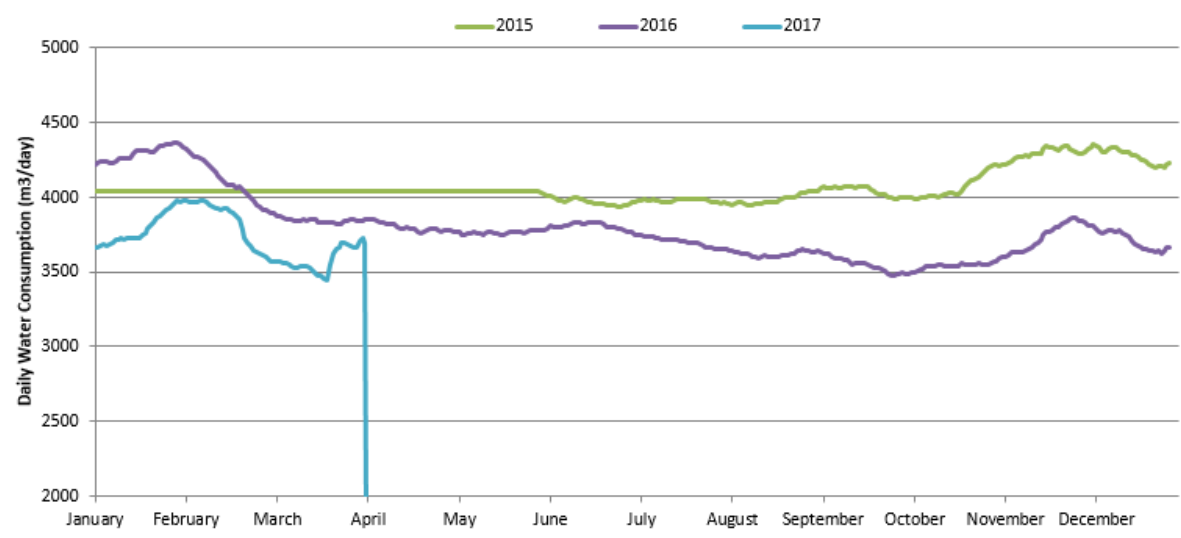
The department has continued to work hard focusing on staying on top of water leaks and other reported issues within the network while ensuring the day to day operation aspects are attended to. The two new staff members that have joined the team are fitting in well and the extra man power has made a noticeable difference.

Recent weeks have seen the construction of a number of projects get underway including wastewater renewals in Matura, the Ajax rising main and Cooper Well emergency pumping.

#### **Water Consumption and Restrictions**

Flows in the Matura River have been low over the last few months with no significant rainfall events in the headwaters. This has seen a gradual decline in aquifer levels at both the Jacobstown and Coopers wells. As shown in the graph below water consumption in Gore for the start of 2017 has remained below the 2016 and 2015 consumption levels. This is despite there being no water restriction in place. Water restrictions were in place in 2016 until late April.

**Gore Total Water Consumption (30 Day Rolling Average)**



River and Aquifer levels will continue to be monitored over the coming months. As we are now well into Autumn, providing there is sufficient rainfall to lift the aquifer levels in the coming months, further water restrictions are not expected to be required this year.

### **Dirty water issues**

For the months of February and March five water quality (Taste/Smell/Odour) complaints were received in the Matura area and one in the Gore Area.

In an attempt to better understand the dirty water events in the Council's water reticulation, customer service staff are now collecting additional information and samples of dirty water events when customers report these.

Discussions and planning with Hydracare for the proposed flushing of both networks are ongoing. At this stage this work is programmed to be completed in late May/early June.

### **Kana and Hope Street wastewater renewals**

The Kana and Hope Street wastewater renewals are progressing well and have largely been completed. A number of issues were encountered on Kana Street associated with pipelines differing to what had been recorded. This has resulted in additional investigation work, extra connections and an extra manhole having to be installed.

Taking advantage of the contractor working on Kana Street, a lateral servicing the Matura Community Gardens was installed. The Community Garden Committee requested this to allow a connection to the reticulated wastewater network to be made (a chemical toilet is currently being used at the gardens). The lateral was installed up to the boundary of the property. It is understood the Community Garden Committee is making arrangements for the internal work required to be completed.

This additional work this has resulted in approximately \$30,000 of additional costs. This is not expected to effect the overall Wastewater capital budget due to other projects currently expected to come in under budget.

