

## OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

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**REPORT** and **MINUTES** of a meeting of the **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton, on Thursday 17 April 2008, commencing at 1.30 pm.

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

Also in attendance Councillors R J Kilworth, J A Kingsbury and J Sparks; Operations Manager, Roading & Street Services Manager, Water Services Manager and Committee Secretary.

**APOLOGY:** Cr K Holmes (absence) and Cr R C Beavan (lateness)

**Sustained**

### **Confirmation of Minutes**

It was noted that traffic counters were to be placed on the Dorie roads in March; reference to sealing these roads was deleted.

“That the minutes of the Operations Committee meeting held on 6 March, 2008, as amended, be taken as read and confirmed.”

Leadley/Burgess

**Carried**

### **Matters Arising**

#### **SH1 – Hakatere Marae**

The Roading and Street Services Manager reported that road works have been completed.

#### **Lake Hood**

The Operations Manager reported that a project brief has been prepared and design work, which will include the servicing requirements of the Rowing Club, has commenced.

#### **State Highway Work**

The Roading and Street Services Manager advised that Transit has agreed to pruning work being carried out by Council on trees adjacent to the state highway at Hinds. Following consultation with Hinds residents and Council staff, Transit confirmed that removal of the trees won't be necessary for the proposed minor improvement works.

#### **Transportation Study**

It was noted that Transit and Opus representatives will be making a presentation to Council at the Committee meeting on 29 May.

The Mayor reported that as a result of the hearing of ECan's submission on the Canterbury Regional Land Transport Study, Transit has advised that work to progress a second bridge on the Ashburton River has been reinstated in the Draft Strategy. Work is programmed for years 8 and 9. The draft is to be ratified by the Regional Land Transport Committee next month.

The Roading and Street Services Manager advised that the total cost of the project over the two years is \$4.3m of which Council will incur a 43% share. This work will be shown in Council's LTCCP.

#### **Mt Somers water supply**

Reference was made to the tanks for the Mt Somers supply which have not been installed. It was noted that there had been some urgency to provide the tanks to ensure sufficient water during the summer months.

It was proposed that smaller tanks be used due to their availability, however with the subsequent delay the community's preference is to install the larger tanks as originally requested.

The Water Services Manager acknowledged this and advised that the design has already been amended to include the use of larger tanks. There are still some land access issues which are being addressed.

### **Acton Race**

The Opus report has been received and it is proposed to convene a meeting of the Water Subcommittee to progress this project.

### ***Contract C461 : Ashburton District 2005-2008 – Extension of Contract Duration***

- “1. That Contract C461: Streetlight Operation and Maintenance, Ashburton District, 2005 - 2008 be varied by an extension of the contract duration for 12 months to 31 March 2009.
2. That the contract value be increased by \$91,681.12 from \$241,131.36 to \$332,812.48 through to 31 March 2009.”

Leadley/Brown

**Carried**

### ***Road Closure – Ashburton Car Club***

The Committee noted that one objection has been received. It was agreed that a copy of the road closure conditions will be included in the response to the submitter.

“That the following roads be closed to ordinary vehicular traffic from 8.00 pm on Friday 9 May 2008 to 8.00 pm on Sunday 11 May 2008, for the purpose of allowing the Ashburton Car Club to hold a Street Sprint meeting

Smallbone Drive, from River Terrace to Robinson Street

Robinson Street, from Smallbone Drive to McNally Street

Watson Street, from Range Street to Robinson Street

McNally Street, from Range Street to the end of the street.”

Reveley/Everest

**Carried**

### ***Activity Reports***

“That the reports be received.”

Burgess/Brown

**Carried**

### **Financials**

Financial reports were received for the period ending 31 March 2008.

In discussion on the solid waste report the Roading and Street Services Manager advised that there is an increasing problem with illegal dumping; on the basis of costs associated with this, the solid waste budget will not be reduced.

The Committee requested that future financial activity reports be provided in an easier to read format.

### **Land Transport Programme**

The Operations Manager briefly reported on the submission made to Transit on 7 March. The Transportation Study has provided a key focus and Council will be taking a collaborative approach with Transit to ensure key projects are 'locked in' over the next 10 years. It is proposed to develop a memorandum of understanding to meet this requirement.

### **State Highway Work**

Cr Reveley referred to earlier discussion on proposed work at Hinds and asked whether consultation was undertaken after the community relayed its request for the trees to be removed. He said that Transit's offer was to remove the existing trees and plant new trees in another location. It was noted that the Hinds Ratepayers Association held a public meeting and a consensus was reached to have the trees removed.

