

6.1 Chief Executive report

TO Thames-Coromandel District Council
FROM Rob Williams
DATE 15/04/2021

1 Purpose of report

To provide Council with an update of activities and performance across the organisation for the period to 31 March 2021.

2 Summary

Report Summary

Finance

The financial report for the year to date ended 31 March 2021 is appended to this report (Attachment A).

The executive summary of the report shows that the operating surplus is favourable to Annual Plan budget by \$5.4 million. A budget revision has also been approved indicating a \$1 million improvement on Annual Plan budgets.

The surplus is attributable to the phasing of budgets, increased sales of rubbish bags and increased activity at the transfer stations over the summer period. Additional subsidy has been received from Waka Kotahi for storm damage remediation works and from MBIE for additional cleaning of public conveniences over the summer period with costs expected to offset by year end. Other expenses are favourable to budget mainly due to the phasing of projects in the roading and the coastal & hazard management activities but expenditure in both activities are forecast to catch up by year end.

The capital expenditure summary shows that the capital expenditure programme is behind budget by \$3.9 million largely in the roading and water activities due to the timing of the programme with works being scheduled outside of the holiday period. The programme is on track for 80-85% completion by year end.

The debtors and treasury summary of the report shows rates debtors for March are decreasing as expected with two rates instalments processed and one more to come before year end. Total collectable rates debtors is \$25.6 million, down from \$50.9 million in January.

Council borrowing is within treasury policy limits at 31 March but is no longer compliant with our interest rate policy. This is mainly because the latest long term debt forecasts (2021-2031 LTP) are materially higher than in the previous long term plan. A new interest rate strategy is being developed to remedy this. We are also not compliant in the 0-3 year funding bucket from April 2021. This is because we have not had to borrow to date as much as anticipated. This will be remedied by extending our bank facilities.

Projects

All projects previously reported plus keynote projects:

Ariki Tahī Sugarloaf Wharf

- All technical workstreams for consenting are nearing completion, with the Cultural Impact Assessment to follow once the technical work is available for iwi review.
- Work is in progress to engage a resource management specialist to independently review the draft resource consent application.
- The Construction, Dredging & Disposal Management Plan has been completed, which is a critical input to several of the technical reports to provide detail on volumes and timing of dredged material. Work is underway planning for the Dredging disposal.
- Detailed design and construction methodology is complete.
- Council staff are working with the project team around transition arrangements of operation and management plans for the facility once it is constructed.
- Council have received an opinion from PWC on financial implications around ownership of the current wharf facility, which we are reviewing.
- MBIE have attended a directors meeting and are happy with progress.
- Consent is planned to be lodged in May/June following the independent review being completed.
- Ongoing updates to stakeholders are fortnightly, with updates also going out through our council's communication channels.
- We are awaiting a response from WRC around the funding application to its Regional Growth Fund
- For further information, visit [Tcdc.govt.nz/tearikitahi](https://www.tcdc.govt.nz/tearikitahi)

Kopu Marine and Business Precinct

- The detailed design of civil, landworks and marine facility (including 80m T-head wharf and commercial slipway and recreational boat ramp) is complete.
- Awaiting a response from the government to our fast-track consent application. Statutory consultation is complete and now awaiting a recommendation from the Environmental Protection Association. A decision on the fast track consent application is expected June/July.
- We've had a number of high-quality submissions to our Registration of Interest for construction and civil works. A closed tender process will proceed in May/June.
- Depending on the outcome of the consent decision, construction is planned for November. This timeframe has slipped slightly due to waiting on the fast-track consent decision outcome.
- An Operations Management Plan is being developed to look at how the facility will be managed and operated.
- Ongoing stakeholder and public awareness through regular updates via our council communication channels.
- For further information, visit www.tcdc.govt.nz/kopumarineprecinct

Thames Spatial Plan

A separate report will be included with the May Council order paper.

Long Term Plan

Submissions on the Consultation Document closed on Monday 12 April. We have received approximately 1800 submissions as of Tuesday, 13 April 2021. The exact number will not be known until all submissions have been entered into Council's information management

system.

We will continue to receive late submissions, too, which will add to the number.

Hearings are scheduled over three days from 5 – 7 May.

Communications Campaigns Feb - April

Long Term Plan – results of the communications campaign

- There were 3831 visits to our LTP consultation webpage and a further 591 people read LTP articles from our website.
- 69,314 people were reached through our Facebook posts/video presentations with 178 comments and 48 shares of our posts.
- We held three online forums that had a total of 251 views on YouTube and reached a total of 5802 people through our Facebook page.
- We sent out 10 e-newsletters and 10,086 people opened these media releases.
- We ran 42 paid newspaper ads during the consultation period, in the 10 local community papers.
- A total of 279 ads were played on the 4 local radio stations.
- We had an additional 20 radio interviews with Councillors and Community Board Chairs who promoted the LTP in their local radio slots.
- Mayor Sandra and 3 group managers went around the district over one weekend to meet with communities over a “cup of tea.” 79 people attended in total.
- Staff and Whangamatā elected members attended a Grey Power meeting, which they were invited to, to talk over the LTP. Around 150 people attended.
- For further information, visit Tcdc.govt.nz/2021longtermplan

Water metres

- Staff are working with our contractors Veolia to get the initial locating works underway, with local residents being informed by letter drop when we are about to start in Whitianga and then moving to Whangamatā next year.
- We’re also finalising contract documents for the water meter supply and install contract that will be going out for open tender, which will be advertised through our communication and other relevant platforms.
- Information and FAQs are on our web project page, and regular updates are being published in local newspapers and through our communication channels. Visit Tcdc.govt.nz/watermeters.

Peak population survey

The results of our peak population data for the 2020-2021 summer period (26 December 2020 - 6 January 2021) have now been collated. We conduct a peak population study every 3-5 years, with information available to monitor the impact that the summer population has on existing and future infrastructure and services including water, sewerage, roads and parks and reserves. This helps us to plan and make informed decisions regarding the services it provides.

The main findings are that the peak population day was 31 December 2020, with cell data showing the population grew from 57,600 to 116,300 on New Year’s Eve (NYE). The peak population was lower than found in previous studies, likely due to COVID-19 border restrictions which have prevented international visitors coming into the country and visiting the area. The peak population in 2021/22 is likely to be similar in size and composition to

2020/21. A travel bubble with Australia now open, meaning Australians may contribute to an increase in the Coromandel peak population. However, this may be offset by an increase in New Zealanders heading to Australia for NYE celebrations, instead of visiting the Coromandel.

Other findings include peak water supply was 24.8 million litres, ahead of a 22.3 million peak on the same day in the 2019/20 summer and solid waste volumes, including refuse and recycling, were 18% lower over the 2020/21 summer than for 2019/20.

Previous peak population studies found the peak population in Thames-Coromandel on NYE to be 126,300 (2016/17), 120,874 (2009/10), 137,700 (2007/08) and 142,375 (2003/04).

3 Suggested resolution(s)

That the Thames-Coromandel District Council:

1. Receives the 'Chief Executive' report to 31 March 2021, dated 15 April 2021 .

References-Tabled/Agenda attachments

1. Attachment A - Monthly Financial Results 2020-21 - March 2021 v5 Full doc
2. Attachment B - Infometrics proposal for peak population study