



Ashburton District Council

AGENDA

A **MEETING** of the **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE** will be held as follows:

Date: Thursday 31 January 2008

Time: 1.30 pm

Venue: Council Chamber
5 Baring Square West
Ashburton

B LESTER
Chief Executive

MEMBERS:

Cr B A Tasker (Chairman)
Cr L J Leadley
Cr N A Brown
Cr I J Burgess
Cr J A Everest
Cr K L Holmes
Cr K W P Lowe
Cr P W Reveley
Mayor M B O'Malley (ex officio)

AGENDA

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25 January 2008

ASHBURTON DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

FILE NO: C540 & 5/1/5/1
DATE: 31 January 2008
REPORT TO: Operations Committee
FROM: Roading & Street Services Manager
SUBJECT: Annual Plan 2007/ 08 – New kerb & channel – Buckleys Terrace

5. ANNUAL PLAN 2007/ 08: NEW KERB & CHANNEL, AND FOOTPATH, BUCKLEYS TCE - DELETION FROM PROGRAMME

5.1 SUMMARY

The 2007/08 Annual Plan included installation of new kerb and channel and new footpath on the south side of Buckleys Terrace. Following a request from residents to reconsider this work, a survey was conducted of all residents in Buckleys Terrace to determine whether they wanted this work to proceed. The results from this survey indicate a clear preference from the residents that this work should not proceed. To remove this work from the Annual Plan for 2007/08 requires Council approval and this action is recommended.

5.2 RECOMMENDATION

“That the proposed work in the 2007/08 Annual Plan for new kerb and channel, and new footpath in Buckleys Terrace, from Tarbottons Road to the west end, be deleted from the programme as requested by the majority of Buckleys Terrace residents.”

5.3 BACKGROUND

The work of new kerb and channel and new footpath was included in the draft Annual Plan for 2007/08, and was the subject of public consultation in April 2007. There were no submissions submitted in favour of or against the proposed work at that time, and it was approved as a project in the 2007/ 08 financial year.

The survey of the 13 residents who live on the south side and the single resident on the north side has been carried out. There have been 10 responses received, all requesting that the new kerb and channel and new footpath not be installed and no replies in favour of retaining the work. Attempts have been made to contact the non responders without success.

The survey clearly shows that the majority of responses received did not support the kerb and channel and the footpath being installed. In light of this survey it is proposed that the following work in Buckleys Terrace be removed from the programme –

New kerb and channel	\$45,408
New footpath	\$24,232
Total	\$69,640
Less work already committed with the consultant designer	<u>\$ 4,305</u>
Balance of funds freed up	\$65,335

These funds were raised through the rates account for Ashburton footpaths, therefore they can only be used for other work in the Ashburton footpath budget activity area.

5.4 OPTIONS

The options available to the Committee are:

1. To proceed with the work as per the Annual Plan.
2. To delete the work from the Annual Plan.

The survey results clearly show a majority of responses in favour of this work not proceeding, and accordingly Option 2 is recommended.

5.5 STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

Changes to the Annual Plan are required to be approved by Council.

5.6 CONSULTATION

All land owners in Buckleys Terrace were surveyed, and 6 of 13 have returned the consultation documents. The remaining 7 land owners have been contacted and the outcome is that 100% of residents directly affected do not wish the work to proceed.

5.7 STRATEGIC LINKS

This work is contained in the 2007/08 Annual Plan. The LTCCP provides an annual work scope of approximately 200 metres of new footpath each year in Ashburton.

5.8 FINANCIAL

The deletion of this work will make available \$65,335 of footpath account funding in the current financial year. At this point in time there is some work identified in a stand-alone report to the Town Centre Subcommittee relating to proposed footpath improvements in Wills Street at the frontage to the new Performing Arts Theatre to provide a high standard of finish to the street at the frontage to this building. These surplus funds could be used for this project. This work will be the subject of consideration by the Town Centre Subcommittee.

DAVID ROBERTSON
Roading and Street Services Manager

ACTIVITY REPORTS

7. Activity Reports

7.1 General

7.1.1 Financial reports

Financial reports for the period ending 1 July 2007 to 31 December 2007, are attached to this report. **Pages 25-32**

Financial reports for solid waste management will be circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting.

7.1.2 Development in the Ashburton District

The appeal period for the Notice of Requirement ended on 14 December 2007. There were no appeals. The appeal period for the Plan Change process ends on 4 February 2008.

Work has commenced on progressing the brief for the technical work. Resources to progress this project to the next stage will not be formally engaged until the appeal periods have expired and the status of the Plan Change process is finalised.

7.1.3 Proposed Natural Resources Regional Plan

Hearing dates have not been advised for 2008.

7.1.4 Significant Community Projects

There are currently a number of significant community projects underway or about to commence in the Ashburton district.

Council has resolved to progress its involvement in these projects in an integrated way to ensure that the following is considered –

- the interdependence between the projects
- impacts the projects have on each other
- combining technical work to achieve economies of scale.

Potential benefits of this approach include –

- a better (integrated) urban design outcome
- good connectivity between facilities / sites
- shorter project phase timeframes
- reduced costs
- higher level of stakeholder / community ownership
- informed decision making
- increased understanding of interdependence
- all stakeholders move forward together.

A design brief for the technical work has been prepared and will support input into the following projects –

- Art Gallery / Museum
- Aquatic Centre / Stadium
- Parking

The technical work will consider and / or be an input into –

- Transportation Study
- Linkages with the NE Ashburton business park
- Town centre urban design.

