

13 June 2026

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

In respect of the above Committee Meeting, I would suggest that this should be compulsive viewing for all Councillors. What was revealing was the honest and common sense analysis of the state of the network by Mr Phil Burt, the Storm Water Asset Manager - his concern about the serious lack of quality and completeness of information currently held by Council was most revealing. You do not have to sit through the recording, as the following information was recorded and displayed:-

- *11% of pipes have no diameter recorded*
- *1% of pipes have no information recorded (other than they exist)*
- *80% of all pipes have no upstream inverts*
- *22% of pipes show reverse fall*
- *75% of manholes have either missing lid levels, missing inverts, or both*

and finally the statements, and I quote - " Without quality data, quality decisions cannot be made!" and also " Condition of assets is not well understood and many of the third party service strikes occur because of lack of knowledge of our assets!"

The following data was also presented and tabled - TDC has 240kms of storm water pipes and 3992 manholes, so this means there is a manhole every 60m.

Yet Council staff cannot, or have not, recorded manhole lid levels and simply lifted the lid and taken measurements of pipe diameter and invert levels which would then substantiate all the above missing data. Is this below their pay grade? This is astounding, and I do give full credit to Mr Burt for his honesty and integrity in revealing the Council's inability to record simple and essential details of its own pipe network. This really is a sad indictment of Council that they do not have basic knowledge of their own infrastructure (You do not have to dig holes to confirm the missing data - just lift the manholes and take measurements). How does this give ratepayers any confidence that money is being spent appropriately because as Mr Burt states -'Without quality data, quality decisions cannot be made!'

An additional matter Mr Burt raised in his presentation, and this should be of even more concern to All Councillors, is the statement and revelation that newer 25 year old spun concrete pipes are ageing and deteriorating at a much faster rate than older 62 year old pipes. This highlights and throws a huge spotlight on Council policy of renewing pipes because of their age, such as the water renewal pipe works in Omori, which consultants advised should have been replaced between 3 and 20 years ago because of their age, even though they were not leaking.

I would respectfully suggest that, at a "governance level" it is Councillors responsibility to take control and stop all 3 Water replacement works, that are not started, until such time as factual substantiated evidence is produced for each project that clearly justifies the pipe replacement due to its deteriorating condition and not simply its age. This is a governance matter that should over ride "operational matters" because the Auditor General heavily criticised Wellington Water for doing exactly what TDC is doing and renewing pipes based on age and not condition.

In my opinion to not do this would show a complete disregard for responsible spending of ratepayers money.

I thank you for your time and attention.

Phil Shields