

## Update from the Partnerships and Operations Group

---

### Roading Services

In roading services, we are navigating some changes to our operating environment. We have recently submitted our views on behalf of Council on the Government's draft GPS land transport (the GPS). Our submission expresses in principle support for the direction being taken in the GPS, especially in relation to the emphasis on safety, resilience, and maintenance. We also supported the two recommendations made by LGNZ on System Reform and Savings from Temporary Traffic Management.

The Government is also currently consulting on a draft Investment Prioritisation Method (which directs how to decide what categories of activity are funded and prioritised in Regional Land Transport Plans).

Against this backdrop of significant policy change, we are negotiating our 2024/27 Land Transport Plan with Waka Kotahi. This process has been going well with successful inspections taken place of our network by Waka Kotahi officials. Underpinning our budgets proposal is a draft Asset Management Plan - that is also being discussed with our funding partner. We are unsure of the eventual policy outcomes and are watching carefully for any impact on our operations, including possible shifts in funding decisions.

Another recent development has been our decision, made jointly with CDC, to submit our draft Speed Management Plan (SMP) for approval to the Director of Land Transport. If approved, that will let Council begin implementing our SMP, beginning with areas that are unlikely to be affected by possible policy changes.

The Chief Executives of SWDC and CDC have recently endorsed the conclusion of a contract rollover with Fulton Hogan for a further three years. A Notice to Contractor confirming the rollover and its terms and conditions was signed on 5 March. Several changes have been made to improve contract performance, including the creation of "find and fix" provisions that will increase the ability of teams to identify and remedy faults immediately and in groups. We have re-negotiated unit rates to create "bundled" efficiencies in some areas of the contract delivery. Improvements to communication and governance reporting have also been made. The contract is subject to an Annual Review. Overall, we think customers will notice positive changes in our contract delivery moving forward.

In operations, the Ruamāhanga Roads team have completed a busy month with programmed work and projects being completed around the district. We have recently opened the Hinekura Road to all traffic and a celebration of the opening was held with the Hinekura community on 18 April. The rural team completed the road widening

project along Tora Road. This work involved the cutback of the bank and slip material to widen the road by 2 metres. It is great to see another project completed to improve the resilience of the coastal network. On Cape Palliser Road, we have been completing seawall and road washout repairs at Te Kopi. In March we also completed the curb and channel upgrade on Jellicoe Street in Martinborough.

Budgets are on track to land on target at the end of the FY.

## **Water Services**

### *Martinborough Wastewater Treatment Plant*

WWL have presented the preliminary results of a Martinborough Wastewater Network Growth Study to staff. The good news is that the wastewater network appears to have sufficient capacity for future scenarios allowing us to focus on the capacity requirements of the plant as opposed to the network. At present, the required capacity study for the plant is not funded in the budgeted OPEX under consultation and consideration should be given to adding this during deliberations. An agreed and funded project to increase capacity of the plant is a precursor to allowing new connections.

### *Featherston Wastewater Treatment Plan Consent Project*

In the reporting period 1 December to 31 March 2024 additional environmental monitoring has been undertaken, Wellington Water has progressed concept design, a trial of a DAF pilot plant was completed, and work towards the final s.92 response has been progressed, with results due 31 May 2024. Details can be found on the WWL project page: <https://www.wellingtonwater.co.nz/projects/featherston-wastewater-project/> and the monthly project reports will continue to be emailed to all Elected Members.

Please see attached Wellington Water Limited dashboards for capital and operating programme updates.

## **Amenities**

In amenities we continue to experience material and labour cost pressures which in some cases has led to deferring / phasing works or redesigning works to accommodate outcomes within available budgets. We are seeing slight improvement in contractor availability but this still impacts our procurement processes and completion of works.

Along with MDC and CDC we have commenced a section 17a review for the waste / recycling contract, as per the Local Government Act. This will review the effectiveness of the current contractual arrangements for meeting community needs and inform future contract decisions. Additionally, in the waste / recycling space we continue to work with MDC and CDC, plus other Wellington Councils on the implementation plans for the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP). These plans are intended to be endorsed by the Joint Committee in June to allow activities to commence from 1 July 2024.

We continue to attend the Wairarapa Trail Actions Group with particular interest in the establishment of an incorporated trust that will oversee the implementation of the Five

Towns Trail Master Plan and seek funding for trail development. We are watching with interest the Governments plans for supporting regional infrastructure, including trails.

In operations, the Team are largely focussed on capital investment as outlined in the LTP, along with a number of business-as-usual activities. Of particular note is the recent completion of the exterior painting of the ANZAC Hall which has had a number of positive comments from the community. This not only helps protect a precious community asset but has enhanced what was quite a tired looking exterior. Over the coming months we have a number of capital projects that will be completed.

In addition to the project template (attached) the below are some of the activities we have underway.

#### *Greytown Wheels Park*

The designers have refined the initial concept design and we've also had great input from Papawai Marae into the design. These designs are now being worked through to develop build plans, costs, and associated phasing of the build to accommodate both Council and community investment. The build is scheduled to commence in November.

#### *Green Space in Greytown*

We've been working with representatives from the Greytown Trust Lands Trust, and the Greytown Rugby Club on the best arrangement for the rugby grounds to allow wider community use. The group has made some good progress and look forward to updating the community in due course. The proposed arrangements will see the grounds leased for \$1 per annum. We anticipate this will commence in July.