Discussions have been held with Transit NZ who have indicated that they are supportive of this approach. They are also aware of the timeframes for each of these projects.

The Terms of Reference for this “integrated” project and the design brief were discussed at the Town Centre Subcommittee meeting held at 11 am on Thursday 31 January 2008.

7.1.5 Waste Management Bill

The Operations Manager spoke in support of Council’s submission to the Waste Minimisation Bill Supplementary Order Paper. The presentation made by Council and Wastebusters was well received.

7.1.6 Resource Recovery Park Design Guide Project

The Operations Manager has been invited to be a member of the Resource Recovery Park Design Guide Steering Group.

The purpose of the Steering Group is to develop a resource recovery park design and operation guide that reflects the principles of best practice and appropriate design information.

The Steering Group is comprised of 10 members from local government, community enterprise, Wasteminz resource recovery park operators and waste management companies.

The project is primarily funded by the Ministry for the Environment’s Sustainable Management Fund and Wasteminz.

7.1.7 New Zealand Land Transport Strategy and Government Policy Statement

The Operations Manager is a member of the Land Transport Reference Group working with Local Government NZ and the Ministry of Transport on Land Transport issues.

The reference group will be convening to discuss the Government Policy Statement (GPS) and the update to the New Zealand Land Transport Strategy.

The Ministry of Transport has indicated that they wish to discuss the structure of the Government Policy Statement. It appears that the Government Policy Statement will also address the Financial Assistance Rate and other funding issues.

Issues to be considered include –

- The effects of the GPS and National Land Transport Programme on programmes and how this will influence regional planning and programming required by the Land Transport Amendment Act.
- If regional programmes are going to be decided by Government through the GPS etc, what is the point of regional planning?
- How do the goals and targets in the GPS translate to regional planning and prioritisation?

Submissions on the New Zealand Transport Strategy close on 29 February 2008.

The Reference Group will be meeting in late January.

7.2 Roading

7.2.1 State Highway Work

- State Highway Work 2007/2008

A contract has been awarded for area wide pavement work on State Highway One at the Works Road intersection. Note that this is mainly on the south side of the intersection, and will incorporate a small amount of work required for the upgrade of this intersection as required for the NE Ashburton industrial zone development. The work currently being undertaken at this site will be totally funded by Transit.

A slight amendment has been made to the original design to allow for the additional work envisaged for this intersection as the northern access to the NE Ashburton business park. Council will carry out the balance of the work required by the proposed business park at this intersection in 2008/09 as programmed.

The work of forming parking lay-bys on the west side as preparation for the marking of the flush median along Archibald Street is out to tender and will be complete in April/May. The work will include three pedestrian refuges for pedestrians crossing the road, one at “Café Time”, one at “Cabouts”, and one at the pedestrian crossing along with kerb protrusions at the latter site. These cannot be installed until the lay-bys are complete and the flush median marking is complete.

Similar work is being carried out in Hinds, with a pedestrian refuge in the proposed flush median near the Hotel (near James Street) and a second one opposite the store. These will provide a safer crossing area at the locations that children cross Peters Street (SH 1).

7.2.2 2008/09 National Land Transport Programme – Financial Assistance Rate (FAR)

Land Transport NZ has advised us that our FAR for 2008/09 year will remain unchanged at 47% in line with their system on only adjusting FAR's every three years. They have also advised that they will recalculate our FAR for 2009/10 early in 2008/09 to provide time to include the new rate in the 2009/10 budget and the next LTCCP. Currently there is no change for 2008/09, but LTNZ have calculated the rate that would have been applicable for this year as 46%. Based on the current budget for 2008/09, the change of 1% in our FAR would reduce the subsidy by about \$90,000. It is probable that under current procedures for FAR determination, we will see a reduction of our FAR to at least 46%, and could possibly be lower than this.

7.2.3 Crash Reports

A record of other crashes that have occurred in Ashburton District on State Highways and local roads since last report is appended.

Pages 33-37

7.2.4 General Maintenance

Since the last report the maintenance contractor has mainly been involved with minor items prior to, and just after the Christmas break. Fulton Hogan or the sub-contractor's staff were involved in the early morning cleanup of East Street following the New Years Eve Street Party. During the Christmas break, maintenance staff were on call and responded to reports of sealed roads with flushed bitumen during the extended very hot weather. Given the temperatures involved, most roads prone to flushing and bleeding held up well.

Some of the last of the pre-seal pavement repairs are being undertaken prior to the sealing of the last sections of proposed roads for 2007/08.

7.2.5 Area Wide Pavement Treatment

- **Contract C528 – Unsealed Roads Area Wide Pavement Treatment 06/07**

The contractor has completed the pavement and wearing course construction work in this contract. Sections included were:

- Ashburton River Road – Thompsons Track to Reynolds Road
- Reynolds Road – Dip Road to Ashburton River Road
- Blands Road – Thompsons Track to SH 77
- Hamptons Road – Seafield Road to Winters Road
- Chertsey Road – Seafield Road to Winters Road

These sections will be under the maintenance provisions of the contract for the next 12 months and will be monitored to ensure they meet the specified standards for this period.

Investigations into the area wide pavement treatment of sealed rural roads are continuing with several roads being assessed for their pavement strength and future maintenance costs. Once the tests are completed and decisions made on which sections of which roads are to be overlaid, a contract will be prepared and tendered for the work to be completed in 2007/08.