### **E-coli monitoring in the Matura River**

Environment Southland in collaboration with ESR have approached the Council with regard to a Quantitative Microbial Risk Assessment (QMRA) study that is proposed for the Matura River. This is proposed as a result of the Matura River failing the National Objectives Framework (NoF) bottom line for secondary contact recreation in/ downstream the township of Matura.

The study will investigate the relationship between E-coli and campylobacter within the river as well as point source discharges in the area (ie wastewater treatment plant discharges). It is hoped this will give a more accurate indication as to the human health risk of the river.

### **Operational items of note**

- A major watermain burst occurred and has since been repaired at the intersection of Kitchener and Main Street.
- The step screen at the Gore oxidation ponds has now been repaired and is operational again.

- Mataura raw water reservoir has been cleaned out, maintenance of the vegetation at the Pleura Dam has been undertaken.
- A chemical storage tank at the Multisports complex has developed a leak. A repair is currently underway, however this has required relocation of electrical equipment and some building alteration work
- Results of a trial of a special sand specifically designed for use in Actiflo plants sourced from Australia have been very promising. As a result of this a further shipment of sand has been order to continue the trial.
- Negotiations regarding a renewal of Silver Fern Farms trade waste agreement are ongoing.
- Consent sampling of stormwater and wastewater discharges are all up to date
- Transpower has recently replaced its power poles located in the Coopers Well designation area.
- The baffle in the Mataura oxidation ponds has been removed for repairs to be completed.
- Meter readings for the Otama water scheme are currently being completed.
- The Mataura raw water main was damaged as a result of a farm digger working near the line. This was largely the result of the pipeline being very shallow in the area.

#### **Project updates**

- Dolamore Park water treatment plant – The plant has now been completed and commissioned and is running well. This has meant that the water is now safe to drink and the boil water notices can be removed at the park.
- Oldham Street bore upgrade – the existing infrastructure will be demolished in the next few weeks. We are currently working with MVM to confirm details of the required design of the new infrastructure required at the site.
- Tulloch Park water hydrant – McDonough Contracting will be installing this over the next two weeks.
- Charlton Road water main upgrade – All effected residents have committed to connecting to the new pipeline. Transpower has requested that this line be upsized to tie-in with its future plans for the switchyard site. Transpower has indicated that it will fund the additional cost associated with this. We are waiting for confirmation of this.
- Otama water scheme, Pyramid well head – concrete protection has been installed around the well head.
- Coopers Well emergency pipeline – McDonough Contracting have started the construction works on this.
- Gore wastewater pond desludging – The secondary drying unit is currently being established onsite, a project specific project report will be provided for this once the desludging has commenced.
- Water supply lateral renewals – Wilson Contracting has completed 33 out of the 36 laterals programmed for replacement.

### **Other departmental updates**

- The department has been working with customer service staff to ensure information regarding water shutdowns can be more clearly communicated to residents.
- To gain a better understanding of historical connections to the Mataura raw water main, meetings with property owners who have connections are currently underway
- The recently formed Stormwater Trouble Shooting Working Party has held two meetings and is currently exploring potential short term solutions for the problem areas that have been identified.

### **Departmental staff training**

- The two new staff members are fitting in well into the team.
- Field staff have recently undergone first aid and traffic management refresher courses.
- Anthony McDowall has recently completed a qualification in water reticulation.
- Michael Lee has been enrolled in a National Certificate in Wastewater Treatment and Robert Wilson will be completing his Water Reticulation Supervisor's certification.

### **Non-Financial performance targets**

- ↳ Appended for the Council's information is the latest update of the 3 Waters levels of service.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the report be received**

## 2. PLEURA DAM CLEAN OUT

(Memo from 3 Waters Asset Manager – 11.04.17)

The raw water source for the Mataura Water Supply comes from the Pleura Dam located approximately 5 km east of the Mataura township. The dam has a history of silting up and therefore has been regularly cleaned throughout its lifespan. The last time this dam was cleaned out was early in 2012. There is currently \$150,000 of funding to clean out the dam in the 2016/2017 financial year of the LTP.



*Photo of Pleura Dam*

To improve access to the dam and allow for better monitoring of the sludge level, some vegetation control and minor earthworks have recently been completed.

