

REPORT and MINUTES of a meeting of the **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton, on Thursday 22 April 2010, 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, J Burgess, J A Everest, K L Holmes, K W P Lowe and P W Reveley.

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

Three members of the public attended.

APOLOGY: Cr R C Beavan (absence)

Sustained

Confirmation of Minutes

"That the minutes of the Operations Committee meeting held on 11 March 2010, be taken as read and confirmed."

Lowe/Leadley

Carried

Matters Arising

Minor improvements – Hinds Lismore Rd

The Roading Contracts Engineer reported that work has commenced to mitigate flooding with one culvert now installed. Confirmation is awaited that the irrigation company's resource consent allows for additional discharge into the race. Mr MacPherson said that non-return valve will be installed and that section of the race will discharge into the river using an existing swale.

Leak detection

The Water Services Manager advised that repair work won't be undertaken until the consultant's full report has been submitted, however reports of high quantity leaks are being addressed as soon as they are advised. Mr Guthrie said that leaks are mainly a result of fitting failures rather than pipes. The cyclic renewal programme has taken this issue into account with our focus on the replacement of the old cast iron pipelines which have shown to have a poorer performing jointing system.

Public conveniences

Replacement of the existing floor surface in the East St toilets has been investigated, however the high cost (around \$10,000) resulted in an alternative solution being sought. It is proposed to trial a new cleaning device, such as a dri-vac or steam mop, to keep the floor surface dry.

Solid Waste Management Contracts

- Tender Evaluation Process And Evaluation Team

- "1. That a tender evaluation team be formed comprising the Operations Manager and Councillors Lowe, Leadley, Holmes and Tasker; and
2. That solid waste management contract be evaluated using the Quality Price Trade-off method."

Brown Reveley

Carried

The Chief Executive attended the meeting at 1.37 pm.

Vehicle Dimensions and Mass Rule

The Operations Manager reported on the proposed changes to the Land Transport Rule : vehicle dimensions and mass limits. The amended rule will come into effect on 1 May 2010.

This matter was discussed at the Regional Land Transport meeting last week. It is proposed that a technical officers' workshop will be held in the region within the next fortnight and likely that councils in the region will develop similar rules.

Mr Rouse explained that the Rule will permit road controlling authorities to issue permits for high productivity vehicles, up to 20 metres in length, to operate above 44 tonnes on specified routes. He said the intention is that trucks will increase their loads, maximising available capacity on their decks.

Mr Rouse confirmed that Council will be looking to protect the local roading network by first determining where the greatest need for an overweight route is. It's not intended to assess the whole network and existing heavy traffic routes, where they intersect the state highways, will be looked at first. Permit applications will be addressed on a case by case basis. It was noted that the legislation is unclear on the right of appeal if a permit is declined.

Cr Tasker reported that a meeting of the NZ Road Transport Association will be held in Ashburton next month where Council's concerns will be raised.

The Operations Manager was asked to contact NZTA to get an indication of the Agency's roading priority and proposed timeframe for approving the state highway network, including bridges, in this district. Mr Rouse will also convey Council's expectation that the 47% subsidy will increase to correspond with the increased number of heavy vehicles.

"That the report be received".

Leadley/Lowe

Carried

Activity Reports

"That the reports be received."

Lowe/Everest

Carried

Financials

Financial reports for the period 1/07/09 to 28/02/10 were received.

- Mill Creek bank stabilisation may not be completed this year – possibly 2-3 weeks into new year. The tender award will be reported to Council on 20 May with the expectation that site possession will take place the following week and work to be completed in mid July.
- Roading – conditions permitting the full budget will be expended.
- Future reports will include a summary of the grouped water supplies (urban & township schemes).

Ashburton Business Estate

The financial summary included the costs associated with the subdivision of Lot 24 – work that was in addition to that approved. It was noted that the business estate remains a separate cost centre and costs associated with the development do not affect rates.

2nd Bridge

The Operations Manager reported on the consultation undertaken to date which has included a public meeting in the Tinwald Hall and three 'open days' at the Masonic Hall. Mr Rouse reported that as a result of these meetings, Council has contracted an independent service provider to carry out a social impact assessment.

They interviewed 40 people over three days with results showing similar concerns and questions to those raised at the public meeting. They will now look more closely at the likely impact of the bridge proposal on the preferred site and other sites.

The project has also been discussed in more detail with the Transport Agency (NZTA). The Agency's primary focus is the Transportation Study which identifies a range of projects, including the proposed 2nd bridge. Council will be asking NZTA to clearly state their position to the community.

Mr Rouse said that NZTA have suggested the formation of a reference group to progress the project and Councillors agreed to this approach. The Mayor asked for more detail on the alternative options for the siting of a second bridge, including the potential for a bypass that would divert from the Tinwald saleyards to the Council owned land east of Grove Street. More detail was also sought on the cost of Council's second preferred bridge option (linking Chalmers Ave to the east of Tinwald).

The Committee recommended that a summary of the questions that have been raised throughout the public consultation be forwarded to NZTA.