7.2.6 Major Drainage Control

Opus International Consultants have completed the survey and design for the new and replacement kerb and channel for 2008/09. A contract for the construction of this work has been prepared and will be tendered this week.

Contract C538 for roadside drainage improvements. Construction of roadside swales on sections of road to be resealed in 2007/08 has been complete with the exception of the installation of soak pits at strategic locations and some minor tidying work on the verges. With recent rain, the intended location of the soak pits will be more effectively identified.

7.2.7 Reseals

Contract C534 – reseals and preseal repairs, 2007/08. The contractor has completed 90% of the sections in the contract schedule so is well ahead of the contract programme. There have been some instances of recently sealed roads bleeding in the extended hot weather and the contractor has been required to tend to these sites before and during the Christmas break in order to preserve and maintain their work.

7.2.8 Bridges

Opus International Consultants have been working on the design for the replacement of Bridge 83 on Rawles Crossing Road. The current structure is a weak, single lane timber bridge over an irrigation race. This is not capable of carrying the milk tankers and trailers which need to access the new dairy farm which has no alternative access.

Bridge 25 on Croys Road was also programmed for replacement but the Wheatstone Extension which the existing bridge crosses is now completely dry. The intention is now for the existing deck to be removed and the waterway filled up to road level and the bridge removed from Council's Register.

7.2.9 Seal Extensions

With the ongoing difficulty in getting Land Transport subsidies for seal extension work because of low benefit/cost ratios, the roads provisionally scheduled for seal extension in 2007/08 – Wakanui School Road and Cairnbrae Road have not had sufficiently high BCR's to qualify for LTNZ subsidy.

These are largely as a result lower than expected vehicle numbers in the latest traffic counts, and increasing costs to seal arising from rises in crude oil.

One road that does have potential to qualify for LTNZ approval is Blands Road between Thompsons Track and SH 77. This is largely due to the high proportion of heavy vehicles, most of which are carting gravel from the north branch of the Ashburton River to Ashburton. This operation is projected to last for a minimum of two to three years. Investigations are being carried out and should these indicate that the BCR for this work meets LTNZ criteria, a contract will be prepared and tendered for the work to be completed in 2007/08.

In conjunction with this work, and following approaches from a number of rural property owners asking to have short lengths of unsealed road adjacent to their residences sealed to alleviate dust nuisance, these people will be consulted to gauge their commitment to this sealing. They would need to fund approximately 57% of the costs (LTNZ subsidy) with Council contributing the balance of the costs, funded from the unsubsidised roading budget.

The seal extension programme as identified in the annual plan cannot proceed unless Council chooses to fund the total cost of the work. If the programme of work is to be changed, then the change to the Annual Plan must be approved by Council. A report will be prepared for Council setting out the proposed changes in this area of the annual plan.

7.2.10 Street Cleaning

Routine street cleaning is continuing on the specified cycles.

7.2.11 Traffic Services

Ongoing maintenance of signs continues throughout the district with the replacement of damaged and vandalised signs being the major single activity. Statistics for the last six months show that \$58,400 was spent on replacing or repairing damaged or missing signs. As an indication of the scope of this ongoing problem, in July and August 2007, a total of 74 road signs were replaced, and 34 of these were “stop, “give-way” or name blades. Some of these were not damaged by vandals but the major portion were damaged as a result of vandalism or vehicle accidents.

With the high temperatures experienced so far during summer and the amount of flushing and tracking of bitumen on the roads, intersections are being monitored to ensure that limit lines remain clearly visible.

7.2.12 Carriageway Lighting

Maintenance of the district’s street lights is carried out by Electricity Ashburton who continue carry out regular and routine inspections and checks and attend to lamp maintenance requirements.

The work on street light upgrading in association with power line. Undergrounding is continuing in Harrison Street, Farm Road, Allens Road, and Cavendish Street and will be completed this financial year.

Negotiations are underway with Trustpower to change the street lighting energy charge to 50% fixed rate and 50% spot rate. Indications are that there may be a significant cost saving for Council. This will be reported in more detail once accurate figures are known.

7.2.13 Minor Improvements

A contract for the upgrade of the Stranges Road / Grahams Road / Boundary Road intersection has been prepared and with few details with respect to property, services and access still to be formally resolved, this will be tendered within the next two weeks.

The programme of sealing of unsealed approaches to rural intersections will also continue and this work will be tendered with the seal extension contract. A total of 57 intersection approaches have been sealed since 2004.

7.2.14 New Kerb & Channel and Footpaths

A contract for the construction of new kerb and channel and adjacent footpaths in the 2007/08 Annual Plan has been prepared and is due to be tendered in January. A separate report has gone to the Committee recommending the deletion of the proposed work in Buckleys Terrace. If this is approved then this work will not be included in the contract

7.2.15 Footpath Maintenance

Ongoing routine maintenance and cleaning of the urban footpaths continues as well as the routine cleaning of the East Street public toilets and the Tancred Street restrooms.

Tenders for Contract C537 for the resurfacing of footpaths in 2007/08 have closed and will be awarded within the next week. This work involves the resurfacing of 6,760m of footpaths in Ashburton, 360m in Methven, 210m in Rakaia, 114m in Chertsey and 265m in Mayfield.

7.2.16 Minor Township Maintenance Contracts

Normal seasonal operations are underway for the Rakaia and Methven contracts. No major issues have been reported over the Christmas break.

