

SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL

18 MARCH 2020

AGENDA ITEM NO

URGENT PROCUREMENT OF STANDBY GENERATORS FOR KEY WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Purpose of Report

To inform Councillors of the need, and associated costs, to urgently procure standby generators to maintain power supply to key water infrastructure in the event of power outages.

Recommendation

Officers recommend that the Council:

- 1. consider the report on an unbudgeted capex delegation limit item. The item was not on the agenda as the extent of the urgent need for local standby power generation was only clearly identified during the regional power outage on the 12th March 2020.*

1. Executive Summary and Background

The treatment and distribution of water and wastewater is reliant on continuous power supply and recent unplanned power outages have demonstrated that SWDC infrastructure is not sufficiently resilient to cope with such outages. As a result, Wellington Water were tasked with urgently sourcing standby, transportable power generators to resolve this issue.

2. Discussion

2.1 Sourcing standby generators

During the regional power outage on the 12th March 2020, Wellington Water were unable to source enough power generators to meet the demand of the SWDC water and wastewater networks. This was as a result of significant area covered by the outage.

There is currently very little buffering (storage) in either the drinking water or wastewater systems in the South Wairarapa to meet sustained demand during such an outage. While plans were in place to resolve both the power and storage issues through future Council investment, it is recommended that the provision of standby

generators is brought forward to reduce Council risk. Further investment is currently planned to address the buffering in our systems.

Using their existing contracts for generator procurement, Wellington Water have identified the most appropriate and cost-effective solution to meet our needs for standby generator provision.

This comprises the supply of:

- A prime (110 kva), and a standby (100kva), trailer-mountable generators,
- A smaller (8.5kva) generator for use at smaller utility sites,
- A 3500kg trailer,
- Associated fittings and sockets, and
- Installation and commissioning of the above equipment.

2.2 Legal Implications

The equipment is being sourced by Wellington Water as an urgent requirement through existing contracts and is compliant with procurement policies.

2.3 Financial Considerations

The cost of the equipment is \$131,500 (ex GST). As this amount exceeds the CEO's unbudgeted capex delegation limit, Council approval is required.

2.4 Other

With the ongoing constraints on international trade caused by the Covid-19 outbreak it is currently unclear exactly when the equipment will be supplied and installed. Work continues with Wellington Water to expedite the equipment supply and ensure interim power supply is available until the equipment is installed.

3. Conclusion

The risk of interruption to water supply (or overflows from wastewater infrastructure) is high without having contingent power supply available for operators to use in the event of a power outage. The investment in generators, outlined above, is considered necessary to reduce risk of such interruptions.

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