Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Community Strategy Committee will be held in the Council Chambers, James Cumming Wing, 10C Ardwick Street, Gore on Wednesday 5 February 2020 at 3.30pm.

Stephen Parry
Chief Executive

30 January 2020

Agenda

1. Liveable Gore – action plan
   Pages 1-6

2. Ownership of private property wastewater connections
   Pages 7–19

3. Predator Free Southland
   Pages 20-32

4. Business to be considered pursuant to the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987:
   - Economic development projects
1. LIVEABLE GORE - ACTION PLAN (Peter Standring)

(Report from Transport Manager - 23.01.20)

Purpose
This report aims to inform the Council on the development of an action plan, which aims to enact a number of existing Council initiatives. The initiatives take account of the Gore Streetscape Strategy, the Trails Feasibility Study and the Ready for Growth projects as well as the recent Longford shared path project objectives. Collectively the initiatives and the overarching plan will look to enhance the liveability, connectivity and safety of the Gore community by fully optimising the existing street and park reserves. This is a great opportunity to achieve broader community outcomes through New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) financial assistance.

Representatives from NZTA will be in attendance at the meeting to make a presentation on the action plan.

Vision statement
To ensure a more liveable Gore by providing a connected, inclusive network, which offers choices to residents and visitors alike for safe and unobstructed access to our places and spaces.

The aim is to realise the Council’s vision of a more liveable, vibrant and future-focused Gore. The project will drive transformational change and require a high level of community engagement.

Background
The Gore Streetscape Strategy was adopted by the Council in 2011 as an overarching document for the management of the Council’s urban road reserves. This is a foundation document and if enacted could achieve the entire Liveable Gore mission. To date, a number of the objectives have not yet been addressed.

The recent Longford Shared Path business case has brought a renewed focus on resident access and mobility. The Council’s business case has gained great interest and support from NZTA with approved funding for the design work of the associated bridge. However, to obtain construction funding for this project, there is a condition requiring the Council to suitably connect the proposed bridge with wider opportunities for walking and cycling in Gore. Such opportunities will need to provide linkages to the schools, hospitals, CBD, parks and the multisport complex as was promoted in the business case.
The NZTA walking and cycling team has visited Gore several times so far to support the Council in satisfying this funding condition. NZTA staff recently spent several days carrying out detailed investigations. As part of its investigations, the team observed many deficiencies in how the town’s transport network presently functions.

To resolve these issues and ensure the proposed bridge is supported with wider opportunities for active travel, NZTA staff emphasised the need to develop a comprehensive urban transport plan. The development of the transport plan would directly support the Council’s wider strategic objectives.

The NZTA remain keen to support the Council with funding and resources to make the Longford Shared Path a reality, while ensuring opportunities for a more inclusive and connected townscape are also captured.

Underpinning the transport plan is a philosophy around creating safer and quieter streets by the rebalancing the allocation and priorities. This provides the basis for a street environment that:

- prioritises those that live, work and enjoy such streets over those passing through;
- ensures the Council makes the best use of its existing asset base (reducing capital investment need);
- seeks to minimise and/or reduce future maintenance burden;
- improves road safety;
- best showcases all Gore has to offer; and
- creates a genuine opportunity for the freedom of movement for all, and by all transport modes.

Discussion
The recent Government Policy Statement on transport strongly promotes alternative means of transport. We also now have NZTA subsidising the development and maintenance of walk and cycleways around the country.

The action plan will look to address the following objectives set out in the Gore Streetscape Strategy:

- Providing an attractive setting for the people who live in or visit the town.
- Making the town a more efficient and suitable place to live or undertake business.
- Create a high-quality living environment.
- Supporting a full range of transport choices, for all.
- Making the streets more socially inclusive, vibrant and safe.
- Creating a healthier lifestyle by encouraging more walking and cycling.

To successfully achieve these objectives we need to fully understand the existing and future needs of the sectors of our community, develop a list of options for the young,
the elderly and people living with disabilities by recognising their barriers and challenges, then look to address them.

**Expected outcomes**
Liveable Gore – An Action Plan is expected to feature some practical solutions for Gore that will serve transportation needs into the future. The action plan will be adequately detailed and be developed to a standard where it will be able to be shared with contractors for implementation without requiring too much more interpretation. It should comprise the following details:

- Community engagement and feedback
- Identify measures required to assist with rebalancing our existing road network to ensure it is fit for purpose for all transport modes, minimises impacts on residents and showcases all Gore has to offer
- An overall map detailing the location and cross-sections of each treatment.
- Implementation programme, options assessment and cost estimates

**Project plan**
The project plan is attached as Appendix 1. The main activities are outlined as follows:

- Preparing a preliminary Liveable Gore Action Plan, January 2020
- Initial consultations with the Council, February 2020
- Community engagement, February-March 2020
- Network map, routes plans and cross-sections, April-July 2020
- Funding application, August 2020
- Final consultations with the Council, August 2020
- Procurement plan and tendering process, September-October 2020
- Physical works, November 2020–June 2021

**Project team**
NZTA has an exceptional team of planners resourced for this type of project, and it intends to have a maximum contribution to the development of the project activities and support the Council to ensure its successful delivery. While NZTA will provide significant resource, Council staff will manage the execution. The proposed project organisation structure is illustrated below:
**Communication and consultation**

There has been some initial discussion internally with relevant Managers. The biggest consideration seems to be how this all fits with the Spatial Plan, which is going out for public consultation in the near future. The implementation plan for the Streetscape Strategy will assist with the review of the District Plan. The community consultation which needs to be carried out, will be more in the form of specific discussions rather than an open survey. This is outlined in the project plan.

