

Report of a meeting of the Operations Committee, held in the Council Chambers, 29 Bowler Avenue, Gore, on Tuesday 21 November 2017, at 4.27pm

Present Cr Davis (Chairman), Crs Beale, Bolger, Dickson, Gardyne, D Grant, P Grant, Highsted, Phillips, Reid and Sharp.

In Attendance The Chief Executive (Mr Stephen Parry), Chief Financial Officer (Mr Luke Blackbeard), General Manager Regulatory and Planning (Dr Ian Davidson-Watts), General Manager Infrastructure (Mr Ramesh Sharma), Parks and Recreation Manager (Mr Ian Soper), Transport Manager (Mr Peter Standing), HR/Administration Manager (Susan Jones), 3 Waters Asset Manager (Mr Matt Bayliss), Communications/Promotions Manager (Sonia Gerken), Building Control Manager (Mr Russell Paterson), Planning Consultant (Mr Keith Hovell), Animal Control Officer (Mr David McKewen) and one member of the public in the gallery.

Apology His Worship the Mayor apologised for absence.

1. PRESENTATION FROM EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SOUTHLAND (SC1629)

Mr Angus McKay, Manager of Emergency Management Southland (EMS) was in attendance with Ian Cryer, EMS Advisor, and provided a briefing on how EMS worked when an emergency required a full response from civil defence. He provided a powerpoint presentation about the roles and functions of Council staff and Mayor/Councillors in such situations.

Mr Cryer updated the Council on business continuity plans and advised EMS would be creating templates for Councils and businesses to complete.

Messrs McKay and Cryer departed the meeting at 5.02pm

2. GORE WATER SUPPLY STRATEGY – SUMMARY OF THE WORKSHOP HELD ON 26 OCTOBER 2017 AND FINALISATION OF THE WEIGHTINGS OF THE MC-MATRIX CRITERIA (SC1433/SC0647)

A report had been received from the 3 Waters Asset Manager following a workshop held on 26 October where the options to comply with the drinking water standards by

upgrading the Council's three existing water treatments plants (WTPs) in Gore and Mataura had been discussed.

The Council's existing water treatment plants in both Gore and Mataura did not meet the requirements of the Drinking Water Standards New Zealand 2005 and required upgrading. A summary of the recent progress undertaken to upgrade the treatment plants had been provided.

A copy of the BECA report that considered the most suitable long term sustainable solution to upgrade the treatment plants had been circulated with the agenda.

Details of the key outcomes and financial impact, project risks and a summary of the workshop discussion and multi criteria matrix had been detailed in the agenda report.

The option for the Mataura water supply had been briefly discussed at the workshop, however, it was apparent that the water treatment process at the Mataura plant, which served a lesser population within the urban area of the district, was more advanced than in Gore. It had been agreed in principle that more emphasis should be given to determine the long-term, sustainable water supply for Gore. Once the Gore water supply strategy had been implemented, a detailed technical review would be done for the Mataura considering growth, demand, renewals, Opex and resilience.

Cr Dickson said the water levels were currently low and questioned why the Council would consider piping water from Gore to Mataura when it had a different supply.

The Manager said that would need to be considered as part of the overall strategy. He acknowledged the wells were currently low.

The General Manager Infrastructure said a water development plan would be eventually developed.

Cr Highsted said on the single East Gore option that required drilling under the river, what was the certainty.

The Manager advised there was a 20% contingency. To put it in context, MVM was currently drilling under the river and it had enough confidence in its plant to get under the river. There had been some challenges with the drilling, but it was proceeding.

Cr Beale said the Council was hamstrung at Hilbre Avenue with the site size.

The Manager agreed.

Cr Sharp noted a \$3 million difference in the options.

The Manager said to comply with the drinking water standards, there needed to be certain equipment to maintain the water quality and equipment to maintain the water quality. There was potential for treated water quality to change and not meet the

compliance standards. With cartridge filtration there was a greater risk of that happening.

In response to Cr Davis, the Manager said by combining the two treatment plants that reduced the risk of high nitrate levels in the water.

In response to Cr D Grant, the Manager confirmed there were many other towns that had just one treatment plant.

Cr Phillips said a media filtration plant, even at a greater cost, allowed for easier use.

Cr Bolger asked if a single media treatment plant lent itself to upgrading in the future.

The Manager advised it would. By retaining two treatment plants, any upgrading required would effectively be double the cost.

Cr Highsted asked if the cartridges would have a lifetime availability of 30 years.

The General Manager said it depended but the cartridges were sourced from overseas.

Cr Sharp asked what the cost of cartridges were compared to another system.

The General Manager said it depended on the raw water quality. It could be two days or up to a month. The staff had taken a conservative approach with the analysis provided. The water sources for the district were very shallow.

Cr Davis asked what other Councils were doing.

The General Manager said cartridge filtration was a solution. It was not a 100% solution, but for the Otama water supply for instance, it would work very well. But for a larger community, it may not be the best solution and any changes would cost. As for other Councils, it depended on the raw water quality they were dealing with.