7.2.17 Ashburton Performing Arts Centre Frontage Upgrade

A report has been submitted to the Town Centre Subcommittee recommending some additional work to be carried out on the footpath area in front of the new performing Arts Theatre. This matter will be discussed at the Town Centre Subcommittee meeting on 31 January with a recommendation to be tabled at the Operations Committee meeting (Agenda Item 6).

7.3 Water Supplies

7.3.1 General

- **2008/09 Budget Preparation**

Staff are presently preparing budgets and programmes for the 2008/09 financial year. The Water Services Department is responsible for the preparation of budgets for 28 cost centres.

- **Bylaw Review**

Bylaws are currently being reviewed. The department is required to input into the following bylaws:

- Water supply
- Drainage services
- Stockwater

The water supply bylaw has required significant changes to align it with the NZS Model General Bylaws (Part 7) and Council's service connection application process.

At the timing of writing, the drainage services bylaw had not been reviewed but is expected to have similar issues. It is envisaged that the stockwater bylaw will require very little modification. Trade-waste is presently controlled by a single clause in the drainage services bylaw, but is set to become a separate and significant bylaw in its own right. The trade-waste bylaw is being prepared as part of the Ashburton wastewater upgrade project.

The deadline for completion of the draft bylaws is 31 January which has unfortunately coincided with the budget preparation period.

7.3.2 Water Consumption

Consumption on the schemes increased sharply over the period 10-13 January, coinciding with very warm temperatures across the district. There was sufficient concern over the level of usage to revise the water restrictions.

The following restrictions came into force on the 15 January.

- Ashburton, Mayfield and Chertsey – Level 2 restriction (alternate days, time restricted)
- Methven, Rakaia, Hakatere & Hinds – Level 3 restriction (hand held, alternate days, time restricted)
- Mount Somers – Level 4 restriction (Hosing ban).

7.3.3 AM-AE10 Water Pipeline Renewals

In accordance with a decision by the Water Subcommittee in December, this contract has been re-tendered. The tender was first advertised Saturday 19 January. The closing date for tenders is Friday, 8 February.

One of the projects, Tancred Street (West Street to Park Street) water main replacement has been removed from the contract to enable separate pricing and earlier completion (by March) in order to avoid conflict with programmed roading works in same road section. For expediency, it is proposed that this works be negotiated with Ashburton Contracting Limited as a variation to North West water main extension contract.

7.3.4 Ashburton

• Ashburton Water Supply Upgrade – Tinwald borefield development

This project was the subject of a stand alone report to the 18 December meeting of Council. The Council approved the recommendation to consider and identify a new site for the establishment of a fourth borefield in Tinwald to the south-west of the George Glassey Park site previously identified.

Work on the new site selection process is expected to commence in February. It is envisaged that the results of the second round of investigation will be available early March.

7.3.5 Ashburton Water Supply Upgrade – Tinwald borefield development

Contract DW-AE10 covers the construction of approximately 4,400 metres of new water mains in Racecourse Road, Allens Road, Farm Road and Carters Road in Ashburton. This project effectively extends the Ashburton water supply into the area. This contract was tendered on 10 November and awarded under delegated authority (Management Executive) to Ashburton Contracting Limited in the amount of \$799,998.13 excl GST. Work commenced in Racecourse Road on 14 January. Approximately 1,180 metres of pipe has been installed to date. Contact has been made with property owners in the area requesting them to confirm whether they wish to connect to the scheme and have the connection installed as part of the contract works.

A total of 57 letters were sent out and 21 property owners have requested connections. The total cost of connection indicated was \$3,291 inc GST. Property owners who choose not to connect at this time will still be able to connect at a later date but the costs are expected to be higher.

7.3.6 Methven

The transmitter for the magnetic flow meter on the second trunk main developed a fault and was removed for servicing. The electricians removed the unit on 8 January and forwarded it to the supplier. It was repaired and returned to service on 11 January. The nature and cause of the fault has not been advised.

7.3.7 Rakaia

- **Rakaia Water Supply Upgrade**

Contact was made on 21 December with Canterbury Community & Public Health to enquire as to the outcome of the capital assistance funding application. The response received was that the Sanitary Works Technical Advisory Committee (SAWTAC) had made its recommendation to the Minister of Health and only required signoff. No formal indication has been given as to the result or timing.

- **Reduced Service**

On Saturday, 12 January the maintenance contractor was called out to the scheme to investigate a low-level reservoir alarm. The contractor was onsite mid-morning and observed that the reservoir had emptied and that the submersible pumps were not keeping up with demand on the scheme.

The contractor monitored the system to ensure that the pumps continued to operate, inspected the scheme reticulation for leakage. By late morning, the reservoir was starting to fill again. There was some concern that the second demand peak around 4-6pm would also cause some problems but the contractor was onsite again during that period as a precautionary measure and no issues arose.

The Council's after hours service did not receive any calls relating to low pressure or loss of water, but it is likely that some consumers would have experienced a reduction in service during part of the morning.

7.3.8 Hakatere

The maintenance contractor reported that one of the submersible pumps in the Hakatere bore does not reset when it "trips out" on overload. Approval was given on 8 January to lift the pump to establish the repair requirement.

7.3.9 Mayfield

The register in the flow meter at the treatment plant stopped operating late last year. The age of the meter has caused some difficulty in finding a replacement register. Most meter suppliers contacted by the maintenance contractor recommended full replacement of the meter.