**Considerations**

Matters that need to be considered:

- Recent discussions by Ready for Tomorrow lead Shelley Lithgow with the town’s disabled and young residents discussed that there is a lot more that could be done to ensure the liveability of the town into the future. A recent survey of 100 of Gore’s elderly confirmed that there are obstacles to mobility that currently exist.
- Numerous calls are received around the speed on our streets and the availability of safe pedestrians crossing opportunities.
- Unlocking the pedestrian and cyclist access to the town’s parks and reserves especially Gore’s main public gardens, helping all groups of people to enjoy the awesome gardens and sporting facilities the Council invests so heavily in, while ensuring our young people find Gore a great place to grow up in.
- Activity management plans of other assets such as 3 Waters and parks and reserves.
Unlike the funding environment when the Streetscape Strategy was first mooted, now some governmental departments are actively promoting more mobile communities, and are ready to fund and support the change.

For road safety outcomes, the Council will be asked to respond to the Government’s request to review speeds around the town.

- Decide the extent of pedestrianising the CBD.
- Trail feasibility plan.
- Ready for Growth strategy.
- Streetscape Strategy.

References

- Streetscape Strategy
- Trail Feasibility Study
- Transportation Plan – AMP
- Ready for Growth statement
- Parks plan
- Growth predictions
- Tourist numbers
- Towns demographics
- A map showing the road reserve, the parks, schools, businesses, pathways, council-owned lands and Gore Multisport Complex
- Community surveys
- Some traffic counts
- Census information mapped/demographics
- Southern Field Days surveys
- Target group conversations
- Government Policy Statements
- Speed reviews
- Healthy Communities papers

Financial consideration

- The focus of this project is to optimise the usability of the existing infrastructures rather than building new infrastructures
- The NZTA standard funding contribution is 55%. However, further contribution opportunity will be investigated under the Longford Shared Path project. The proposed improvement will be funded by the Council’s maintenance budget.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be received.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task ID</th>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Task Summary</th>
<th>Lead</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Due date</th>
<th>Contingent on Task ID</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Bridge design</td>
<td>Keep progressing bridge design</td>
<td>Hashem</td>
<td>Peter</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Capture in a action plan</td>
<td>Record the findings/agreements and the proposed action plan.</td>
<td>Peter &amp; Hashem</td>
<td>Xyst</td>
<td>23-Jan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Councillor workshop - 1</td>
<td>Build political license and build political courage to outline how the team will manage this risk (community engagement)</td>
<td>Ramesh</td>
<td>GDC only</td>
<td>5th Feb</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Raise liveability expectations, get the social license for who has more say, those living on the road or those travelling through. Need to maximise participation so will also entail big comms effort. Don't lose sight of climate change concerns, safety, children mobility, health, noise, greenery, maintenance costs/rates, PGF project around the distillery business - foot traffic... Consider data collection (video etc.? + time how long people take to walk each street)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Community engagement</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sharleen</td>
<td>Xyst - Pip</td>
<td>Late Feb</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Findings summary</td>
<td>Collating all the data received and cementing the main messages + graphics.</td>
<td>Sharleen</td>
<td>GDC or NZTA Comms</td>
<td>Mid-March</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Feedback to the community</td>
<td>Tell the public about findings build anticipation and expectation set scene for what programme of works will seek to achieve (tell them what we did, what citizens told us, and what we'll do)</td>
<td>Sharleen</td>
<td>GDC or NZTA Comms</td>
<td>Late March</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Data collection</td>
<td>KPIs based on public consultation outcomes, before and after review. Get the liveability stories.</td>
<td>Niels &amp; Erik</td>
<td>Xyst</td>
<td>April</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Three waters</td>
<td>Need understanding for roads affected by proposed waste/storm water upgrades</td>
<td>3 Waters Manager</td>
<td>Hashem</td>
<td>April</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Future desired trails</td>
<td>Need understanding for where to dump aggregate and source topsoil (already complete - but need to confirm priorities)</td>
<td>Hashem</td>
<td>Peter + Maurice Broome Xyst CAD support &amp; Internal NZTA review</td>
<td>April</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Network map</td>
<td>Develop network plan to ensure full network coverage and satisfy NZTA funding requirements and fit within the available budget and delivery timeframe</td>
<td>Niels &amp; Erik</td>
<td>Xyst</td>
<td>May 5 - 9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Discuss network interventions with affected</td>
<td>Discuss treatment options/outcomes proposed with adjacent landowners, gauge risk and compromise, raise awareness of bigger picture as some won't have been involved in the consultation. Develop street specific 1-page updates/notices. Augmented reality NZTA to consider?</td>
<td>Niels &amp; Erik</td>
<td>GDC + NZTA Xyst</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Refine network interventions as required</td>
<td>Where public push back is significant and/or warranted seek to resolve the alternative solution. Proposed treatments cost.</td>
<td>Niels &amp; Erik</td>
<td>Hashem &amp; Peter</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Funding application</td>
<td>Confirm scope adjustment and implementation funding for the River Trail project. Provides 1 year to deliver. Needs to occur ASAP to ensure we can proceed with a minimum of hold-up.</td>
<td>Niels &amp; Erik</td>
<td>Peter</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Councillor workshop - 2</td>
<td>Summarise findings from public consultation and confirm go/no go. Confirm political license and build political courage</td>
<td>Hashem</td>
<td>Niels + Erik</td>
<td>August 12 + 13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Procurement &amp; delivery</td>
<td>Commence with delivery - 10 months delivery timeframe</td>
<td>Hashem</td>
<td>Peter</td>
<td>August + 14 + 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Encourage usage</td>
<td>Bikes in schools, public events, big hoo-ha public celebration, bike shop push, bike repair workshops</td>
<td>Comms</td>
<td>Hashem + Maurice Broome</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. OWNERSHIP OF PRIVATE PROPERTY WASTEWATER CONNECTIONS

(Report from 3 Waters Asset Manager - 22.01.20)

Purpose
To gain direction from the Council regarding the preferred ownership and responsibility of private property drainage (wastewater and stormwater) connections.

