

Report of a meeting of the Operations Committee, held in the Mataura Community Centre, McQueen Avenue, Mataura, on Tuesday 20 November 2018, at 4.58pm.

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

**In Attendance** The Chief Executive (Mr Stephen Parry), General Manager Infrastructure (Mr Ramesh Sharma), Parks and Recreation Manager (Mr Ian Soper), Transport Manager (Mr Peter Standing), 3 Waters Asset Manager (Mr Matt Bayliss), Corporate Support Officer (Suzanne Lucas), Project Manager Infrastructure (Mr Hashem Ramezan-zadeh) Communications/Marketing Manager (Sonia Gerken), Principal Planner/Consultant (Mr Keith Hovell) and four members of the public.

**Apologies** His Worship the Mayor (Mr Tracy Hicks, JP), Cr Highsted apologised for absence.

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## 1. PRESENTATION ON AEROMAGNETIC SURVEY PRELIMINARY RESULTS

A report had been received from Venture Southland. Mr Steve Canny was in attendance to present preliminary results of the aero-magnetic survey and a potential new source of water found around Chatton.

Mr Canny informed the Committee data collated by Land and Water Science Ltd identified the Chatton formation as a possible high yielding water supply for Gore and environs.

Mr Canny said the first report pulled together all known data and recent airborne survey work and this highlighted a need to look at deeper aquifer opportunities. The Chatton formation had been identified as the only potentially high yielding formation in the Southland area. This water supply would be sound biologically but may need treatment, but as yet this was unknown. Analysis had been delayed and not completed last summer as expected due to wet weather. Successful completion was relying on a drier period and window of opportunity.

Cr Davis asked for clarification of the cost of the investment into the analysis.

Mr Canny explained there were two phases of analysis. The first phase had been completed and this had involved the collation of all known information. The second phase would be completed by July 2019 following the MBIE airborne survey work.

Cr Davis asked if the money spent so far would cover the second phase of analysis.

Mr Canny confirmed the investment would cover the cost of phase two and as well as bringing in GIS for identification of geologic structures.

Cr Beale asked if Venture Southland had qualified staff experienced or qualified in geology or geo physics.

Mr Canny said Venture Southland was managing the project and expertise was obtained from external sources.

In response to question from Cr Dickson regarding the area of research, Mr Canny said the Chatton formation was a continuous system and extended from the Waimea Plains to Bluff. Analysis had not concentrated on one particular area but aeromagnetic data would be used to understand how the formation was connected. If the Council had the desire to engage in further analysis this would give an indication of where to drill.

Cr Bolger asked what had led Venture Southland to undertake the survey.

Mr Canny explained in 2012 Venture Southland looked at undertaking an electromagnetic survey of the region with aim of trying to understand geological system in the area but this option was discounted as being too expensive. In 2014 the Minister of Crown Minerals announced funding was available for research of this nature and Venture Southland applied. While a lot of the desired area was covered, this particular part of Southland had not been included so local funding was required, therefore each Council contributed to this. The cost to the Council was less than indicated. The survey had identified faulting and insights into soil nutrient.

Cr D Grant asked why it was suggested the Chatton formation was deemed to be an emergency supply only and at what depth was it.

Mr Canny commented that further investigatory work would be required to better understand the potential of the source and to quantify it. The Chatton formation was 200m below ground and at this depth there would be less reliance on surface water replenishment.

The General Manager Infrastructure commented a reliable water supply needed to be sourced now and infrastructure required certainty and under the Drinking Water Standards all drinking water must be treated. There was an emergency supply the Council could draw on.

Mr Canny said this was an opportunity to look further, and find a potentially high yielding source.

The Chief Executive said the Council should stay the course, it had made the investment, and should now await further analysis. This was water intelligence and the Council should not turn blind eye to long term opportunities and a possible longer term option for the District.

Cr Bolger asked what the benefits were globally and how valuable was this work particularly in light of primary production.

Mr Canny explained radiometric data identification of traces in the soil was significant and valuable for farmers applying nutrients.

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

**AND THAT following the end of phase two, the report be considered by the Council.**

Mr Canny left the meeting at 5.35pm.

## **2. 3 WATERS OPERATIONS REPORT – AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2018**

An operational report from the 3 Waters Asset Manager had been circulated with the agenda and was considered by the Committee.

The 3 Waters Asset Manager informed the Committee recent rain falls had lifted Coopers Wells to approximately 1900mm. This was very welcome and they were expected to lift further. December would see levels average compared to previous years and an improvement on September and October.

The Manager reported there had been a number of odour complaints from the wastewater treatment plant which was being investigated.

Cr Reid commented on the decline of the Coopers Wells over the past four years and asked if there was data available prior to 2014.

The Manager said the system could only report on the last five years. He said it was a shallow aquifer sensitive to surface water.

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Davis, seconded by Cr Dickson, THAT the report be received.**

3. REPORT ON 2017/18 COMPLIANCE WITH THE DRINKING WATER STANDARDS FOR NEW ZEALAND 2005 (

A report from the 3 Waters Asset Manager on the 2017/18 compliance with the Drinking Water Standards was considered by the Committee.

The 3 Waters Asset Manager informed the Committee upgrades to the Gore and Mataura water treatment plant had been planned to achieve Protozoa compliance. Increased monitoring of drinking water had occurred since the Havelock North incident. In order to meet the standards required for the District's drinking water, monitoring equipment was required to be updated.

The General Manager Infrastructure said it was expected the plant upgrade to be completed by 2022.

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

4. REPORT ON THE GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL'S COMPLIANCE WITH RESOURCE CONSENT CONDITIONS FOR THE 2017/18 REPORTING PERIOD (SC2236)

A report from the 3 Waters Asset Manager on the Gore District Council's had been received and compliance with resource consent conditions for the 2017/2018 reporting period and was considered by the Committee.

The Manager said there had been a number of challenges over the last 12 months. Some of these had been addressed through additional procedures which were more robust. He said Gore had various ongoing minor compliance issues with the discharge and these were being worked through as part of the consent renewal process.

Cr Beale asked if the current weather was likely to trigger stormwater discharge into river.

The Manager said intense rain could cause an ove flow. The gates had been shut but he expected there would be a large number of flows which would put pressure on the system.

Cr Reid drew attention to the Macroinvertebrate monitoring and asked if there been any developments.

The Manager said it was only possible to undertake monitoring during low water flows. A longer term approach was needed in terms of upgrading the treatment plant.

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

5. BULK WATER ABSTRACTIONS – FEES AND CHARGES REVIEW (SC2274)

A report from the 3 Waters Asset Manager had been circulated with the agenda and was considered by the Committee.

Ceri Macleod and Bernadette Hunt entered the meeting at 5.50pm.

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

**AND THAT there be no change to the existing fees and charges for bulk water abstractions.**

6. REPORT FROM TRANSPORT MANAGER

A report from the Transport Manager had been received by the Committee.

The Manager informed the Committee bridge survey results had been received and a report would be forthcoming.

The Manager reported that following a Pyramid Bridge hearing on 9 November, the emergency funding application had been heard and NZTA had agreed to cover 75% of the cost for the bridge and approaches.

Cr Gardyne said that result was a milestone and the staff were to be congratulated.

Cr Davis asked if tenders for contracts let had met budget.

The Manager said they were all within budget and the General Manager Infrastructure would provide a report providing budget and contract details moving forward.

Cr Reid referred to the offal pit that had been established and asked if it was for commercial use.

The Manager replied that dumping of carcasses around the District was an ongoing issue. Council contractors Abernethy's had created a pit on its land, but for Council disposal only.

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

The meeting concluded at 6.00pm.