The depth of sludge at the dam wall has been surveyed and it has been determined that the current sludge level is well below the level that it was at in 2012 prior to the clean out. Historically the clean out was completed by flushing the silt down through a sluice valve in the dam wall. However the clean out in 2012 was completed using excavators. It is thought that due to the clean out which occurred in 2012 removed significantly more silt than previous clean outs, hence the lower silt level now.

Given the cost and resource that is involved in cleaning out the dam it is recommended that this be deferred until a later date. In the meantime the sludge level will be regularly monitored so that the rate of sludge accumulation can be determined and a future clean out date be more accurately predicted.

The deferral of this work will have the added benefit of reducing some of the financial pressure that the water capital programme is currently under due to the cost incurred from the Coopers Well designation process.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**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

(Memo from 3 Waters Asset Manager – 11.04.17)

IXOM currently supply the Council with a number of chemicals which it requires to operate its water and wastewater treatment plants. One of these chemicals is Aluminium Sulphate (Alum) which is used as a flocculent at the Mataura Water treatment plant and the Actiflo plant (located at the Gore oxidation ponds).

Until recently this had been supplied from IXOM's plant Awarua plant near Invercargill, however this plant was recently closed. As a result of this IXOM is now supplying Alum from its only other plant located in Morrinsville in the North Island. This has resulted in 58% cost increase due to the additional transportation costs. We are not aware of any other suppliers of Alum in the South Island.

To reduce the cost in supplying Alum to its southern customers, IXOM has provided an alternative delivery proposal. Currently all deliveries are made using tankers. However IXOM have proposed making larger deliveries via 16,500 L ISO-tainer's (basically a large tank with a shipping container frame around it), with smaller deliveries being made using IBC's (1000 L plastic chemical delivery containers).

Based on our current Alum consumption it is expected that the Council would save approximately \$15,000 to \$25,000 per year under the new delivery method. It should be noted these savings would be in the operation of the Actiflo plant (which will receive Alum in an ISO-tainer). There would be no savings in the operation of the Mataura Water Treatment Plant (which will receive Alum in an IBC). For the proposal to work we would need to change both plants over.

As part of the upgrades currently being designed to allow the Council to take Mataura Valley Milk's wastewater, the amount of time that the Actiflo plant is run for is expected to significantly increase. Thus any reduction in operational cost of the plant will produce further savings in the near future.

To allow the new delivery method to be implemented requires some alterations and new equipment at the plants. The cost of which are expected to be \$20,000 at the Mataura water treatment plant and \$10,000 at the Actiflo plant.

Given the expected payback period of this work is expected to be no more than 2 years it is recommended that these alterations are progressed as soon as possible. Given the savings in operational cost the alterations at the Actiflo Plant can be funded out of the wastewater operational budget. There will however not be any operational savings at the Mataura water treatment plant. It is therefore proposed that this is funded out of the upgrade at the plant, currently planned for the 2020/ 2021 financial year. It should be noted that this will require \$20,000 of borrowing to be bought forward from the 2020/2021 financial year, the financial impacts of which are expected to be less than minor.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the report be received,**

**THAT the required \$10,000 of upgrades to receive Aluminium Sulphate at the Actiflo plant under the new delivery method is funded out of the 2017/ 2018 operational budget,**

**AND THAT \$20,000 of loan funding from the proposed Mataura water treatment plant upgrade is bought forward to complete the upgrades required to receive Aluminium Sulphate under the proposed new delivery method**



#### 4. REPORT FROM THE TRANSPORT MANAGER

##### **Mataura beautification**

Central Western Roding have made good progress with the concrete plots and the back filling with soil by 1 March. these will be left fallow for several months before planting. The pedestrian crossing with tactile pavers, the road markings and speed humps have since been completed. Several defects will be rectified at the same time as the installation at Coster Park, scheduled for late April.

##### **Pyramid bridge**

We have accepted a proposal from MWH to carry out full site investigations, design, tender documents and MSQA. It has prepared a timeline with the tender award date of 30 September 2017. The budget for the physical work has been allowed for in the 2017/18 budget. It is expected we should get interest from at least three contractors (Fulton Hogan, Downer and SouthRoads)

##### **Footpaths**

- To date there has been isolated pieces of footpath work completed, moss spraying and some surface stripping.
- Concrete work – repairing a number of faults around our concrete pavements, grinding of trip hazards, repairing broken up sections of footpath. A tender is just being evaluated this week for this work to begin immediately.
- Pavement replacement - we have developed a priority schedule of sealed footpath that needs to be resurfaced. How much we get done will be governed by the rates we attract at the tender box. Before the end of April we hope to have a package of surfacing work go to tender.
- Tactile pavers - a programme of work to install a number of drop crossings around town with tactile pads was completed in January.