Background
Historically private property drainage connections have been owned by the property owner up to the point of connection to the Council main. Accordingly the property owner has been responsible and liable for all costs associated with the installation, renewal and maintenance of the pipework both in their property and for the section of pipe in the road reserve connecting onto the Council main (the lateral). This has also required the property owner to be granted authority to dig in the road reserve using a registered drain layer, to connect their property when a building consent is issued for the house construction/or when the property is subdivided. Hence these drainage laterals were not recorded in the Council’s asset register.

However, concern has previously been raised regarding the liability that Council has when a lateral fails in the Council’s road reserve. For example, repeated traffic loading, construction activities and other maintenance works occurring in the street can cause or contribute to these failures. To manage these challenges, the Council adopted a policy of “joint responsibility” for the lateral in 2008. This policy explains clearly about the blockage/damage in the lateral pipe resulting from misuse remained the responsibility of the property owner, and any structural failures (ie a collapse of the pipe or blockages resulting from root intrusions, seal repair/road reconstruction) were the responsibility of the Council.

Refer to the diagram below and the 2008 Council resolution and supporting information for further details regarding this.
Discussion
While developing a policy in 2008, asset ownership of the lateral was not considered. Due to this, ownership of the lateral stills sits with the private property owner. The following comments are made in relation to this current policy:

- Since the Council does not own the laterals, it does not currently rate for depreciation on these assets. However, when renewing a wastewater main, it is cost-effective and practical to renew the lateral up to the property boundary at the same time. For this reason, when the Council renews the Wastewater main in Elizabeth Street is also plans to renew the laterals in the street.
- As the lateral is privately owned, under the requirements of the Building Act 2004, when a new house is constructed, it must be ensured that the lateral has a minimum expected durability of 50 years. Where there has previously been a building on a section that has passed its useful life, in general, it can also be expected that the wastewater lateral has also passed its useful life.
- There are a number of vacant sections in Gore that did not have a lateral installed when they were originally subdivided. In this situation, the property owner is required to gain approval and install a lateral at the time of constructing a building on the section.
  Note - all new subdivisions are now required to install services to the property boundary at the time of the subdivision occurring. This is to avoid digging up the road to connect to the services when a new house is built.
- The cost of installing a new lateral from the property boundary to the Council main can vary significantly from anywhere between $2,000 (where the Council main is close to the boundary) to more than $10,000 (ie the lateral is required to cross the state highway).
- With ever-increasing requirements regarding traffic management, health and safety and road reinstatement, having a contractor engaged by a private property owner to carry out works in the road reserve has become less than desirable.

In short, while the “joint responsibility” policy previously adopted by the Council has addressed some of the issues around wastewater laterals, the policy is considered untidy and at times very complex to implement.

Based on feedback from other Councils and from an asset management perspective, the ownership of laterals in the road reserve by the Council is the preferred arrangement.

Financial
If the Council were to take over ownership of private property laterals, it would need to fund the depreciation costs. The funds collected for depreciation can be used to retire debt or fund future renewal work. With this in mind, a valuation of the wastewater laterals was included as part of the recent asset revaluation work.

This asset revaluation determined the optimised replacement cost of all wastewater laterals to be $11.4 million with the annual depreciation being $124,130. Refer to the
attached excerpt from the Opus 2019 valuation of roading and 3 Water infrastructure assets for further details.

Should the Council take ownership of the laterals, then the assets would be included on the Council’s statement of financial position (balance sheet). These assets would be depreciated, and the Council’s non-cash expenses would rise by $124,130.

The Council aims to have a balanced budget, which means the Council generally aims to collect enough revenue through rates to cover the cost of the depreciation on its assets. Funding the additional depreciation would increase the Council’s wastewater and stormwater rate by close to 6% (approx. $26 per connected property).

Note – A comparison of the rates charged for a standard residential wastewater connection property with our neighbouring Councils is provided in Table 1 below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Council</th>
<th>2019/20 wastewater rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gore District Council</td>
<td>$440.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southland District Council</td>
<td>$457.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invercargill City Council</td>
<td>$607.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clutha District Council</td>
<td>$462.60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

However, it is understood that there is no requirement to fund the increase in depreciation immediately. While an increase of $26 per connected property may not be significant, it is prudent to consider this increase alongside any other proposed rates increases. Hence it is proposed to adjust the Council’s financial strategy in the next review of the Long Term Plan to work towards funding the depreciation over time as an alternative of funding extra depreciation in one year.

From an operational perspective, the “2008 policy” is essentially requiring the Council to act as if it already owns the laterals. Due to this, the proposed change in ownership of laterals up to the property boundary is not expected to impact on operational budgets.

**Stormwater laterals**

Every property connected to a reticulated wastewater system is obviously required to have a wastewater lateral. However, with regard to stormwater, due to the combined nature of the Council’s networks, and the fact that a number of properties have kerb connections, very few properties currently have a separate stormwater lateral. In addition, it is noted that the stormwater and wastewater laterals are generally installed in the same trench. Based on this, it can be assumed the financial implications of the Council taking over ownership of stormwater laterals is negligible. It is therefore recommended that the decision relating to the Council assuming wastewater laterals is replicated for stormwater laterals.

