

6. PROPOSED CHANGES TO DRAFT WATER AND SANITARY SERVICES ASSESSMENT

General Manager responsible:	General Manager City Environment
Officer responsible:	City Water and Waste Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to table the amendments recommended by the Hearings Panel established to hear submissions on the Draft Water and Sanitary Services Assessment dated May 2005. This report seeks to have the draft assessments adopted by the Council subject to the amendments detailed in Appendix A and B attached to this report. The assessment covers the following water and sanitary services: water supply, wastewater, stormwater drainage, cemeteries and crematoria and sanitary conveniences. The Water & Sanitary Services Assessment has not been compiled as a comprehensive assessment of environmental values and issues facing the Council, but has been developed primarily to assess public health impacts in areas covered by this assessment in the Christchurch City area.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Local Government Act 2002 requires territorial local authorities to carry out an assessment for water and sanitary services in accordance with sections 123-129 of the Act by 30 June 2005. Although we will not meet this date, advice from Legal Services is that as long as we continue as quickly as is reasonably possible, this is extremely unlikely to be considered as a significant breach of the Act. The major objective of the requirement to undertake the assessments is to ensure future demand for services can be met and that public health is protected. The assessment covers services defined by section 25(1)(a), (b), (c), (d), (h), and (i) of the Health Act 1956 namely:
 - Waterworks
 - Drainage works, sewerage works and works for disposal of sewage
 - Works for the collection and disposal of refuse, nightsoil and other offensive matter
 - Cemeteries and crematoria
 - Sanitary services for the use of the public
3. As this Council had adopted a waste management plan under part 31 of the Local Government Act 1974 it is not required to undertake an assessment of works for the collection and disposal of refuse, nightsoil and other offensive matter.
4. A Special Consultative Procedure was followed between 29 April 2005 and 30 May 2005 to invite submissions on the draft assessments published in late April 2005. The Council received 36 submissions. Ten submitters asked to be heard by the Hearings Panel comprising Councillors Cox (Chairperson), Sheriff and Wells. Submitters were heard on 27 July 2005.
5. Information on key findings and options to meet demand have been presented to the Council through a seminar and detailed information is provided in the draft assessment for each area. The Special Consultative Procedure process has identified a number of changes in wording in the draft assessments. These changes are detailed in Appendix A. Appendix B details the preferred and recommended options from the draft reports modified as necessary from the consultative procedure. Budgetary and level of service impacts have also been detailed for each assessment area in the tables in Appendix B.
6. In terms of this report the preferred option is for the Council to accept this report and thereby adopt the Draft Water and Sanitary Services Assessment dated May 2005 modified by wording changes in Appendix A and recommended and preferred options detailed in Appendix B.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

7. The various assessments consider several options and, where practicable and sufficient information is available, these have been evaluated in terms of their estimated financial impact. Detailed financial information is not available on all options but work will be completed on these options by the Units responsible in time for the 2006-16 LTCCP process following adoption of these assessments.
8. The Council is required under part 7 (Sections 124-125, 127-129) of the Local Government Act 2002 to carry out an assessment of water and sanitary services within its district. Sections 83 to 89 of the Local Government Act set out the requirements in respect of the Special Consultative Procedure to be followed. These requirements have been met in finalising this report. The individual assessments also consider the requirements of the other pertinent legislation relating to each service and this information is contained in the assessment documents. Some of the recommended and preferred options may require future changes to existing regulations and bylaws to enable implementation. Any changes to existing regulations and bylaws will be signalled by the Units responsible for delivery of the service in a timely manner to allow implementation of the works recommended by this assessment and approved through the LTCCP process.
9. Appendix B details recommended and preferred options for works to improve the quality of the city's waterways. There are significant costs identified in implementing these works and this work will need to be considered in the context of the entire capital works programme proposed under the 2006-16 LTCCP.
10. The Local Government Act 2002 required the adoption of this assessment by 30 June 2005. This is a technical breach of an obligation imposed on the Council by the Local Government Act. Delays in presenting the final report have been associated with the unavailability of members of the Hearings Panel owing to ill health. Given the aforementioned technical breach of the Act with regard to timing of the adoption of the Water and Sanitary Services Assessment it is recommended that this paper and the draft assessment be adopted by the Council as soon as possible.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- (a) The Council receive the findings of the Hearings Panel as summarised in Appendix A and B of this report.
- (b) The Council adopt the Draft Water and Sanitary Services Assessment dated May 2005 modified by the wording changes detailed in Appendix A and the recommended and preferred options as detailed in Appendix B of this report.
- (c) The Council note that significant costs will be incurred in implementing all the preferred options and that recommendations on these will need to be considered in the 2006/16 LTCCP.
- (d) Following adoption by the Council, the Environmental Diversity and Liveable City Portfolio Groups be requested to reflect on the options set out in Appendix B and report back to the Council during its planning process for the 2006/016 LTCCP.
- (e) That through its policy review process, the Council consider whether it has adequate policy statements with respect to the environmental values of the city's water assets.

ASSESSMENT OF OPTIONS

The Preferred Option

Is for the Council to receive the changes to the draft assessment as detailed in Appendix A and Appendix B of this paper and to adopt the Draft Water and Sanitary Services Assessment dated May 2005 as amended by the changes detailed in Appendices A and B to this report.

	Benefits (current and future)	Costs (current and future)
Social	Preparation of assessments enables community input to future service provision. Some of the assessments will have a direct impact on ensuring future social needs are met.	None identified.
Cultural	Some of the assessments will have a direct impact on ensuring cultural needs are met particularly in terms of providing for specific cultural requirements.	May be additional costs in meeting cultural requirements (e.g. cemeteries).
Environmental	The assessments have a requirement to focus on the environment. The key focus is deemed to be protection of public health.	Significant additional costs have been identified in the environmental protection of waterways.
Economic	Will provide improved long term financial information on future service and infrastructural requirements	Some assessment options have identified some additional infrastructural costs.

Extent to which community outcomes are achieved:

Primary alignment with community outcome: *“Our city’s infrastructure and environment are managed effectively, are responsive to changing needs and focus on long term sustainability.”*

Impact on Council’s capacity and responsibilities:

Assessment has identified the need for future capacity requirements with associated capital works and operational expenditure. These requirements will be fed into the 06-16 LTCCP process.

Effects on Maori:

Maori will have a strong interest particularly in terms of protection of water and land from contamination. Maori have been consulted with throughout the formulation of the assessments and during the Special Consultative Procedure.

Consistency with existing Council policies:

Consistent with LGA requirements and the Council’s consultation guidelines.

Views and preferences of persons affected or likely to have an interest:

The results of initial consultation carried out with some assessments is detailed in the individual assessments. The Medical Officer of Health’s comments have been received and incorporated into the assessments where applicable.

Other relevant matters:

A Special Consultative Procedure process has been utilised by the Council to obtain submissions from the public and affected parties in compliance with the requirements of the LGA 2002