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Ask For: Stephen Rooney

Seddon and Awatere Water Supply Customers

Dear Resident

Awatere/Seddon Water Supply Update

Algae:

An extension and deepening of the headworks intake pipe to limit the impact algae is having on the network was completed on Monday morning 14 August with the final tidy up of the trench and river bed restoration works. The deepening of the intake pipe is designed to increase the natural filtration by the overlying gravels to limit the ingress of the algae as much as possible.

The work undertaken was as follows:

- Placing 50 metres of river bank protection utilising imported rock to stop erosion of the river bank near where the pipeline and track are located. Over half of the track had been eroded away by the Easter storms.
- 300 metres of channel realignment.
- Extending the headworks intake gallery by 45 metres and renewing 30 metres. All of this at a depth of up to 3.0 metres in flowing groundwater. The photo over is the final 40 metres of trench, with the pipe laid and the filter fabric being placed prior to final backfilling over the pipe. Note only the pipe with the slotted holes to allow the groundwater to flow into the pipe has the filter fabric over it. The remaining pipe is solid wall pipe conveying water only.

When this work was being undertaken there has been dirty water entering the network. While every attempt was made to avoid this it was impossible to prevent altogether given the depth of the trench, the flowing ground water through the work site and the close proximity to the operating intake pipe. The only real method to prevent this would have been to turn the water off altogether. We didn't consider this a viable option given the length of time it would have been off.

Flushing of the network to remove algae and silt that has built up within the network commenced during last week. This will continue over the next 3 to 4 weeks to ensure that all silty water within the pipe network is flushed out; there will be disruptions to water supplies throughout this time. Services will be lost to some properties for up to 4 hours, while pressures may be affected for up to 6 hours. It is possible that due to the increased water velocities while scouring, silt may enter individual water connections for short times. This will not be anything like it was when the works were being carried out and will be of short duration.

Due to the nature of the scouring and other ongoing work in the Awatere, exact dates for affected areas is not known at this stage. Council staff will be advised both the day before and on the day which areas will be affected and the expected duration of these effects. Scouring points may be left unmanned during this programme; however signs of cones will be left to show contractors are working on individual sites. When the flushing is taking place in your area residents might want to consider flushing their own systems to remove the last of silts that might be within property pipelines. If you have any questions as this work proceeds please ring Council's Customer Service Centre on 520 7400.

There may also be periods of discolouration when rainfall in the catchment causes higher water flows through the areas where the excavation has been undertaken. The higher flows will be washing silts from the gravels where the stream bed has been disturbed. We anticipate this will settle down quite quickly.



We at Council realise this period of dirty water in the network has been a very large inconvenience to the Awatere/Seddon Community but unavoidable if improvements were to be made to reduce the impacts of the algae. We want to thank residents for their patience as these works progressed.

The results of recent sampling shows the algae has reduced significantly with the onset of colder water temperatures, helped by the periods of snow on Black Birch. We do not know if the algae will return to the same levels once the streams water temperature begins to rise again with the onset of summer. Scientists' advice once the algae is in the stream it is unlikely to now disappear altogether. Only time will tell us.

Communication:

During this and other events providing effective communication for the Awatere/Seddon Community has been challenging. We have used the newspapers, radio, a variety of email group lists and mailbox drops with varying results. Council is soon to launch a new form of communication via a mobile app that we hope will help by providing you direct notifications for information relevant to you. In this case, notifications will relate to Awatere/Seddon water, but over time there will be updates on many topics, such as roads, parks and more. The app is free, and easy to use on mobile phones and tablets. No personal or log on details are required. You simply identify locations important to you, such as your home, work, rental property or school and you will receive notifications when something relevant to your chosen place(s) arises. For water supplies this will relate to water shutdowns, dirty water events, issue of boil water notices, water restrictions and any other issues that might affect the water supply to your chosen place(s). We'll provide details and download links to the app closer to its release date, expected to be in the next few weeks.

Seddon Treatment Plant:

The design and build water treatment plant contract for Seddon has been awarded to Filtec Ltd. They are now making good progress on finalising their design. There was a slight delay in this as they assessed the impact of the algae we are now experiencing in the system. We wanted to be sure the membrane filtration process as proposed would be able to remove algae from the water. We are assured it will with the addition of pre-screening equipment. This is to be added to the design. The capped limit of \$240 per property for this project will not be affected by the extra cost of this addition.

Action on site should start to be seen around October with completion now due for May 2018.

There have been some questions about the impact of the treatment plant to the area of the War memorial and the hedge behind it. These will not be affected by the plant construction or future operation.

Yours sincerely



STEPHEN ROONEY
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE ENGINEER