**Policy**

If the Council does decide to take over ownership of wastewater and stormwater laterals in the road reserve, it is recommended that a full review of the Council’s “Connection to reticulated services policy” is undertaken. This will ensure that the
policy accurately reflects the change in ownership and provide clear direction to both property owners and the Council staff. Additionally, it is also recommended that the Council reviews its fees and charges to ensure these are appropriate.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be received,

THAT the Council takes over ownership of all wastewater and stormwater laterals in the Council’s road reserve,

THAT the Council’s “Connection to Reticulated Services” Policy be reviewed and updated to ensure it allows for the change in ownership,

THAT the Council consider how it will fund the depreciation of wastewater and stormwater laterals in the road reserve as part of the 2021 – 2031 Long Term Plan,

AND THAT the Council review its fees and charges for the connections of 3 Waters services.
Clause 2 of the November Operations Committee report refers.

At its meeting last evening, the Council resolved as follows:

THAT the Council in response to drainage connections and the parameters of responsibility between the Council and property owner dated 23 July 1996, be rescinded,

THAT the Council approve the following policy on responsibility or repairs and maintenance of drainage connections in the Gore District,

THAT the point of discharge be defined as set out in Clause 2.5.2 Option (b) of NZS 9201 (Point of Discharge – Single Ownership) for the Gore District drainage as represented in Figure 1 below,

![Diagram of drainage connections](image)
THAT the Council be responsible in the event of a drain blockage by roots from street trees or structural failure other than age related failures and pay all costs involved,

THAT the Council be responsible if similar problems occur on private property due to a blockage in the trunk sewer and pay all costs involved.

AND THAT all blockages occurring as a result of actions by an occupier be the responsibility of the property owner.

The Council's Policy Register will be updated accordingly.

Thanks

Susan
2. DRAINAGE CONNECTIONS (9.3.1)

A memo had been received from the General Manager, District Assets regarding a recent sewer lateral failure in Bangor Street, Mataura.

The General Manager, District Assets gave an overview of his report and proposed recommendations.

The Chief Executive said that a policy crafted could never take away the human element, as there would always be grey areas between the Council and property owners.

His Worship thought the proposal was sensible and represented a fair solution. If a situation was dragged out, a public health situation could eventuate.

**RECOMMENDED** on the motion of Cr McLennan, seconded by Cr Sharp,

**THAT** the report be received,

**THAT** the Council in response to drainage connections and the parameters of responsibility between the Council and property owners dated 23 July 1996, be rescinded,

**THAT** the Council approve the following policy on responsibility for repairs and maintenance of drainage connections in the Gore District,

**THAT** the point of discharge be defined as set out in Clause 2.5.2 Option (b) of NZS 9201 (Point of Discharge – Single Ownership) for the Gore District drainage as represented in Figure 1 below,

![Figure 1](image_url)

**THAT** the Council be responsible in the event of a drain blockage by roots from street trees or structural failure other than age related failures and pay all costs involved,
THAT the Council be responsible if similar problems occur on private property due to a blockage in the trunk sewer and pay all costs involved.

AND THAT all blockages occurring as a result of actions by an occupier be the responsibility of the property owner.
2. DRAINAGE CONNECTIONS

(Memo from General Manager, District Assets 22.10.08)

Purpose of Report

A recent sewer lateral failure in Bangor Street, Mataura has raised some deficiencies with the Council's current 23 July 1996 resolution on drainage connections. The resolution reads as follows:

At a Gore District Council Meeting held on 23 July 1996:

That the point of discharge be defined as set out in Clause 2.5.2 Option (b) of NZS 9201 (Point of Discharge – Single Ownership) for the Gore drainage district.

That the point of drainage discharge be defined as set out in Clause 2.5.2 Option (b) of NZS 9201 (Point of Discharge – Single Ownership) for the Mataura drainage district.

That the Council be responsible in the event of a drain blockage by roots from street trees or heavy traffic and pay all costs involved.

That the Council be responsible if similar problems occur on private property due to a blockage in the trunk sewer and pay all costs involved.

And that all blockages occurring as a result of actions by an occupier be the responsibility of the property owner.

Background

The resolution deficiency arose when a sewer lateral failed and appeared to be blocked. After inspection by council staff it was determined that the sewer lateral was blocked. It was left to the home owner to initiate the repairs as per Council's Resolution. The home owners did not accept this responsibility at first resulting in a prolonged period of inaction. During this time there was more than one occasion where raw sewage ponded on the property. The home owner was unable to engage a plumber to do the work. The Asset Manager, Utilities was contacted and he arranged a contractor to do the work at the home owners request within hours of the home owner making him aware of the lack of availability of a plumber.

When the Street was excavated the fault was found to be a structural defect with the lateral pipe and not a blockage as was first thought. Councils Resolution still places the cost of repair on the home owner and in this instance it was not caused by any action/inaction of the home owner. It should also be noted that the failure had not occurred due to the age of the pipe.

The $2,500 +GST repair bill is a substantial cost for any home owner especially when it is incurred through no fault of their own and is not on their property.
Options

Upon investigating surrounding Council policies the following was found at the Invercargill City, Queenstown Lakes District and Clutha District Councils:

- Property owners have ownership of the lateral to the connection point with sewer main as is the Gore District Council’s resolution.

Southland District Council Drainage Bylaw and Central Otago District Council

- Property owners have responsibility of the lateral to the connection point with sewer main if there is a blockage. If there is a structural problem between the sewer main and the boundary it is the council’s responsibility.

If the Council was to agree to take responsibility for structural failures of sewer laterals beyond the property boundary, repairs can be expedited and impacts to property owners and communities can be minimised.
Social Wellbeing Impact

By expediting repairs the impact to surrounding neighbours is reduced thus reducing potential conflicts occurring between neighbours.

Economic Wellbeing Impact

It is estimated that there would be no more than 4 repairs required in any year at an estimated cost of $3500 plus GST per repair. This would be budgeted for in the next annual plan and there after. This would result in an estimated 0.14% increase in rate take.

