

R E P O R T	TO	MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS
	FROM	CHIEF EXECUTIVE
	FILE REF	391395
	PORTFOLIO HOLDER	N/A
	DATE	27 FEBRUARY 2008
	SUBJECT	FEBRUARY 2008 MONTHLY REPORT

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be received

1. STAFF

Since my last report it has been a busy period with staff recruitment as a number of staff have moved on into different fields both internally and externally.

Kelly Peacock was internally promoted to the Accounts Payable/Receivable Officer position following the transfer of Raewyn Green into the Customer Services role in early January.

A fixed term employee, Cheryl Geritsen, was successful in obtaining a permanent placement as Corporate Services Officer which was previously held by Kelly.

Craig Lamacroft and William Grice have been appointed to fixed term positions as Engineering Assistant and Driver/Operator respectively to cover workload in the engineering and Construction and Maintenance fields.

The 12-month fixed position of Strategic Planner, to cover for a period of maternity leave, has been filled by Garry Towler, who has previously worked for Council on a contract basis.

An offer of employment has been recently made for the Utilities Manager position and it is hopeful that we will have filled this key role.

We have not been successful with the Planning and Environmental Services Manager position, however, with a second recruitment drive failing to result in a successful placement despite best endeavours. Other recruitment options are now being considered.

Jobs currently being advertised and closing shortly include the Utilities Engineer and Business Unit Support Officer.

An attempt to recruit an Engineering Cadet to replace Maxine Strydom who left late last year and Jerome Kimura who leaves shortly has failed to attract any suitable candidates.

Michelle Matich has returned from a period of parental leave into a permanent part-time position of Consents Officer – Processing within the Planning and Environmental Services team, and Ingrid Barratt has been offered a permanent position also within this team following her fixed term experience as Consents Officer – Processing while Michelle was on leave.

2. PUBLIC MEETING REGARDING RMA PROCESS FOR PIT EXPANSION

Following approaches to the Mayor and the Waihi Ward Councillors by many members of the public seeking clarification of what the RMA process will be for the possible expansion of the Martha pit a decision was made to place information on the expansion in the Waihi Leader and to follow this up with a public meeting on Tuesday 4th March 2008 in the Waihi Memorial Hall. The public meeting will commence at 7:00pm.

The purpose of the public meeting is to provide details of the process that the Council is required to follow in accordance with the Resource Management Act 1991, and in particular that part of the process that provides for those affected or interested in the matter to be heard.

A copy of the article that was placed in the Waihi Leader is attached for the members information.

3. WAIHI HAZARD ASSESSMENT UPDATE

This report is provided to give an update on the status of the review that is being carried out on the Waihi Underground Mine Workings Hazard Assessment.

In August 2002 GNS Science prepared a report on the Waihi Underground Mine workings and presented the results of a hazard assessment that they had carried out. As a result of this hazard assessment zones of low, medium and high hazard were identified. Within the high and medium hazard zones the risk for residential land use was considered too high and a community solution was developed that enabled property owners to move from these areas.

In 2006 Council requested that a review of this hazard assessment be carried out. The reasons for the review were:

- The initial hazard assessment did not consider areas within the boundary of the mine site. With the impending closure of the mine and the plans to have areas of public parkland around the proposed pit lake it was necessary to extend the hazard assessment to these areas.
- During the excavation of the open pit observations had been made of sinkhole formations and it was considered appropriate to review the initial assumptions regarding sinkhole formation against the observed sinkholes.
- With the District Plan Review starting it was considered necessary to confirm the societal risk within the hazard zones for other uses aside from residential use, e.g. passive or active recreation.
- To comment on the subsidence and cracking that was being observed in the upper section of Seddon Street near the poppet head and millennium wall.

GNS have undertaken this revised hazard assessment and have presented their preliminary findings to the Underground Technical Working Party. In summary the preliminary findings are:

- The methodologies used in the initial assessment regarding void migration are appropriate and can be tested deterministically in the places where sink-holes have occurred.
- The same void migration calculation methods have been used for deriving the probability of sinkhole collapse over the "Martha" (North Branch, Mary, No. 2 and Martha) stopes.
- The August 2002 GNS report was focused on the risk of sink hole collapses from the Edward South, Royal and Empire lodes and did not fully recognise the possible extent of low hazard, long-term creep movements associated with underground and open pit mining.

- Risk assessment evaluations suggest that vehicle, cycle and pedestrian access is acceptable on roads or tracks established through high sink-hole hazard areas.
- GNS are certain that creep deformations due to both the old underground and the open pit mines will occur in adjacent parts of Waihi. However, without accurate monitoring information it is not possible to determine the extent of this. Accurate ground deformation monitoring is recommended to determine the amount and lateral extent of all the surface movements, and to assess their causes.

GNS have proposed that before they complete their report that they use DInSAR to try and monitor the subsidence deformation that is occurring around Waihi. DInSAR (Differential Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar) users two or more synthetic aperture radar (SAR) images to generate maps of surface deformation. The technique is inexpensive and highly effective in measuring surface deformations with a precision of a few centimetres.

GNS have also indicated that the recent observation of weaker ground in the upper benches of the southern stability cut should be considered in their assessment with particular reference to the cracking that has been observed in upper Seddon Street.

Discussions are currently being held with GNS to determine the cost of the DInSAR monitoring and to determine an appropriate time for them to visit Waihi to look at information that Newmont Waihi Operations has on the weaker ground observed in the southern cutback.

It is appreciated that the completion of the hazard assessment review is taking longer than anticipated. This has primarily been as a result of Council resources being focused on other activities. Following further discussion with GNS a programme for the completion of the hazard assessment will be presented to the Council.

4. PROPOSED REGIONAL PLAN – PROPOSED VARIATION No 6 – WATER ALLOCATION

Included in the agenda are copies of the submissions that were made by the Mayor and Dave Burton to the Environment Waikato Hearings Committee on the above matter. A further submission was made by the Chief Executive on Monday 25 February 2008. A copy of this further submission is attached for the members information. Appendix B –Councils Water Supply Bylaw is not included with the attached document.



Langley Cavers
Chief Executive