

**26. 8. 98**

**CITY SERVICES COMMITTEE  
18 AUGUST 1998**

**A special meeting of the City Services Committee  
was held on Tuesday 18 August 1998 at 12 noon**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Denis O'Rourke (Chairman),  
Councillors Carole Anderton, David Close,  
Carole Evans, Ian Howell and Ron Wright.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillor Pat Harrow.

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies for absence were received and accepted  
from the Mayor, Councillors David Buist,  
Graham Condon and Garry Moore.

Councillor Close retired at 1.50 pm.

Councillors Howell and Wright retired at 2.00 pm.

Councillor Carole Evans retired at 2.35 pm.

The Committee reports that:

**PART A - MATTERS REQUIRING A COUNCIL DECISION**

**1. MANUAL FOR THE DESIGN OF WATERWAYS, WETLANDS  
AND DRAINAGE**

RR 8278

<b>Officer responsible</b> Water Services Manager	<b>Author</b> Ken Couling
Corporate Plan Output: Waterways & Wetlands (Vol 3 Ch 9.3)	

The purpose of this report is to introduce Council members to the new draft design manual for waterways, wetlands and drainage and seek Council support for publication of a new manual. The Committee meeting on 13 August resolved to hold a special meeting to consider the report.

Since the late 1980s the philosophy underpinning the management of waterways, wetlands and drains within Christchurch has changed dramatically. During the past 10 years events such as local government reform, enactment of the Resource Management Act 1991, formation of the Waterways & Wetlands section within the Water Services Unit and

City Services 18.8.98

- 2 -

**1 Cont'd**

integration of open space planning through the recent CLAS review have impacted on waterways and wetlands management. Each of these developments has accelerated the change in management for waterways and wetlands away from a utilitarian approach within which drainage values were paramount to an approach within which Christchurch's surface water environment is managed as a natural asset possessing a range of values. We now recognise that ecological, landscape, recreation, heritage, cultural and drainage values all need to be considered in planning, design and development.

The existing Drainage Design Manual (last edited in 1986) reflects the outdated utilitarian approach which was to pipe open drains and prescribe waterway capacity criteria. This manual no longer reflects current City Council practice, which now emphasises waterway restoration, integrated urban design and community partnerships (including takata whenua), in the context of the six values mentioned above.

A multi-discipline project team comprising Water Services and City Design staff and external environmental and takata whenua specialists has worked over the last 12 months to produce the new draft "Manual for the Design of Waterways, Wetlands and Drainage" which will be tabled at the meeting. The new draft manual prescribes an integrated design process in contrast to the old specific design criteria. Existing drainage criteria are retained where appropriate.

The new manual will replace the existing one within the "Code of Practice for Urban Subdivision" which is a companion set of documents under the aegis of the City Plan. It will be used extensively by consulting landscape architects, engineers and other developers' agents as well as City Council design staff. Its innovative content is expected to generate interest within other New Zealand district and regional councils as well.

The process leading to publication of the new manual prior to Christmas this year is:

1. Consultation with and feedback from Council units, Canterbury Regional Council, design consultants, developers, environmental groups and takata whenua until 31 August.
2. Editing and desktop publishing until mid October.
3. Publication and distribution in December.

26. 8. 98

**City Services 18.8.98**

- 3 -

**1 Cont'd**

Copies of the draft manual were available to Councillors at the special meeting and a copy is tabled at today's meeting. Council officers and members of the working party outlined to Committee members the process adopted in the preparation of the draft manual. A multi-disciplinary approach had been taken. The draft manual first distributed in October last year has been referred to end users for comment.

Committee members raised issues of safety (both for children and public health) and landscape issues.

The proposed policy of native plantings with provision for exotic plants in certain circumstances was debated. The document is to be reviewed in the light of the Council's natural environment strategy which is being developed.

A tour of sites which have been developed will be arranged early in the term of the next Council.

**Recommendation:** That the Council adopt in principle the draft "Manual for the Design of Waterways, Wetlands and Drainage", subject to the subsequent adoption of the natural environment strategy and planting plan.

The meeting concluded at 2.50 pm

**CONSIDERED THIS 26TH DAY OF AUGUST 1998**

**MAYOR**