Environmental Wellbeing Impact

By expediting repairs the risk of contaminates polluting surrounding areas is minimised as is the duration of which offensive odours could be present. This will then prevent/reduce the risk of disease being caught or spread through the community.

Cultural Wellbeing Impact

There is no perceived impact on cultural wellbeing

Impact on Promotion of Community Outcomes

The recommendation made in this report is aligned to the Council's Community Outcomes. By reducing the communities exposure to sewage from a failed sewer lateral the Council promotes

- Lifestyle and Culture – Southland is a great place to live
- Health and Wellbeing – We are healthy people
- Environment – A treasured environment which we care for and which supports us now and into the future

Impact on LTCCP

The budgeting adjustment is the only perceived impact on the LTCCP which can be addressed in the scheduled review currently being under taken.

Community Views

Many in the community are unaware of where their responsibility starts and finishes when it comes to sewer laterals. Property owners often resent the fact that they have to pay to excavate a road in order for their sewer to be repaired. The costs have been increased by procedural requirements of Traffic Management Plan and the Road Opening Permit being required. If the property owner has had a sewer fail through no fault of their own (ie they did not cause a blockage, nor has the pipe failed through age) the fairness of the Council’s resolution on the 23 July 1996 is questioned.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be received,
THAT the Council in response to drainage connections and the parameters of responsibility between the Council and property owners dated 23 July 1996, be rescinded,

THAT the Council approve the following policy on responsibility for repairs and maintenance of drainage connections in the Gore District,

THAT the point of discharge be defined as set out in Clause 2.5.2 Option (b) of NZS 9201 (Point of Discharge – Single Ownership) for the Gore District drainage as represented in Figure 1 below.

![Figure 1](image)

**Figure 1**

THAT the Council be responsible in the event of a drain blockage by roots from street trees or structural failure other than age related failures and pay all costs involved,

THAT the Council be responsible if similar problems occur on private property due to a blockage in the trunk sewer and pay all costs involved,

AND THAT all blockages occurring as a result of actions by an occupier be the responsibility of the property owner.
Wastewater Laterals

Gore District Council (GDC) is considering taking ownership of the wastewater laterals from the property boundary to the main. WSP Opus has undertaken a separate valuation of wastewater laterals on request of GDC, in anticipation for this ownership change.

The following assumptions have been adopted for this exercise:

- Laterals have been given an assumed length of 10m, based on an average road corridor width of 20m.
- A standard diameter of DN100 has been assumed.
- A unit rate of $250/m² (including on cost) has been applied.
- An install date of 1972 has been assumed based on the average install date of the wastewater laterals in the AssetFinda dataset.
- Based on wastewater material information provided by GDC, 60% of laterals are assumed to be Earthenware with a base life of 100, and 40% are assumed to be PVC with a base life of 80.
- Residual value = 0%

### Table 1: WW Laterals Quantity (each)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ward</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gore</td>
<td>3793</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mataura</td>
<td>730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waikaka</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4,568</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Table 2: WW Laterals Valuation 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ward</th>
<th>ORC</th>
<th>ODRC</th>
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<td>Waikaka</td>
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These values have not been included in the 2019 GDC Infrastructure Valuation.
Purpose
The purpose of this report is to update the Council on progress and seek confirmation of Council support for the Predator Free Southland initiative as it links to the Government’s Predator Free 2050 (PF2050) target. The report also outlines ongoing funding partner support required as the initiative works towards its ultimate goal.

Background
The Gore District Council has collaborated with all other Southland Councils, Department of Conservation, and Ngai Tahu to progress towards achieving the governmental goal of PF2050.

The first step was to employ a coordinator to oversee and develop a five-year action plan. Progress has been achieved with Dr Ini Gunn taking up the role, on an initial one year contract. Dr Gunn is based at Environment Southland. Dr Gunn has a Ph.D in cellular and molecular biology and spent the past 13 years involved in research projects worldwide before settling in Southland last year.

Appended for information is the report Dr Ini Gunn.

Funding
The group of stakeholders raised the required funding from member stakeholders. The Gore District Council contribution towards the $80,000 required was $5,000 from existing budgets. The level of this contribution is being sought now on an ongoing basis. To aid the implementation of the five-year plan, which is under development. The funding will underpin the coordinator’s role going forward to ensure there is a cohesive collaboration between all stakeholders with a unified goal.

Options
Staff acknowledges there are two options available.

Option one – Do nothing and go back to the status quo

Option two – Continue the collaborative multiagency approach towards the Governments PF2050 goal in conjunction with other regional stakeholders.

A staff assessment of options is as follows:

Option one – will allow the current downward trend in biodiversity in Southland to continue, including the ongoing loss of native species and proliferation of predators in both the urban and rural environments.

Option two – will allow for a collaborative approach in protecting our native species. Doing something will be far better than doing nothing. While many people believe the
PF2050 to be an overly ambitious target, and we agree it is, if we shoot for the stars we will land near the moon – a long way further ahead of where we are today.

Staff recommend Option Two and note the funding model offers a good return on investment in the biodiversity/ecosystem space, where historically the Council has been reactive, not proactive.

Should the Council embrace the above recommendation, it would take effect, subject to LTP approval, on 1 July 2021. We would, therefore, deficit fund the 2020/21 year.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the information be received,

THAT the Council instruct staff to add a funding allocation for the PF2050 project, to the Dolamore Park budget as part of the 2021-31 LTP discussion, at the starting value of $7,000 per annum, inflation adjusted,

AND THAT the Council instruct staff to include the PF2050 initiative into the relevant planning documents.
Purpose

To seek Gore District Council’s ongoing support and funding, for the coordination of the Predator Free Southland project and its 5-year action plan, to help Southland reverse its decline in biodiversity and move towards the ambitious goal of Predator Free 2050. We ask the Council to add this project and an allocated budget into Asset Management Plans, to secure long-term support and funding.