"That the NZ Transport Agency representatives be invited to make a presentation on the second bridge proposal at the Council meeting on 20 May."

Mayor/Brown

Carried

State highway work

Cr Brown sought clarification on whether Rail is required to notify Council when they are closing roads for maintenance work. The Roading Contracts Engineer advised that in most situations, the rail corridor has precedent and Rail has the ability to close a crossing, usually with notice given three days ahead.

The Operations Manager was asked to make the state highway authority aware of Council's concerns at the number of traffic delays experienced this week, particularly in Rakaia where traffic has reportedly been held up for periods exceeding 20-25 minutes.

General maintenance

Taking into account the limited budget available for maintenance metalling, the Committee asked that the roads identified for this work be clearly marked to ensure priorities are met.

Street cleaning

Council's street cleaning contractor will be asked to focus on clearing broken glass which is continuing to be a significant problem. A number of representations have been received from cyclists and mobility scooter drivers reporting punctures. Where possible, the litter bylaw will be enforced.

Traffic services

The Committee received a report on the routine maintenance of road signs and traffic services carried out over the past six months and was disappointed to note that the cost for this work exceeded \$100,000. It was noted that willful damage has been the main contributor with most signs left in an unserviceable condition.

The Committee adjourned for afternoon tea at 2.47 pm and resumed at 2.59 pm.

Minor improvements

The Committee requested further information on the roads which have been included in the minor improvements programme. A schedule will be circulated to councillors.

Mayfield private bore testing

Further testing of the supply is to be carried out, due to commence next month.

Mt Somers water supply investigations

The Water Services Manager reported that the well drillers were delayed, however work is to commence today.

Sewer pipelines renewal

Completion date is anticipated at the end of next week. The Water Services Manager advised that a request to extend the contract is likely to be received and it's understood that the contractors are applying additional resources to meet the contract timeframe.

Septage disposal

Access to the Wilkins Road site was reactivated last week, however further problems have arisen with the computer entry code failing again this morning.

Ocean Farm

The Farm Subcommittee conducted a site visit on 13 April and observed that one cell in the replanted wetland area has not established. The problem has been attributed in part to pukeko.

Cr Leadley reported that some improvements have been made to the irrigation system but the well has not yet been put down.

Acton irrigation scheme

Work on the main race is almost complete and water should be reinstated on 15 May. Farmers needing stockwater are currently having it delivered by truck.

Ashburton RRP

The Operations Manager reported that Council's approval will be sought to include provision in the 2010-11 budget a tyre disposal fee.

Rakaia RRP

Cr Brown asked if the information collated for the Rakaia resource recovery park could be expanded.

The Operations Manager explained that the Rakaia facility has no weighbridge and it would be difficult for the volunteers to record and generate that information. Residual waste, which has the most significant cost, is clearly tracked and shows amounts transported to Kate Valley.

Emergency Management

The Chief Executive and Councillors Lowe and Holmes attended a Civil Defence Controllers meeting for the Canterbury region this week. The meeting received presentations on bio-security and the proposed 'Exercise Pandora' for this year which will be based on a tsunami.

Cr Leadley said that it was unfortunate that the Rural Emergency Relief Trust had not been invited to take part in the CD Controllers meeting and suggested that they be included in the future. There is now a national rural relief organisation which is currently meeting its responsibilities by assisting farmers in drought areas. The Ashburton Rural Emergency Relief Trust will be holding its next meeting in the Council Chamber on 4 May.

Road Safety

It was reported that the NZTA has asked Council to review its projects to meet the Agency's priority criteria. This will impact on some projects that Council has always been involved with such as cycle safety, walking / pedestrians, and fatigue. The recidivist drink driving programme may also be dropped and other funding options are being sought.

Contracts awarded

Information was on the three contracts awarded in the reporting period.

Barrhill-Rakaia Stockwater Race-Closure

Note: This matter is the subject of a stand-alone report to Council.

"That the Water Subcommittee recommends to Council that the special consultative procedure be commenced to close the stockwater race commencing from a junction near Accommodation Road on Lot 1 DP 23885, running parallel to Rakaia Barrhill Methven Road, and terminating below Baker Road on Lot 14 DP 1017."

Reveley/Brown

Carried

Buttericks Road Stockwater Race Closure

Cr Leadley withdrew from discussion / decision

Note: This matter is the subject of a stand-alone report to Council.

"That the Water Subcommittee recommends to Council that the special consultative procedure be commenced to close the stockwater race running from a junction at CT 295368 to where it ceases at the coastline on Lot 26 DP 289."

Lowe/Everest

Carried

Business transacted with the public excluded (3.43 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:
9	Confirmation of minutes 11/03/10 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Service delivery procurement review [now in open meeting] <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2nd bridge (Ashburton River)	Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Piped scheme proposal [now in open meeting] <ul style="list-style-type: none">• EA/BCI Ltd request to use stockwater race	Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities

Lowe/Holmes

Carried

There being no resolutions passed the Committee resumed in open meeting and concluded at 3.48 pm.