

4.3 OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

REPORT and **MINUTES** of a meeting of the **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton, on Thursday 20 November 2008, commencing at 1.30 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors B A Tasker (Chair), N A Brown, I J Burgess, J A Everest, K W P Lowe and P W Reveley.

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

Three members of the public attended.

J Goodhew (MP Rangitata) 1.47pm-3.50pm

APOLOGIES: His Worship the Mayor, M B O'Malley (lateness);
Crs Leadley and J A Sparks (absence)

Sustained

Confirmation of Minutes

“That the minutes of the Operations Committee meeting held on 9 October, 2008, be taken as read and confirmed.”

Holmes/Burgess

Carried

Matters Arising

Rakaia underpass

A meeting has been programmed next week for NZTA to present results of their report to representatives of the Rakaia community who are promoting the project.

School zone speed limit reviews

The Roading and Street Services Manager reported that plans will need to be developed for each of the schools to determine appropriate speed level zones. This will be undertaken next year and in the meantime electronic monitoring can be used to gather data.

Standby generators

Information on the sizing of standby generators for the various water supply facilities has been circulated by the Water Services Manager.

Carriageway lighting

The Roading and Street Services Manager will follow up the need to resurface the footpath on Cavendish Street following power undergrounding work.

Public conveniences

It was reported that additional units have been purchased for the Tinwald reserve within the existing budget. The Committee heard that the Australian designed buildings will be used for the first time and are likely to be considered as a more cost effective alternative for public conveniences in other parts of the district.

Burnett St car park

An increased use of the new car park has been observed. Publicity of the all day free parking will continue.

Road Closure – Ashburton Car Club

“That the following road be closed to ordinary vehicular traffic from 9.00 am to 6.00 pm on Saturday 6 December 2008, for the purpose of allowing the Ashburton Car Club to hold a Standing and Flying Quarter Mile Street meeting:

CHERTSEY ROAD, between Wards Road and Taverners Road.”

Brown/Reveley

Carried

Activity Reports

“That the reports be received.”

Holmes/Reveley

Carried

Financial reports

Reports for the period 1 July to 31 October 2008 were received.

Clarification was sought on how additional operating expenses for maintenance are shown within the water supply operational expenditure. The Operations Manager explained that over and under expenditures are managed without being separately shown, however the additional detail requested could be provided to Council during the budget process.

The Mayor attended the meeting at 1.47 pm.

MP Jo Goodhew was welcomed to the meeting.

Ashburton Business Estate

The Operations Manager reported on the proposal to subdivide a small section of land within the estate to establish a potable water groundwater bore that would supplement the existing supply. It is likely that consent application will be made for this purpose in the near future.

Lake Hood toilets

A land access agreement will be formalised before work commences on the construction of the new toilet block.

Waste Minimisation Act

“That the Committee approves the preparation of a letter to be forwarded to the Ministry for the Environment outlining concerns regarding

- TLA representation of the Waste Advisory Board
- The use of interest on levies collected
- Requesting TLA’s be invited to comment on product priorities.”

Holmes/Burgess

Carried

Stockwater consent

The Operations Manager reported that the Commissioner’s decision is still to be released.

State highway work

Work programmed on the Hinds section of SH1 is expected to be completed in the new year.

NZTA budget

The Roading and Street Services Manager reported that the draft NZTA budget shows an overall increase of \$764K of which Council’s share is approximately \$400K. Approximately \$695K will be applied to minor safety work and Council will need to put forward a case to ensure a share of this funding. Safety work identified at Tinwald, Hinds and Rakaia sections of the highway would be funded from the Agency’s minor safety works budget.

The Operations Manager referred to the submission lodged by Council in March this year which identifies Council's major roading projects. A copy will be re-circulated to Councillors.

The Operations Manager advised that Council's on-line submission to the Regional Transport Committee was not lodged on 14 November but will be forwarded today. The programme will also be included in Council's LTCCP process.

Tree shading of roads

The Roding Manager reported that identifying properties throughout the district for trees shading roads is expected to be completed by the end of November. Letters to property owners requesting remedial action will then be sent.

It was further noted that property owners storing hay along the roadside will be advised that they are in breach of Council's bylaw and are required to remove the hay. Information on this matter will be sent to Federated Farmers and included in Council's District Diary and community noticeboard.

Traffic services

Reports of a number of road signs in need of repair or reinstatement were noted by the Roding Manager who will advise the contractor responsible.

Public conveniences

The Roding Manager reported on the ongoing problems associated with fittings in the East Street toilets and the misuse and vandalism occurring. Mr Robertson advised that a single contract is being prepared for the public toilets at the Tinwald, Rakaia, Lake Hood, Methven and the Lake Clearwater reserves. He confirmed that consultation will take place with the Rakaia Community Association over the next month to agree to an upgrade option.

Tinwald borefield

The Water Services Manager reported that drilling is continuing and it is anticipated that the required water level will be reached.

Monitoring for water restrictions commenced in October. It was agreed that publication of regular updates on water usage and any restrictions will commence.

Mt Somers

Work is programmed to commence on 17 November with the installation of the standby generator. Reservoir installation will follow.

Rakaia water take consent

The ECan investigating officer's report will be presented to a hearing panel on 28 November.

NZTA Presentation

Environment Canterbury Councillor Jo Kane (Chair of Regional Transport Committee) and Mr Mark Yaxley (Regional Director NZTA Canterbury / Westland) were welcomed to the meeting at 2.30 pm.

The Committee received a presentation on the new structure of the New Zealand Transport Agency, and its associated legislation, and the role of the Regional Transport Committee.

The Committee adjourned for afternoon tea at 3.09 pm and resumed at 3.26 pm.

The NZTA presentation concluded at 4.08 pm.

Fire at Ashburton RRP

The Operations Manager reported that an insurance claim has been lodged following the fire at the resource recovery park on 31 October. Prices have been sought for reinstatement. Mr Rouse said that the Police have confirmed the fire was deliberately lit.

Diesel fuel surcharge

Clarification was sought on whether Transwaste's surcharge has been reduced or removed from the costs associated with transport of waste to Kate Valley.

NB The diesel surcharge on the freighting of waste to Kate Valley has now been removed.

Ashburton Lakes fire management strategy

The Committee agreed that the creation of the new Hakatere Conservation Park, and the associated increase of public use of this area, will require good fire safety strategies which should be developed in close association with DoC. The Operations Manager confirmed that Council's Principal Rural Fire Officer will be included.

Items transacted with the public excluded (4.20pm)

"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:
7.1	Confirmation of Minutes – 9/10/08 [now in open meeting] • Acton Stockwater Main	Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities
7.2	Confirmation of Minutes – 9/10/08 • Roading matters	Section 7(2)(i) Conduct of negotiations

Reveley/Everest

Carried

The meeting concluded at 4.45 pm