Summary

This document aims to update the Council on the joint effort of multiple agencies, including Gore District Council, which has led to the implementation of a collaborative Predator Free Southland governance group and jointly-funded Project Coordinator role, to help advance mainland Southland towards the ambitious goal of Predator Free 2050. On the basis of the work done to-date, and the ongoing development of a 5-year action plan for the region, we ask Council to provide ongoing support and budget for this work by including the Predator Free Southland project and an allocated budget into Asset Management Plans. Such long-term commitment will be essential in order to reap the benefits of the existing investment, and it will help the Council fulfil its role in providing leadership in predator control across our region, as outlined in the Biosecurity Act 1993 Part 2, the Southland Regional Pest Management Plan (2019-29) and the Southland Biodiversity Strategy (2019-24).

Report

In 2016, the New Zealand government set an ambitious goal for Aotearoa: to be predator free by 2050. Predator Free 2050 encompasses the eradication of the most damaging predators that threaten our biodiversity, our taonga species, our economy and primary sector: possums, mustelids (incl. weasels, ferrets, stoats) and rats (ship rat, Norway rat, Kiore) from mainland New Zealand, in order to allow our native wildlife to thrive and our ecosystems to grow strong again. The Predator Free project is one of many work programmes that aims to contribute to New Zealand’s Biodiversity Strategy, to reverse the rapid decline of our indigenous wildlife.

Across New Zealand, many projects have started working on evolving and upscaling their predator control efforts to move from pest animal suppression to eradication. Southland, with its expansive area, low population, and multitude of ecosystems, poses its individual challenges, but significant work has already been performed by community groups and organisations to control predators on the mainland.

In 2018, many people and organisations with an interest in Southland’s predator control came together to discuss how existing efforts in mainland Southland could be sustained and how we can start to move together towards Predator Free 2050. It was determined that a strategic plan of action was essential and that the time needed to create such a plan was not available within the existing groups and agencies. As a result, a smaller governance group consisting of the four rūnanga of Ngāi Tahu, the Department of Conservation (DOC), Environment Southland, Invercargill
Council, Southland District Council and Gore District Council was formed, an MoU was signed, and funds were contributed by all parties to support the role of a Predator Free Southland Coordinator. Gore District Council contributed $5,000 to the jointly-funded role, and Environment Southland is hosting the Project Coordinator at their Biosecurity offices. This 12-month role (Oct 2019-2020) will focus on establishing a collaborative network including community groups and agencies across Southland, support community groups in building capability and capacity, determine priority projects to focus our efforts on, and create a framework and 5-year action plan for Southland to collaborate at scale to control our predators and protect our biodiversity.

To date, governance group members and the Coordinator have held monthly meetings – stakeholders have been identified, expectations and goals assessed, and a clear communication pathway among the agencies has been implemented. Meeting attendance and involvement by all parties has been strong, setting a good foundation for the Coordinator’s 12-month role. The Coordinator is now starting to work with community groups, stakeholders and government agencies to establish a collaborative network, and to devise a 5-year action plan to move Southland closer to the Predator Free goal. To ensure that this Council reap the benefits of their investment into this role, it is essential to ensure long-term commitment to a continuing partnership and ongoing financial investment into the project and the role of a Coordinator, to eventually facilitate the action plan. To ensure such long term commitment, we ask Council include this project and a dedicated budget into Asset Management Plans.

The work to be conducted by the Predator Free Southland Coordinator and the multiagency governance group addresses various items highlighted in the Regional Councils’ publication “Addressing New Zealand’s Biodiversity Challenge, A Regional Council thinkpiece on the future of biodiversity management in New Zealand”, which was published in 2018. Our goal is to ensure that all agencies and groups involved in predator control share a common understanding and prioritisation for biodiversity management across the region, implement a standardised biodiversity monitoring program, and ensure optimum return on investment and maximum benefit by combining efforts on a network of sites that represent the full range of our ecosystems and habitats.

**Financial and Resource Implications**

Predator Free 2050 is a long-term effort, and in order to be successful in Southland this project will require ongoing commitment from local agencies to support and fund projects that protect our biodiversity and target unwanted pest species. If Council accepts the recommendation to continue to support this project, the staff cost for the Coordinator to continue beyond the current contract (Oct 2019-20) would be the 2019 contribution of $5k per annum, including inflation in line with the Council divisional budget (figure stated to be exclusive of GST); an additional $2k would contribute to support operational costs associated with the project. This amount is based on the assumption that the role will continue to be jointly funded by the governance group parties. The exact cost of the work included in the 5-year action plan is yet to be determined, based on the outcome of the 12-month role of the current Project Coordinator, and another report will be provided to Council in this regard at that time. We would also request a disbursements contribution in line with work undertaken for the direct benefit of the Gore District.

**Conclusion**

Gore District Council forms part of the Predator Free Southland governance group and has co-funded the role of a Project Coordinator to create a framework and 5-year action plan for Southland, to collaborate at scale to control our predators and protect our biodiversity. We ask Council to continue to support and fund the Predator Free Southland project coordination by including the project and an associated budget in Asset Management Plans. As Predator Free 2050
is a long-term goal for New Zealand, it is important to ensure ongoing involvement of our Councils, by partaking in collaborative governance and financial support, to ensure the Predator Free efforts result in environmental, social, cultural and economic benefits for Southlanders.

