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Report to the Utility Services Committee  
from David Benham, Divisional Manager, Utility Services

## **Divisional Report**

### **1. Purpose**

- To comment on the Utility Services Division's financial performance for the twelve months ended 30 June 2002.
- To outline various other relevant areas of interest or activity.
- To receive the attached activity reports to 30 June 2002 (*Attachment 1*).

### **2. Divisional Performance for 12 Months Ended 30 June 2002**

Financial results for the year are not available for this meeting but a full report will be provided at our next meeting on 3 September 2002. Preliminary indications are that results will be pretty close to those forecast and distributed last month.

### **3. Security – the Hot Topic**

I was fortunate to attend the AWWA Conference in New Orleans in June. These conventions are pretty huge affairs with some 12,000 attendees from the United States (US) and around the world.

The hot topic obviously was the security impacts on water supply facilities post September 11<sup>th</sup> (or 9/11 as they now refer). The 9/11 attack has had a profound effect on how Americans feel about their safety within the US. A number of people remarked to me that prior to these events – save for a nuclear attack – the people thought because of its military strength, the US was safe from attack on US soil. Clearly that has all changed. Amongst numerous Presidential decrees since 9/11 are requirements for essential industries to undertake vulnerability assessments. This is and will result in significant upgrades on water system security.

Interestingly as most water utilities are publicly owned, very extensive and detailed information on water facilities are available on web sites. These are rapidly being withdrawn. Plant tours are being significantly curtailed or stopped, the security of plants and computer systems reviewed and emergency procedures overhauled. (We will be reporting to the next meeting a review of our security position and work completed recently).

Other interesting issues included:

- Laboratory capacity in US insufficient to deal with multiple water threats.
- Technology advances.
- Developments in treating algal blooms.
- Adding vitamin C to the water for health purposes.
- Online detection of *crypto/giardia*.
- The City of Indianapolis has recently bought back the cities water supply system (in private hands for over 100 years).

#### 4. **Kapiti Water Supply**

Our report on the feasibility and cost considerations of the Kapiti Coast being connected to the Wellington system was forwarded to Kapiti Coast District Council last month. Subsequently some additional information has been sought. Other than that, little comment has been apparent.

#### 5. **Recommendation**

*That the report is received and the information noted.*

DAVID BENHAM  
Divisional Manager, Utility Services

Attachment 1: Utility Services Division's Activity Reports to 30 June 2002