Given the operational importance of controlling the chlorination dosing accurately and monitoring scheme consumption this work was approved and the new meter has been installed. The chlorination control is operational but the flow monitoring connection to the telemetry system is still to be re-commissioned.

7.3.10 Methven Springfield

The maintenance contractor had to dismantle and reassemble a pressure reducing valve (PRV) on Dip Road in November. The contractor was following up on a request for service relating to reduced water flow in some scheme tanks in the area.

The contractor discovered and removed a large amount of stones and gravels lodged in the valve. It is suspected that the material entered the pipeline as a result of pipe damage caused by a network operator during works in the area about six months prior.

7.3.11 Mount Somers

- **Reservoir monitoring**

The monitoring at the water supply reservoir has been successfully commissioned. Data has been received through the telemetry system since 16 January. The information is presented as a percentage full. The early information shows the level fluctuating between 95% - 89.1%. The low level alarm is presently set to activate at 50%.

Once the new reservoirs are in place the level monitoring equipment will be readjusted so that 100% is equivalent to the highest possible reservoir water level and the low level alarm "set point" will also be raised.

- **Reservoir installation**

The negotiations for the work of installing additional storage reservoirs have been completed with Ashburton Contracting Limited. The work had had to be re-scoped down from using 2 x 30,000 litre tanks to using 2 x 25,000 litre tanks. This was necessary to avoid a long manufacturing delay (2 weeks versus 8-10 weeks).

The total cost approved is \$23,483.75 excl GST. This includes \$1,760.90 for a base retaining wall which was scheduled but is now not expected to be required and a contingency sum of \$2,134.88. The forecast cost of the project is \$19,587.97 excl GST. Preassembly of pipework and fittings and site works will commence ahead of delivery of tanks. All work is expected to be complete by 1 February subject to delivery of the tanks.

- **Intake monitoring**

The water level and rain gauge monitoring at the water supply intake has been successfully commissioned. Data has been received from the site since 24 December. The water level is presently being monitored in the manhole at the uppermost end of the infiltration gallery and will remain at this point until the intake investigations are completed. The monitoring equipment will then be moved to the permanent monitoring point in the manhole at the lower end of the gallery where the trunk main commences. This site is preferred from an operational point of view.

7.3.12 Lake Hood

The maintenance contractor has reported that due to increasing demand on the scheme, additional costs are being incurred to maintain the plant. This includes the supply and replenishing of consumables for the treatment processes.

The additional costs were not allowed or budgeted for at the time of contract negotiation and will be paid for as an additional maintenance item until the contract review in June. Allowance for the additional maintenance requirement will be made on the 2007/08 budgets.

7.4 Wastewater

7.4.1 General

The schemes are operating satisfactorily.

7.4.2 Ashburton Wastewater Upgrade

- **Contract 501 - treatment plant**

All of the originally tendered works were substantially complete in December, however as a result of additional work associated with the wetland liner, water supply well and other minor works, it is anticipated that all works will be complete at the end of March.

Physical works undertaken:

- **Aeration pond**

The aeration pond is substantially complete with 8 of the 10 aerators installed and commissioned. One set of aerators is still to be installed and another requires a replacement motor. This motor is due for delivery in January.

- **Pipelines**

All pipelines are complete.

- **Pumping station**

The pumping station is complete.

- **Control room**

The control building is complete.

- **Wetlands**

Wetland pond #1.	earthworks complete and planted
Wetland pond #2.	earthworks complete and planting programmed for completion in week ending 25 January 2008.
Wetland pond #3.	earthworks complete and planting to commence 28 January 2008.
Wetland pond #4.	earthworks 80% complete.

- **Wetland storage pond**

Wetland storage pond complete.

Financial:

Tendered sum	\$5,459,469.12
Forecast final construction cost	\$6,483,940.43

Note: the significant over-expenditure relates to the clay lining of the wetland and maintenance of plants (vegetation for the wetland).

- **Contract 502 – Transfer pipeline**

This contract is now complete.

Financial:

- Tendered sum \$3,677,323.00
- Forecast final construction cost \$3,709,307.60
(no change from the previous report)

- **Contract 503 – Land disposal**

Physical works undertaken:

The originally tendered contract works were completed in December. Additional work means this contract will now be complete by the end of February. Commissioning of the land disposal contract has not been delayed by the completion of the wetlands.

- Earthworks and clearing are substantially complete with only minor tidy-up work to be completed.
- Irrigation areas are substantially complete subject to testing.
- All structures are complete.
- Electrical works are substantially complete.

Financial:

- Tendered sum \$4,695,156.53
- Forecast final construction cost \$4,934,065.68

Project financial summary:

- Forecast final construction cost \$15,124,313.71
- Budget for construction \$14,850,601
- Forecast over expenditure \$273,712

Note: At the 13 September meeting of the Finance and Corporate Services Committee, the Committee approved the recommendation to Council that the forecast favourable variance in the sum of \$304,870 for the 06/07 waste water cyclic renewals programme be carried over into the 07/08 financial year to offset the above over expenditure and farm development costs. The recommendation was approved by Council on 27 September. **Page 38**

7.4.3 Relief Sewer Capacity Issues

The Ashburton relief sewer main commences at the intersection of Creek Road and Thomas Street and its route from there includes Saunders Road, King Street, Brucefield Ave, Kitchener Street, Albert Street, Trevors Road to the Ashburton Grit Chamber at the end of Trevors Road by the river. **Page 39**

This is a significant sewer main in the Ashburton network and as such was one of the first trunk sewers to be modelled as part of the Ashburton wastewater model development. Results of this work suggest that the main is near capacity during some peak periods during wet weather flow or high groundwater conditions. Modelling (and site observation) indicates at number of manholes in Trevors Road section become surcharged during these periods.