Attachments

1. Job Description of Predator Free Southland Coordinator
2. MoU of the Predator Free Southland governance group
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

THIS MEMORANDUM is dated the 6 day of September 2019

BETWEEN the following parties:

1. TE RŪNANGA O NGĀI TAHU.
2. GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL.
3. INVERCARGILL CITY COUNCIL.
4. SOUTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL.
5. DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF CONSERVATION.
6. SOUTHLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

BACKGROUND:

A. Stimulated by the N.Z. Government’s launch of the Predator Free New Zealand 2050 programme, the parties have begun working collaboratively for the purpose of supporting both government and community led predator control work across Southland. The parties seek to sustain and then progressively expand the predator control efforts already underway with a view to the eventual eradication of most (if not all) of the introduced predators that threaten Southland’s indigenous wildlife, its natural taonga and primary sector industries.

B. Although the parties share common interests in the control of introduced predators, to date they have operated largely independently, particularly when working with community led initiatives. This precludes Southland from gaining any significant cross-project benefits to minimise the problems caused by the mobility of both predators and wildlife. This fragmentation of effort also disperses the knowledge, resources and participation needed to make lasting gains.

C. While it is accepted that a totally predator-free future ultimately relies on new science and technology, given the rapid immigration of predators into control zones and the equally rapid emigration of wildlife out of control zones, the parties recognise the urgent need for a more co-ordinated and collaborative approach.

D. The entities have committed to collaborate with each other to plan for Southland’s Predator Free future while also realising synergies between their current control efforts. They have agreed to pool their resources and expertise to form a collaborative structure that will support the region’s existing efforts continue and also plan for a logical approach for scaling up impact.

E. The entities have also agreed to fund a temporary support role that will enable the collaborative to undertake the community engagement, strategic planning and fund raising work necessary to secure and then progress Southland’s predator control work past its current baseline.
AGREEMENT

All of the above parties, by their execution of this Memorandum of Understanding:

i. Confirm their support for creating a Predator Free Southland collaborative support structure and the creation of a temporary support role to enable the collaborative to function, as detailed in the attached scope diagram and position description.

ii. Confirm their agreement that Environment Southland shall, in consultation with the other parties as necessary, be accountable for the day to day management of the role on behalf of all parties.

iii. Confirm that the parties will each appoint a representative to a leadership group which will meet no less than monthly. This group will be responsible for setting the role’s work programme and provide guidance on implementation of the work. The leadership group will also undertake other support tasks as required to ensure the delivery of the work programme is to the satisfaction of the parties.

iv. Confirm that each party will enter into their own funding agreement with Environment Southland in accordance with individual organisations requirements. It is recorded that they do not intend this Memorandum to be legally binding.

EXECUTED on behalf of each of the above parties as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Signature</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. TE RŪNANGA O NGĀI TAHU</td>
<td>Michael</td>
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<td>Skerrett</td>
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<td></td>
<td>W. J.</td>
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<td>5. Director-General of Conservation</td>
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Predator Free Southland Coordinator MOU Draft.docx
Attachment One: the scope of Predator Free Southland coordinator

The scope of this role in the "Predator Free Southland Story"

- "Mainland" Southland
- Rakiura/Stewart Island
- Fiordland
- Sub-Antarctics

- e.g. Bluff Hill Motupohue
- e.g. Invercargill city
- e.g. Rural inland
- e.g. Catlins Coast

The coordinator will work with others via 'local place groups/hubs'

Each 'local place group' works with the many people in their locality
Job Description

**Job Title:** Predator Free Southland Coordinator

**Job Evaluation (SP10):**

**Grade:** 16  
**Pathway:** T

**Organisation:** This role is a joint initiative of Ngai Tahu, Environment Southland, Department of Conservation, Gore District Council and Invercargill City Council

**Location:** The position will be based at Environment Southland

**Reports to:**

- A collaborative governance group – for guidance on the work programme
- Team Leader Biosecurity (ES) – for day to day work

**Supervision of:** Nil

**Position Purpose:** To advance Southland towards a predator free future. This will be achieved by supporting existing predator control groups and organisations to establish a collaborative structure that supports existing efforts and builds a shared plan for advancing Southland towards Predator Free 2050.

**Date Prepared/Reviewed:** 26 June 2019

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Environment Southland’s Vision and Purpose

**Vision** – A thriving Southland...Te taurikura o Murihiku

**Mission** – Working with our communities to improve Southland’s environment

As a regional council, Environment Southland is responsible for leading the sustainable management of Southland’s natural, physical resources – water, land, air and the coast. These resources are vitally important because they underpin both our regional economy and our quality of life. This means our work is about people and working with others to ensure the region’s natural resources are in the best possible condition they can be for future generations of Southlanders to use and enjoy

Environment Southland’s Values

- Make it Happen
- Make the Connection
- Make it Credible
- Make a Difference
Background

Predator Free 2050 is an ambitious goal to rid New Zealand of the most damaging introduced predators that threaten our nation’s indigenous biodiversity, our taonga species, our economy and primary sector. The programme is bringing people together to work towards a predator free future. Iwi, schools, farmers, businesses, innovators, agencies, non-government organisations and individuals are all helping to support the long term goal.

Southland is no exception and a broad range of predator control efforts are underway. This work is spread over one of New Zealand’s largest but least populated regions. Programmes are well underway across Fiordland, Stewart Island/Rakiura and the Sub Antarctic Islands. These areas are outside the scope of this proposal as collaborative support and planning is already in place.

For the remainder of ‘mainland’ Southland the community and agency predator control projects are working in a stand-alone manner and are all challenged to find sufficient people and funds to continue in the longer term.

Over the past year an informal group of people and organisations with an interest in Southland’s predator control have been discussing how the existing efforts in ‘mainland’ Southland could be sustained and start to move together towards Predator Free 2050. The group supported the importance of predator control continuing while acknowledging that more cooperation between iwi, community groups and government agencies is needed before striving to make gains.