The Roading and Street Services Manager reported that Transit's original design showed that the trees would be pruned. No further consultation has been carried out by Transit.

It was agreed that the proposal to prune the trees will be readdressed with Transit and Council's Parks Manager and Hinds residents will be asked to reconfirm their position.

### **General Maintenance**

A request was made for sealing repair work to be carried out on Ashburton Staveley Road at Greenstreet.

Staff were also asked to reduce the height of plantings in the Moore Street / Chalmers Avenue roundabout.

The Roading and Street Services Manager will provide Councillors with a list of roads identified for sealing and area wide pavement treatment in the coming year.

### **Minor Improvements**

The Roading and Street Services Manager reported that work on the Stranges Road intersection is due to commence. The adjacent landowner has undertaken a subdivision which resulted in a change of land shape at the intersection and this has contributed to the delay. The tender will be reviewed with the changed design and work is programmed to be completed before 30 June 2008.

### **Minor Township Maintenance**

It was reported that the Methven Community Board, at its meeting on 14 April, identified a need for more frequent emptying of the township's rubbish bins. The Roading and Street Services Manager explained that two contractors are involved and the need to better define this work item is being addressed.

Cr Beavan attended the meeting at 2.18 pm.

### **Rakaia Water (Resource Consent)**

The Water Services Manager reported that agreement has been reached between Council's consultant and ECan's technical staff in terms the effects of the abstraction on neighbouring bores. Staff are now waiting for the administrative aspects to be finalized in an issues and options report which is expected to be available next week. An update will be provided to Councillors when possible.

### **Hakatere Water**

The Water Services Manager advised that the increased costs on the Hakatere supply relate to the budget increase on the operations and maintenance contract which is now 12 months old, as well as the standby generator project. The scheme is also has an operating deficit to be recovered through loan funding.

The Committee discussed the reported concerns of Hakatere residents in respect to the quality of the water and the cost of maintaining the scheme.

It was noted that at the time the upgrade was agreed to and costs were put to the community, Council wrote off the outstanding deficit. The Operations Manager said that the scheme is complicated and requires intensive treatment.

### **Ocean Farm – Wastewater Plant Opening**

Following the official opening of the Ashburton wastewater plant this morning, the Mayor took the opportunity to acknowledge the work of those who have been involved in the project.

### **Stormwater**

Cr Brown reported on problems with the Tuarangi Road gross pollutant trap. A resident had advised that the new device was an improvement on the old system but some litter was still ending up in the drain below the trap. The Water Services Manager advised that the unit operates effectively up to its design capacity at which point additional flows bypass the unit. When the unit is operating in bypass mode it is possible for some material to be re-suspended and leave the trap. Options to collect the material bypassing the unit are being investigated.

### **Solid Waste**

The Operations Manager referred to the report on Contract 489, being the hook truck hire at the Ashburton resource recovery park. The Committee was advised that there are no issues and it will be recommended to extend the contract for a further 12 months, however because of insufficient information in the report the matter will be the subject of a stand alone report.

“That matter lies on the table until the 22 May Council meeting.”

Mayor/Burgess

**Carried**

### **Emergency Management**

Cr Lowe reported on a meeting of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group held in Christchurch yesterday. From that meeting it was apparent that this district is well advanced in its emergency management and pandemic planning, however there is a need for greater focus on agricultural emergencies.

Cr Leadley advised that the district’s Rural Relief Trust, which has worked closely with Council in climatic emergency events, has become the basis for a structure that will see similar trusts set up throughout the country. Advice has been received that central government funding will be made available to local authorities to be ongoing for the next 10 years. This will enable the Ashburton Rural Relief Trust to employ a part time coordinator. Cr Leadley further advised that the Rural Support Trust which was set up 20 years ago, is to amalgamate with the Rural Relief Trust and the charitable trust status will be retained.

The Operations Manager acknowledged the need for Council to include support for agricultural emergencies within its emergency management programme.

### **Walking and Cycling Strategy**

The strategy workshops have been completed and a copy of the draft document will be circulated to Councillors. A four week consultation period will follow before the strategy is adopted by Council and put in place by 30 June 2008.

**Business transacted with the public excluded (2.50 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:

Item no	General subject of each matter to be considered:	In accordance with Section 48(1) of the Act, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter:
8	Confirmation of minutes – 6/03/08 C 543 New & replacement K&C	Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities

Leadley/Brown

**Carried**

There being no resolutions the Committee resumed in open meeting and concluded at 2.52 pm.