

26. CLEANING UP AFTER THE STORM

Officer responsible City Manager	Author Mike Richardson
Corporate Plan Output: Various	

While there is no detailed information to hand the purpose of this report is to provide some information as to the implications of the storm and its clean-up. Cleaning up the visual aspects of the storm is likely to take some two weeks although fully dealing with its immediate effects will take more like four weeks.

Currently priority is being given to clean-up in the streets and ensuring the safety of property and life from any trees which pose a threat. Extra resources will be put into cleaning up silt and other debris from streets in Sumner, Redcliffs and the Heathcote Valley over the next few days. There has been major damage to a retaining wall on Evans Pass Road. The focus will shift to the city's parks later this week. In addition to removing trees and branches which have blown down, there will also be an intense programme of inspecting remaining trees some of which will be standing but may be unsafe and prone to fall during the next high winds. This means that there will be felling of trees on streets and parks in the city over the next month.

Councillors will be aware that a discount down to \$5 per trailer was offered for green waste at the transfer stations over the last weekend and this will be extended through to the end of next weekend (ie, to end of refuse station business on Sunday 22 October).

Council staff are currently looking at ways of facilitating the clean-up of trees which may have blown down in people's gardens. Many will have been cleared this last weekend but significant numbers are remaining where householders are unable themselves or do not have access to equipment to remove damaged trees. We are aware of a great deal of community and neighbourly goodwill with family, friends and neighbours helping one another with clean-up. In the first instance we are looking at offering a co-ordination service through our telephone customer centres to put householders who have a need for help in touch with neighbours or groups who are willing to assist. It may become appropriate for the Council to commit some resources directly to this clean-up of private land, but the extent and likely areas of need are still not clear. Much of the clean-up and damage on private land is unlikely to be covered by insurance as it relates to land not buildings.

Several hundred logged calls will require sorting, field inspection in many cases and decision as to the nature of responsibility for the reported problem and the programming of Council action where there is clearly a local authority role. This will take some months to clear and will inevitably put pressure on funds available for both maintenance and capital drainage work. This can be part of a fuller report.

At this stage it is not possible to estimate the additional cost to the City Council of the storm event. A best guess figure for clean-up and additional maintenance would be \$800,000. Please note this reflects the experience of our seasoned managers. It is not based on hard information.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Council facilitate the clean-up by providing co-ordination between householders requesting help and groups offering it.
 2. That the City Manager be authorised to approve such additional assistance and costs as are necessary to ensure the clean-up and rehabilitation of the city.

Chairman's Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.