A strategic plan of action was viewed as essential to progress towards Predator Free 2050. This would inform how to strengthen existing control work and then to grow this in a progressive, measured way. While the plan must account for existing regional pest (suppression) strategies, the purpose of this plan is for eventual eradication. The plan will cover how current (suppression) work can be sustained and progressively grown, while also defining priorities for where and how to start and defend some eradication efforts.

The time needed to create a collaborative support structure and develop a practical, shared action plan is not available within the existing groups and agencies. These are already fully extended with the status-quo. This role has been funded to provide the expertise and focus to undertake this work in cooperation with the many predator control groups and organisations across ‘mainland’ Southland.

Key Relationships

- The role’s core governance group: Ngai Tahu, Environment Southland, Department of Conservation, Gore District Council and Invercargill City Council
- The Department of Conservation Predator Free 2050 programme unit
- Local place groups (hubs): (to be confirmed)
  - These would be drawn from the organisations, groups and individuals that actively controlling predators in their local areas. This would provide a practical way to work across Southland, providing a contact point to direct support.
  - An example of a local place group is the Predator Free Bluff working group. Other local place groups might include Invercargill City and surrounds, inland rural areas, the Catlin’s Coast and Fiordland’s gateway communities.
**Work Profile**

**Establish the collaborative structure (30% of time)**

To support the implementation and start-up of a structure for the coordination of predator control in ‘mainland’ Southland

- To establish a network of local places groups based on existing ‘hubs’ of activity, including a regional support group.
- To develop a collaborative charter/terms of reference to clarify objectives and working arrangements.
- Develop an initial work plan to agree on what tasks the coordinator will support.
- To identify how this structure should continue in the longer term after a start-up phase.

**Future planning (30% of time)**

To coordinate the joint thinking of the collaborative to develop a five year plan that sets out how the region will start its progress towards Predator Free 2050

- To identify and describe resource gaps - outlining what is achievable with existing resources and then what would be possible if resource limitations were removed.
- To apply DOC’s landscape project planning methods for pre-assessment of potential ambitious large scale projects.
- To address how to effectively build and sustain public interest.
- To cover scientific knowledge, technology and capacity issues.
- To take an inclusive ‘ground up’ approach so a wide range of aspirations and perspectives are included.
- The plan should aim to deliver environmental, cultural, social and economic benefits for Predator Free 2050 work.
- To allow for ongoing review to accommodate learning and change.

**Building support and knowledge within communities (30% of time)**

To work with local place groups/hubs to help them communicate with others, find technical expertise and apply best practice methods.

- To support local place groups (hubs) with their public communication, information sharing and engagement work. This may include attending community events.
- To assist local place groups (hubs) build their knowledge and skills through coaching best practice methods.
- To support local place groups (hubs) upskill for specialist activities (as needed), e.g. applying new technology, engaging contractors, designing new work, wildlife monitoring.
- To represent local place groups (hubs) on area-wide issues, e.g. agency led consultation, to provide a stronger collective voice.

**Source funding (10% of time)**

To help secure funding for existing control efforts and priority activities from the action plan.

- Support local place groups (hubs) build business cases, write and submit funding applications for their work.
- Directly seek funding for area-wide activities, including continuation of the paid coordinator role.

**Health and Safety**

- Abide by ES health and safety policy and SOPs.
- Report all incidents, near-misses, new hazards and accidents promptly.
- Preparation (including, but not limited to, information checking and appropriate gear) is completed prior to departure to the field.
- Attend required health and safety training and induction sessions.
- Be responsible for your own safety, and work safely so as not to cause harm to another.
Person Specification

The following capabilities and experience are sought for this position.

Capabilities
- Exceptional communication and interpersonal skills to work collaboratively with others, build effective relationships and influence a wide range of stakeholders.
- A proven ability to engage people, to connect with them, listen and build trust.
- Strong analytical skills and the ability to think strategically, to see the bigger picture and plan for future challenges.
- Situational awareness, displays knowledge and awareness of situations, identifies relevant context to develop robust recommendations and make sound decisions.
- Self-awareness and agility, is development focused, reflects on and adapts their approach in changing circumstances.

Skills and experience
- An ability to work with Ngāi Tahu whānau, hapū and iwi, including knowledge of the Treaty of the Waitangi and the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act.
- Experience of working with Iwi or Māori groups and organisations or in cross-cultural environments.
- Demonstrates a desire to embrace tikanga Māori, and the values of kaitiakitanga, manaakitanga, rangatiratanga and whanaungatanga.
- Proven abilities and experience in project management, report writing and self-managing work priorities.
- Experience in predator control (or other activities) for protecting New Zealand’s indigenous biodiversity.
- A qualification in environmental sciences is desirable.
- A full drivers’ licence.

Additional Information

Civil Defence Duties

All staff of Environment Southland may be required to undertake Civil Defence duties in the event of an emergency. Training will be given as appropriate.

Performance Review

We have a Performance Development Programme (PDP) that is the basis for performance assessment at all levels of the organisation. There is at least one informal meetings between the employee and their supervisor/manager and one formal meeting annually.

Remuneration

Salary will be paid within the range for the position, according to the skills and experience of the appointee.

Signed:

______________________________   Job Holder   Date: ____________________

______________________________   Manager/Supervisor   Date: ____________________
EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Cr McPhail to move that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely the items as listed below.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing the resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

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<th>General Subject Matter</th>
<th>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</th>
<th>Grounds under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</th>
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<tr>
<td>Economic development projects</td>
<td>Enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).</td>
<td>Section 7 (2)(i)</td>
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