Developments in train at present, ie Ashburton Business Park, and the subdivision near Racecourse Road, Tuarangi Road, Albert Street and Trevors Road, are all likely to impact on the available capacity of the relief sewer.

Given the size of the catchment served by the relief sewer, it is imperative that provision is made sooner rather than later to provide additional capacity. Investigations are required to identify upgrading options. A separate investigation budget item shall be proposed as part of the 2008/09 budget.

7.4.4 Ocean Farm

- **Fencing**

The first stage of the work includes the installation of approximately 9km of fencing. The majority of this stage has been completed. The materials for the next stage have been purchased and are on site.

- **House Bore**

The bore providing water for the Farm Manager's residence is dry. The bore has a 75mm diameter casing and is 20.4m deep. Water was typically delivered from the bore to a stand-mounted tank using a surface pump. Arrangements are in hand to either deepen the existing bore or drill a new bore. The well driller is expected to be on site in 2-3 weeks. Given its age and condition, it is unlikely that the existing pump can be reutilised.

7.5 Stormwater

7.5.1 General

The schemes are operating satisfactorily.

7.5.2 Ashburton

- **Trevors Road Gross Pollutant Trap (GPT)**

Price proposals for the GPT at Trevors Road have been received and reviewed. Approval to purchase the preferred unit is pending. It is proposed to purchase the unit directly and engage a contractor to complete the installation.

7.6 Stockwater

7.6.1 General

Due to the prevailing dry weather conditions being experienced across Canterbury, many intakes are at very low levels and this is impacting on our ability to take normal volumes of water to keep the network operating satisfactorily.

Ranger staff are experiencing difficulties maintaining sufficient flows in many races in the network and as a result some race systems (typically small loop race or races terminating in soakholes) are being temporarily shutdown. This action is done in consultation with the affected property owners.

Letters have been sent to property owners in the worst affected areas. The same information has now been forwarded to all rural mail customers. Local papers have also assisted by raising the profile of the issues.

- **Acton Irrigation Pre-feasibility Study**

In accordance with a request by the Water Subcommittee in the meeting in December, discussions have been held with the consultant about the direction taken with the draft study. The study document will now be modified to better reflect the original intention of the proposal.

- **Water Race Applications / Closures**

Since 1 July 2007, a total of 34 applications have been received. One application has been withdrawn, two are awaiting further information, approval is pending on two more and the remainder have been approved. The length of race closed since 1 July 2007 is 16,251 metres.

7.7 Solid Waste Management

7.7.1 Residual Waste Management at the Ashburton Resource Recovery Park

The operation of the residual waste management contract at the Ashburton RRP is proceeding satisfactorily.

7.7.2 Green Waste & Construction and Demolition Waste Management at Ashburton RRP

The green waste and demolition waste contract is operating satisfactorily.

1505 vehicles visited the site in November - slightly up on previous months. Of the 1505 vehicles, 1444 contained green waste and 61 had demolition materials. 686.25 cubic metres of green waste and 72 cu.m of wood waste was shredded during the month.

In December traffic increased to 1858 vehicles, 1809 with green waste and 49 with demolition materials. 483.75 cubic metres of green waste was shredded in December.

The newly laid and compacted shingle surface in the demolition area has made a significant improvement to this area. Concrete blocks and poles are now being set-up to make bunkers for the orderly storage of materials.

7.7.3 Refuse and Recycling Collection

The recycling and refuse collection contract is running smoothly. Residual waste and kerbside recycling quantities are typical? Figures are indicated in the table below:

All Areas	Kerbside - tonnes	Litter Bins - tonnes	Total Residual Waste- tonnes	Recycling - tonnes
November	166.28	6.36	172.64	119.24
December	167.68	6.88	174.56	125.3

7.7.4 Waste Minimisation

371.098 tonnes of recyclables materials were processed and transported off-site during November. In December there was a record 400.365 tonnes of recyclables processed and transported. A break-down of figures is shown on the attachment. **Page 40**

In December 2007, WasteBusters purchased and installed a new baler to process recyclables. This baler is a larger capacity and able to process a larger quantity of recyclables. An electrical upgrade was carried out to provide power to the new equipment. The redundant baler is owned by Council and stored at ARRP while a new owner is sought.

7.7.5 Transport Waste to Christchurch

Transport and disposal of waste to Kate Valley volumes are shown on the attachment. Tonnage dropped in December. **Page 41**

7.7.6 Management of Waste Processing Sites

- **Ashburton resource recovery park**

The Ashburton resource recovery park is operating satisfactorily.

- **Methven green waste site and drop-off centre and collection**

The siting of four additional litter bins will soon be underway. Instruction has been sent to our service provider to design pamphlets to be available for travellers at motels, back-packers etc. These pamphlets will include a guide on what to recycle and where to go.

We are awaiting a quote to carry out earthworks to extend the recyclables drop-off area.

12.26 tonnes of residual waste has been sent to Kate Valley from Methven for November and 15.42 tonnes for December.

