



Media Release
Thursday 9 July 2015

New equipment help keep services running in any weather

New generators and a stormwater pump have been purchased to help keep Selwyn District Council services running during power outages and heavy rainfall events.

Over the past year six new generators have been installed at Hororata, Kirwee, Rakaia Huts and Southbridge to improve the Council's ability to keep water and wastewater services operating during power outages. The Council now has 23 generators ready to operate with 13 installed at various water bores and treatment plants, eight generators installed at wastewater pump stations, as well as three large capacity portable generators which are moved between other sites if needed.

The new generators helped to ensure that water and wastewater pumps providing Council services continued to operate during power cuts when heavy snow blanketed much of Selwyn in June. The Council decided to purchase the extra generators following the September 2013 windstorm, when widespread power outages affected Selwyn, with some areas being without power for over a week. At that time, the Council owned enough generators to cope with localised or short term power outages but not enough generators to keep every water and wastewater service operating full time. Following the wind storm, generators had to be moved around the district with water services being intermittent in some areas.

A large new portable stormwater pump has also been purchased by the Council and this can pump water during flooding or heavy rain. The pump will be available for use in Tai Tapu where it will be used to pump stormwater into the Halswell River when required. The new pump can pump 200 litres of water per second, more than twice the capacity of the previous pump which pumped 80 litres per second. The new stormwater pump is trailer mounted so it can be quickly moved to other locations in flood events. Selwyn District Council also owns six other smaller pumps for civil defence which can be used to pump water if required.

"The extra generators were put to good use during the snow in June when power was cut to many areas," says the Council's Asset Manager Murray Washington. "The generators and the new stormwater pump help to improve the resilience of Council assets and keep services running smoothly during adverse weather," says Mr Washington.

Photos attached: (1) the new mobile stormwater pump (2) Stu Hildreth of Sicon Ferguson (the Council's contractor who will operate the pump) with the new stormwater pump

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