#### *Parks and Reserves*

- Tree maintenance has been completed at Soldiers Memorial Park (see below images)
- Initial line markings for winter sports clubs completed at all grounds.
- Although dry, the overall condition of sports grounds is looking good at the various locations.



Before



After



### *Pain Farm*

Boundary fencing repairs have been completed in three different locations on the farm, below is one example.



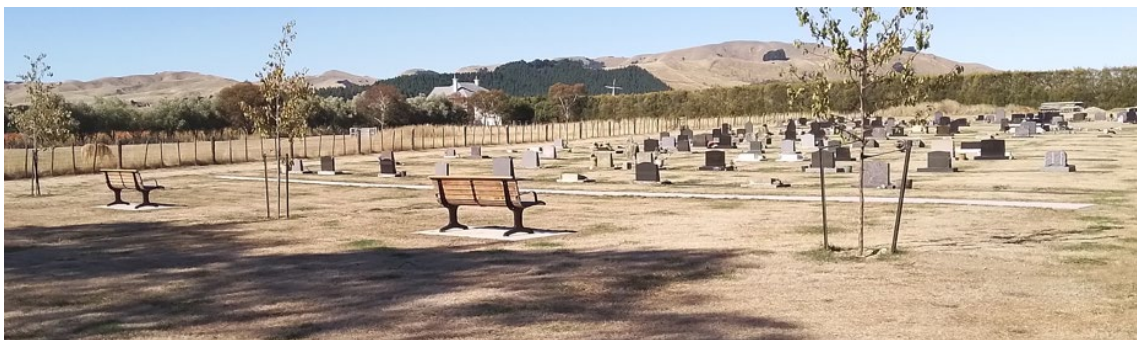
Before



After

### *Cemeteries*

Additional seating has been added to Greytown and Martinborough cemeteries to complement new beams (see below images).



### *Swimming Pools*

The 23-24 swim season finished on Sunday 17 March 2024 and an end of season review was held with CLM to determine maintenance work to be carried out in the off-season. Pool attendance was up approx. 30% on last season, primarily due to contrasting weather conditions. A pool liner has been installed at Martinborough as an alternative to painting as it has a longer life (see image below).



*Lake Ferry Campground*

We have been working with KiwiCamp regarding the compliance related project works at the campground and are happy with progress to date. The majority of the temporary living places (TLP's) that were non-compliant have been moved or modified. Other compliance related projects are on track. We will soon be tendering the campground lease for a 1 July 2024 start of a new lease.

#### *Martinborough Square Reserve Lighting*

We are progressing the remedy of lights within the Martinborough Square reserve to help improve safety of the area at night, in particular during the winter months. Ground scanning was carried out to help determine where the underground faults are to help target repairs works and digging out of fittings. This was an important first step to minimise the disruption to the reserve and the risk of damaging tree roots.

Liaison between the contractor, manufacturer, and the Dark Sky Team has allowed a good understanding of a fit-for-purpose solution. Works will be underway in the week commencing 22 April with expected completion by mid-May.

#### *Greytown Pavilion Rebuild*

We've been working with sports clubs and Presidential Homes on the Greytown Pavilion rebuild. This will see an improved and fit for purpose facility to accommodate the expanding size and needs of the clubs. We are nearing finalisation of construction plans. An innovative approach to this build is an off-site modular build that will be delivered in three modules. This significantly reduces the time the clubs would not have access to the pavilion from 9+ months to just 4 weeks. Depending on the planning process we are aiming for delivery onsite in late July.

#### *Underhill Road (South) Recreation Trail*

We're appreciative of additional central government funding that was approved last year for the development of approximately 2km of a recreation trail along Underhill Road (South) to improve the connection to the current trail that leads onto the Tauwharenikau bridge. Construction is underway with expected completion by the end of May. The below image shows a section under construction that is near the Bucks Road intersection.



**Wairarapa Library Service**

### *Staffing*

The new permanent Wairarapa Library Service Manager commenced her role on 26 February 2024. SWDC branches are continuing to operate on an amended schedule with each site closed one day a week and all sites open until midday Saturday. Tight permanent under-staffing continues to be mitigated through the employment of casual staff.

### *SWDC Library Review*

The SWDC review of the Wairarapa Library Service (WLS) was positively received by the Strategy Working Committee Meeting on 10 April 2024.

### *Spydus 11 Upgrade*

The current focus of WLS is the update of its library management system to Spydus 11. This update is coordinated with SMART consortium partners and system providers CIVICA. The upgrade will go live in early June 2024 and will provide an enhanced platform for staff and patrons.

### *Circulation*

During 1 January to 30 March 2024 a total of 29,411 print items were issued across the WLS network. Of these SWDC branches issued 16,081 print items.

239 new members joined the WLS during 1 January to 30 March 2024 with 138 of these joining at SWDC libraries.

10,763 ebook, audiobook, and emagazine items were borrowed through WLS online platforms and 170 new devices connected to the WLS mobile app during 1 January to 31 March 2024.

### *Programming*

All libraries were busy with activities and events over the 1 January to 31 March period including regular children's sessions of Wā Kōrero, Build with Bricks, and class visits. Community Group Divine River also ran Creativity and Connection workshops for youth in February attended by 51 young people.

The WLS collaboration with Wai Word continues to provide quality author talks and literacy events in its libraries and during March WLS also partnered with Aratoi to bring a pop up museum to the Featherston Library. Further pop up museums will be staged at the remaining WLS sites over 2024.

### *Budget*

The WLS budget is on target for the end of the financial year.