Usage of the cleanfill and green waste disposal site at Vaughans Road continues to increase. Twenty seven vehicle movements were recorded in October, thirty three in November and forty six in December.

Cardboard drop-off is reducing and transport to Ashburton is decreased from three to one.

- **Rakaia Resource Recovery Park**

This contract is operating satisfactorily. 20.72 tonnes of waste material has been transported to Kate Valley from Rakaia during November and 17.07 tonnes for December.

7.8 Contracts Awarded

Contracts awarded since October 2007

No.	Contract	Contractor	Date / Value \$	N° of Tenders / Range \$	Engineer's Estimate
DW-AE10	Watermain Extensions Northwest Ashburton	ACL	11/12/2007 \$799,998.13	5 \$732,593.06 to \$ 1,035,278.00	\$ 1,036,000

7.9 Customer Service Request Reports

CRM reports for the year to date and the reporting period are attached.

Pages 42-44

7.10 Emergency Management

7.10.1 Fire Season Status

On 21 December 2007, the Ashburton District Council declared a Prohibited Fire Season for the high country areas of the Ashburton and Rakaia Gorges and a Restricted Fire Season for the remainder of the Ashburton District. These fire control measures remain in place. As part of the publicity process this fire season a copy of the 'Fire Control Measures' notice was delivered to every rural box holder in the district during the holiday break.

The Department of Conservation also have a Prohibited Fire Season in place for the high country areas of the Ashburton and Rakaia Gorges and a Restricted Fire Season in place for the remainder of the State land in the District.

While conditions vary across the Plains, the eastern parts of the district are verging on extreme and the fire indices have exceeded the trigger levels agreed by the Canterbury West Coast Regional Rural Fire Committee for total prohibition. A number of factors exist in defence of a decision to remain with restrictions at this time.

- A strip across the foothills from Mt Somers to Mt Hutt and extending east across the plains is showing indices well below the trigger levels.

- There is a large part of the district under irrigation which is not factored into the indices.
- The weather patterns are not showing any significant wind for the medium term.
- The fires that have been occurring have not been developing into anything significant.

While these are all factors supporting the retention of restrictions rather than a total prohibition, the situation is being monitored daily and unless significant or regular smaller amounts of rainfall occur soon, the possibility of a prohibition must certainly be considered.

7.10.2 Fire Incidents

Twenty six incidents have been attended by rural fire parties from the time of the last Committee meeting and up to 22 Jan 2008, with a breakdown as follows:

Vegetation	13
Structure	3
Vehicle	5
Rubbish	2
False alarm	3

7.10.3 Long Service Awards

Two members of the Willowby VRFF were presented with long service awards on 6 December 2007 at a barbecue function for the Willowby VRFF. Jack Ayers and Malcolm Stoddart have each completed 26 years service to the Willowby VRFF.

7.10.4 Fire Competency Assessment

Ten members of the Willowby VRFF were assessed in some basic rural firefighting unit standards on Sunday 6 December 2007. Two assessors from Christchurch attended for the day and all the trainees were deemed competent in the unit standards they were assessed in.

7.10.5 Fire Permit Issue

Eighteen permits have been issued since the introduction of the Restricted Fire Season. All have been for major land clearing operations relating to centre pivot irrigators. Of those that have been effected to date, all but one have been completed without incident. The exception occurred when a burn of surrounding grass (not connected to the permit issue) got into some standing trees which were destined to be eventually burnt under permit conditions anyway.

7.10.6 Mt Cook Fire

The Principal Rural Fire Officer was requested to attend the Mt Cook fire on the evening of Wednesday 16 Jan as part of a Regional Incident Management Team under the Memorandum of Understanding within the Canterbury West Coast Regional Rural Fire Committee members. The PRFO performed the role of Logistics Manager from that time until Sunday 20 Jan. Firefighter crews from Ashburton Rural (5) and Mayfield (5) VRFF's attended on Sunday 20th and crews from Ashburton VFB (2) and Rakaia VFB (3) attended on Monday 21st. The Rakaia crew stayed on until the evening of Tuesday 22nd Jan.

This fire was one of the most significant and complex in Canterbury in recent history and burnt an area of 750 hectares of mature wilding pines, tussock and scrub on the eastern shore of Lake Pukaki on Mt Cook and Braemar Stations.

7.10.7 Mt Torlesse Research Burns

These burns have been planned for the previous two years but have been cancelled each summer due to unfavourable conditions. It is looking likely that the burns in standing manuka and kanuka will finally be commenced at or about 25 January.

The Deputy PRFO will be assisting with the burns and the ADC has provided some resources to assist with the project which is being coordinated through the CWCRRFC and Fire Scientists from the Rural Fire Research Group, Scion (New Zealand Forest Research Institute Ltd)

7.10.8 Fire Sign Vandalism

As with other public signage around the District, the Council's fire signs are regularly being vandalised at considerable expense to replace them. The most recent incident occurred at Wakanui Beach where a 'Fire by Permit Only' sign was pulled out of the ground and burnt on an illegal bonfire on the beach.

7.10.9 Ashburton Lakes Fire Control Liaison/Strategy

The PRFO and ADC RFO Robin Grigg met on site with a representative from DoC at Lake Clearwater on 12 December, to discuss how best to manage the fire risk in the Ashburton Lakes area this summer, given that conditions have been extreme since before Christmas and the entire area is under a total prohibition. Issues such as publicity, education, policing, risk reduction and identification of highest risk areas and activities were discussed.