Cr Davis asked what the cartridges were. Were they recyclable?

The General Manager advised they were not recyclable. They were made of polystyrene type material and had to be changed at least each month or more often depending on the water quality. He thought they would be a costly option. He confirmed that cartridge filters would not deal with manganese.

Cr Phillips was concerned Maitua was being left out at this stage. Would it still be included in the Long Term Plan?

The Asset Manager said it would definitely be in the LTP.

Cr Phillips did not want it to be lost sight of. The Mataura plant needed to be upgraded.

Cr Dickson said if nitrate levels rose, they would also need to be managed.

The General Manager said they were very difficult to manage but he thought with the continual search for an improved water source, it would be part of the overall plan.

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

AND THAT the Council confirm the attribute weightings used in the “Multi-Criteria Analysis” (MCA-matrix) to determine the long-term sustainable water supply strategy for the Gore District.

3. 3 WATERS OPERATIONS REPORT

The Council perused a report from the 3 Waters Asset Manager.

The Manager advised rain about ten days ago had given some relief to the well levels, but staff were continuing to monitor levels before considering water restrictions. The well levels were lower than usual for this time of the year.

In response to Cr Reid, the Manager said the leaks identified by the detection service had all been repaired and had resulted in water consumption dropping notably. It was hoped to get the contractor back again before Christmas.

Cr Phillips thought the education programme needed to be improved. He had tried to explain to people why there needed to be restrictions.

The Manager said it was an area that was being worked on.

Cr P Grant said the reaction he had from people was if the Council could supply water to MVM then they could use as much water as they liked themselves.

Cr Phillips said people needed to be smarter about why the water levels had dropped. It had nothing to do with the dairy factory. It was all about education. Gore was not the only area that had to impose water restrictions. There were plenty of other places in New Zealand.

Cr D Grant agreed.

Cr Phillips added it was not just a Gore problem, it was a District problem.

Cr Beale said tanks for rain harvesting was now required by some new commercial properties. Had that been included in a Bylaw?

The Chief Executive said it had been discussed at a workshop but he had not got a categorical direction from the Council to impose mandatory rainwater storage for new builds.

Cr Beale said the cost would be minimal for a commercial development, but he thought for residential developments it needed to be seriously considered.

The Chief Executive said some Bylaws were being reviewed and it could be resurrected for consideration.

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

4. OTAMA RURAL WATER SUPPLY – PERMANENT BOIL WATER NOTICE (SC0671)

A report had been received from the 3 Waters Asset Manager informing the Council about a permanent boil water notice recently circulated to all residents of the Otama rural water scheme.

The Otama Rural Water Supply Committee had recently decided to progress a Catchment Risk Assessment and Water Safety Plan for managing drinking water quality from the catchment to consumers. The water supplier was responsible for completing the catchment risk assessment which was then assessed by the Drinking Water Assessor.

The Water Safety Plan aimed to identify potential contamination risks to the water supply and improvements that were necessary to protect public health.

A boil water notice had been circulated to all consumers on 13 October. The notification was made using a variety of channels including mail, the scheme email and text system, the Council website and Facebook page and via a press release.

In response to Cr Gardyne, the Manager said the notice was a combination of factors including the shallow aquifer, link to the river, agriculture around the well and e-coli detections in the past few years.

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

5. REPORT FROM TRANSPORT MANAGER

A copy of a report from the Transport Manager had been received and was considered by the Council.

A sample of an LED street light was displayed at the meeting. There were about 1600 street lights in Gore.

In response to Cr Highsted, the Manager confirmed PowerNet had put a proposal to the Council to have LED lights installed.

The Manager said the consultants had estimated a pay back on investment of between eight and nine years. The estimated cost for each light head including installation was around \$550.

In response to Cr Phillips, the Council would make definite savings in electricity and maintenance.

Cr D Grant suggested using the lights to highlight different events throughout the year such as Christmas, Gold Guitars etc.

Cr Beale said there could also be coloured lights installed under the Mataura river.

The Parks and Recreation Manager said he and the Transport Manager had already discussed it and it would be progressed.

The Transport Manager had been in contact with lighting specialists who could elevate the appearance of some structures including the bridge.

Cr Reid was interested to hear there was less spill from LED lights and night sky tourism at places like Dolamore Park could be a drawcard for people to visit.

Cr Gardyne asked about the Pyramid Bridge project.

The Manager advised the latest thinking was to go back to the original alignment. The business case had to be put through NZTA and he thought the strongest case was for a single lane. To re-cap, there would be three options put forward. He said the Councils were very much being directed by NZTA and what proposal it would entertain from a funding perspective. But, there would be a bridge.

In response to Cr P Grant, the Manager said heavily overloaded trucks that decimated local roads became a Police issue and offenders were often issued with significant fines. He added that Clutha District did not allow forestry harvesting in the winter.

The Planning Consultant said it may be a resource consent issue and associated conditions imposed under the Resource Management Act as opposed to roading legislation.

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

The meeting concluded at 6.25pm