##### **Resurfacing programme (Fulton Hogan)**

The 2016/17 resurfacing programme worth \$995k begun in December was completed by the early April.

##### **Roding contract (Downer)**

Downer exited its Gore branch on the 28 February.

Downers left with a number of items of work incomplete. The cost of engaging other contractors to complete this work was recovered from payments that were withheld from Downer.

There are still two items of work left to be complete by Downer itself - the surfacing of Gorton/Mersey Street intersection and the clearing of the mudtanks.

### **Roading contract (March–June 2017)**

A local consortium was employed by the Council in late February to cover the core road maintenance work in the four month interim period.

Regular contact is kept with the collective through weekly meetings and daily communication with the frontline staff.

As well as the feel good factor around Council staff and the contractor, the measure of defects around the network is reducing. CRM's are also being attended to swiftly and more efficiently. The Roadroid testing should also give us a true indication of any progress. It is pleasing to report that the instruction of widening the roads slightly when grading has been taken on board.

It is predicted this arrangement may need to be kept in play for a further couple of months while a more long term solution is organised.

### **Roading contract (July 2017)**

The Council roading workshops concluded that the model that best suited the wishes of the Council was the traditional styling where a more hands on approach is taken to supervision, programming and retaining asset knowledge more in house.

It was also concluded that further discussions with the Clutha District Council were not practicable as it was a way down the track of retendering its maintenance contract.

Staff have had a number of discussions with suppliers in the market and are now working with a consultant on the styling and look of the new contract. We are hoping to have something ready for tender by mid June.

### **Spraying**

The State Highway vegetation spraying was completed this month and is now looking to complete the second round of spraying.

### **Budget**

With the absence of a contractor most aspects of work need to be competitively tendered and this has left us with a number of projects to be completed in what remains of the financial year. These projects relate to concrete works, seal repairs, footpath surfacing and bridging/structures.

### **Forward works**

- Programming is well under way for metalling of gravel roads in the new financial year. Traditionally 11,000m<sup>3</sup> are spread in one of four zones on a rotational basis. Our focus this year is targeting roads which need metal not necessarily in the allocated zone. Spot metalling continues where currently needed.
- The sealing programme for the next season will begin soon.

**Street lights**

Discussions are progressing with PowerNet which is very keen to put a proposal to the Council about updating Gore's street lighting stock to LEDs. At the moment NZTA is offering an 85% subsidy for LED conversions for work completed by the end of 2018.

**Minor safety work**

A parcel of work is being progressed at the moment, and will hopefully be out to market by the end of April.

**Other roadworks**

- Kiwi Rail is looking to upgrade its rail crossing on River Road from 27 to 29 May 2017.
- NZTA is looking to resurface the roundabout closest to the Police Station this season. The date is unknown as yet.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the report be received.**

## 5. SILVER BIRCH TREES – JOSEPH STREET, GORE

(Memo from Chief Executive – 20.04.17)

At the Council meeting held on 4 April, the Council considered a request from Joseph Street residents to have a series of silver birch trees removed. After consideration of the request, the following resolution was passed:

*THAT the Council meet with those residents who signed the petition as soon as possible to work through the issue and endeavour to achieve a resolution,*

*AND THAT after meeting with residents, the Council determine the next step.*

In line with this resolution, plans are now well advanced to hold a preliminary meeting with the signatories of the petition to ascertain whether the problems can be resolved without the need for a full hearing. However, in the interests of not creating any potential conflicts of interest, it would be appropriate at this juncture for the Council to finalise membership of a hearing panel – should it be required – in order that these members can be quarantined from any preliminary discussions with Joseph Street residents. Should a hearing be required, I would suggest a panel of three Councillors, two of which ideally should be certified through the MfE Making Good Decisions programme. Whilst having certified members on the panel is not mandatory as this is not a Resource Management Act matter, it is still good practice I believe to have a majority of members accredited through the programme to give all submitters confidence in a robust decision making process.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**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 ... be appointed to a hearing panel to consider all submissions and make a determination on the matter.**