

## SERVICES AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

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**REPORT** and **MINUTES** of a meeting of the **SERVICES AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton, on Thursday 9 March, 2006, commencing at 1.30 pm.

**PRESENT:** His Worship the Mayor, Mr M B O'Malley; Councillors D N Nelson, (Chair), N A Brown, I J Burgess, K L Holmes, L J Leadley, K W P Lowe and P W Reveley.

Also in attendance – Crs R C Beavan, D Glass and R J Kilworth; Chief Executive, Operations Manager and Committee Secretary.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors B A Tasker and M J Urquhart

**Sustained**

### **Confirmation of Minutes**

“That the minutes of the Services and Operations Committee meeting held on 26 January, 2006, be taken as read and confirmed.”

Holmes/Brown

**Carried**

### **Matters Arising**

#### **Domain Groundwater Levels**

Information on the well levels is being obtained by staff and will be reported back to the Committee.

### **Activity Reports**

“That the reports be received.”

Leadley/Burgess

**Carried**

#### **Customer Service Request Management**

The CRM system is now operative and the automated email notification process for overdue requests for service will commence on 13 March.

The Operations Manager tabled information showing the detailed reporting within each group. From this a further report listing the outstanding requests will be produced for officers and service providers. Additional work groups will be added as the programme is implemented organization-wide.

#### **Transit 10 Year Programme**

The Committee heard that Transit has not been able to confirm whether the work proposed for the SH1 / East St / West St intersection will be carried out in the coming year. The Operations Manager reported that while the work appears to be programmed, there has been no timeframe given and this is being pursued.

Cr Leadley reported that over a year ago the Safer Community Council made a recommendation that improved signage warning of the approaching intersection be erected. He noted with concern that despite assurance given by the Minister of Transport in April 2005, that Transit would be instructed to act on this request, the work has not been undertaken.

The Committee further noted that the Police traffic accident reports provided to Council do not appear to be accurately reflecting the number of accidents occurring throughout the district. The Operations Manager confirmed that this information is essential when determining b/c ratios for intersection upgrade requirements.

### **General Maintenance**

The Operations Manager agreed to follow up reported concerns with the maintenance work carried out on the Rakaia Arundel Gorge Road and Tramway Road.

### **Unsealed AWPT**

The Operations Manager will investigate funding availability for the work to be extended along Corbetts Road from Dolans Road to Mainwarings Road. It was noted that the Committee had previously agreed this would be carried out if funds were available.

### **Bridge Signage**

Replacement of signage at the south approaches to Boundary Road and Winslow Road bridges is yet to be carried out and will be followed up by staff.

### **Carriageway Lighting**

The Committee expressed its concern at the further increases in the cost of power recently notified by the line company.

The Chief Executive explained that the increase is due to the revaluation of the infrastructure, required as part of the electricity reform process.

It was suggested some savings could be achieved if street lights operated for less time each day. The Operations Manager agreed to pursue this with the supplier, however noted that while some cost savings may be made, the line charge increases would not change.

### **Minor Safety Works**

The Committee heard that re-scoping the Thompsons Track / Ashburton Staveley Road design work is being undertaken and it is likely the work will be reinstated on the minor safety works programme. This will be negotiated with the successful tenderer.

### **North East Ashburton Water Servicing**

A successful meeting was held with residents on 1 March. A further questionnaire will be sent out on 17 March.

The Operations Manager acknowledged that a number of property owners are not aware of Council's policy on connections to properties in the area. He confirmed that the consultation document will clearly show how the policy and water connection and annual rating charges are applied to all properties, including those yet to be subdivided.

### **Racecourse Rd Water Servicing**

The consultant's report and information on servicing costs is to be distributed to property owners and potential subdividers, and confirmation sought of their intention to subdivide. A report to Council will be prepared when feedback has been received and considered.

### **Bridge Street Building (C471)**

An on-site opening of the Ashburton water supply upgrade will be held with Councillors and staff in attendance. The Committee agreed that this would be an appropriate way to mark the final stage in the major water upgrade development. The details of date and time for the opening will be advised.

### **Gravity Main**

The Operations Manager agreed to contact ECan to determine whether there has been any significant increase in river flow in the Ashburton River since the gravity main was shut down.

### **Mayfield Water Supply**

The Rural Fire Officer will be requested to progress with the Mayfield Fire Unit the installation of a tank to be used to fill the fire tanker to avoid disruptions to the town supply. Budget provision for this work has been confirmed for the 2006/07 year.

### **Wastewater Upgrade**

The Operations Manager reported that pipeline alignment and irrigation / treatment facility design work is almost complete. It is intended that initially the Wastewater Subcommittee will be updated on progress before a site visit is made to Ashton Farm by all Councillors.

The Committee noted that while the primary purpose of the activity is to provide a wastewater treatment plant, it was agreed that options for complementary farm operation need to be included in each stage of development.

### **Stockwater**

Headwalls are to be installed at either end of culverts constructed in stockwater races. This policy will be more clearly defined in Council's approval documentation.

### **Ashburton River Walkway**

It was noted that a high level of vandalism has resulted in most of the signs on the walkway being destroyed or removed. Consideration is now being given to narrowing the walkway to prevent vehicle access.

### **Rural Fires**

It was reported that a number of out of control stubble burn-offs have occurred as a result of lighting in adverse weather conditions. Prosecutions will be pursued where restriction breaches can be proved.

The Chief Executive acknowledged reported concerns regarding the polluting effects of stubble burn-off and recommended that this issue be addressed by way of a submission to ECan's annual plan.

### **Police Traffic Accident Report**

The Committee received the report for the period 4/10/05 to 27/12/05.

Concern that the reports are not accurately reflecting the actual number of reported traffic accidents will be the subject of discussion with the Police. It was noted that Council has requested a meeting with local and regional Police representatives. The accident report will be an issue for discussion at that time.

### ***Items transacted with the public excluded (3.09 pm)***

"That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely – the general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this 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:

<b>General subject of each matter to be considered</b>	<b>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</b>	<b>Grounds under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</b>
<b>Contract C387</b> : Footpath Maintenance	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activity
<b>Contract C331</b> : Structural & Corridor Maintenance of District Roads	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activity

Holmes/Brown

Carried

The meeting concluded at 3.36 pm.