It is hoped that with an increased DoC presence in the area during weekends and at other times, there will be an elevated awareness of the risks with a subsequent reduction of potential fire starts.

7.11 Methven Community Board

A meeting of the Methven Community Board is scheduled for 28 January 2008; any matters for the Committee's consideration will be reported.

7.12 Ashburton District Road Safety

7.12.1 Summer Driving Campaign

The Summer Driving Campaign commenced in late December with radio advertising and a number of written articles given to the local papers for print over the Christmas/New year period. Two summer driving radio competitions were held with good success.

7.12.2 Return to School

An awareness campaign to remind drivers of children returning to school starts in late January, with articles to appear in The Courier and the Mid Canterbury Herald. The Guardian is also to run an article, which should appear just as school recommences. Radio advertising is organised for early February.

7.12.3 Bike Wise Week 2008

The Mayoral Challenge, a Business Challenge, a Skills Night and Go By Bike Day are planned for the 2008 programme. This year, the Go By Bike Day will be held in Methven.

7.12.4 Mobility Scooter Forum

The forum is to be held on 15 February and this year will be held at the Sinclair Centre in Mona Square. A variety of speakers, spot prizes and afternoon tea have been organised.

7.12.5 Seatbelt Campaign

The joint seatbelt campaign with ACC and Ashburton District Road Safety will run in March 2008. This will link with the national Police campaign. After the recent local survey, employers will be asked to remind employees to wear their seatbelts at all times, regardless of the length of the trip. Key rings, dashboard stickers and Safe Driving Policy information packs will be offered.

7.12.6 A&P Shows

Road Safety sites are to present at both the Mayfield and Methven A&P shows in March this year. Planning for these will commence shortly.

7.12.7 Physical Activity Strategy

Recently I have been involved in meetings to discuss the Ashburton Physical Activity Strategy and from this meeting a decision was made to progress and complete the Ashburton District Walking and Cycling Strategy. Stakeholder workshops have been arranged in February and March.

7.12.7 Road Toll

The national road toll for 2007 was 423, which was 30 more than the previous year. In Ashburton District, there were six fatalities, which was an increase from the four fatalities recorded in 2006.

R S ROUSE
Operations Manager

**RECYCLING MATERIALS TRANSPORTED OFF-SITE INCLUDING
IN THE MONTHS OF NOVEMBER '07 TO JANUARY '08**

Month	Cardbd (tonne)	Paper (t)	Metal cans (t)	Alum cans (t)	Batt. (t)	Recycl metals (t)	Plastic Film (t)	PET plastics (t)	HDPE plastic (t)	Glass (t)	Re- usables (t)	Waste oil (litres)
Tot 02/3	616.50	500.90	44.38	9.821	2.99	4.992		39.178	22.208	302.38	66.53	7,420
Tot 03/ 4	743.74	624.67	48.42	12.63	1.745	19.129		39.293	28.485	416.80	174.74	
Tot 04/05	395.459	601.708	65.478	10.939	1.819	96.993		9.716	29.381	475.46	181.906	3,600
Tot 05/06	544.614	848.9	77.248	13.011	7.28	28.253	45.033	49.81	33.641	490.32	482.369	6,691
Tot 06/07	627.067	885.153	53.043	11.598	10.56	80.162	64.991	43.287	51.788	648.65	679.59	8160
Totals from July 07												
July 07	57.856	80.94	4.7	0.1356	0	13.55	3.774	0	0	66.36	42.97	0
Aug 07	52.04	79.06	4.8	0.582	1.6	3.31	20.706	0	0	40.7	77.609	2150
Sep 07	43.6	80.24	4.68	1.053	0.98	10.1	32.26	0	0	59.22	92.005	0
Oct 07	59.54	80.46	0	0.649	0	8.95	10.74	0	0	77.52	75.88	0
Nov 07	57.52	104.14	14.84	0.893	2.445	13.61	3.6	0	0	92.9	81.15	2300
Dec 07	47.5	102.04	3.28	1.097	0	9.861	52.312	18.6	8.948	76.62	80.107	0
Jan 07												
Tot 07/08 to date	318.06	526.88	32.3	4.41	5.03	59.38	123.4	18.6	8.9	413.3	449.72	1960.03

The recycling tonnages for November and December 2007 are 371.098 & 400.365 tonnes respectively.

Note 1: Products are only weighed when transported off-site.

Residual Waste Volumes – Kate Valley

<u>Month</u>	Transported 07/08	Transported 06/07	Transported 05/06	Transported 04/05	Transported 03/04	Transported 02/03	Transported 01/02
July	627	611	616	528	532	502	507
August	682	680	665	538	536	434	541
September	605	605	581	615	600	499	480
October	691	652	586	618	637	522	568
November	693	696	649	701	606	529	678
December	626	696	716	722	693	628	656
January		713	619	670	621	554	781
February		610	627	602	640	558	589
March		718	668	670	675	554	573
April		618	562	668	595	579	566
May		721	690	677	582	565	567
June		576	558	600	525	499	486
Annual Total	3924	7895	7,537	7609	7,242	6,423	6,992

Budget for contracts	\$785,550	7,879 tonnes
Contract to Oct 2007 (transport and disposal)	\$391,520	3924 tonnes
Projected expenditure and tonnages 30 June 2008	\$802,616	8044 tonnes