

Report No:	RESC12-02-01
File No:	
Date:	23 January 2012
<i>Information Only – no decision required</i>	

REPORT SUMMARY

Report to: Engineering Services Committee
Meeting Date: 2 February 2012
Author: Cr Trevor Norriss
Subject: **Chairman's Report**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the Chairman's regular meeting report.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

THAT the Engineering Services Committee receives the Chairman's Report RESC12-02-01.

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Report No:	RESC12-02-01
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Report to: Engineering Services Committee
Meeting Date: 28 November 2011
Author: Cr Trevor Norriss
Subject: **Chairman's Report**

1. Welcome

- 1.1 Welcome to today's meeting. I am very pleased that we are holding this meeting in the Bay. It is the first time we have met in the Bainham Hall and I would like to thank those in the community who have helped make this happen. I have to admit that I've still not lost the weight I gained from the great feed put on at the Aorere Catchment Group day.
- 1.2 It is important that we hold the occasional meeting outside Richmond and I trust that our presence here today will demonstrate our support to the local community.

2. December Storm Event

- 2.1 As you will be aware the storm event just before Christmas has set us some challenges - not that we didn't have enough already - but I am sure we will be able to work our way through them.
- 2.2 To those of you that will get your first look at some of the devastation this afternoon you will very soon realise our community is extremely fortunate that there has been no loss of life. Unfortunately as is common and understandable after these events, accusations are made as to who is or was to blame. This is never helpful but it allows those that have been affected to feel better by letting off some steam.
- 2.3 The effects of the event will continue for quite some time and some of the solutions will not happen overnight. I would like to thank all who were involved throughout the state of emergency but especially our staff and contractors who stepped up into positions involving extremely long hours in very difficult situations. Thanks also to those staff that had to step into other roles to keep Council functioning. Special thanks to you all.

- 2.4 From my observations nothing could have prevented much of the damage created during such a heavy rainfall event in the type of country that had to withstand it. There was an excellent article by Geoff Rennison (former Area Manager for the Department of Conservation in Golden Bay) which sums up the problems with Separation Point Granite (see attached). As a Council I'm sure we will work our way through dealing with the damage which is going to also come at considerable cost.

3. James Road Bridge

- 3.1 Today's opening of the James Road Bridge is the result of a significant flood event of over a year ago in the Aorere. Although it has taken some time it is a great result. My thanks to the contractors for a great job and the community for their understanding and help over this period. There is still a great deal of work and money to spend in parts of this river if we are to attempt to return it to pre-flood conditions.
- 3.2 I attach a copy of a letter from Jenny Pomeroy who, with her husband Graham, owns one of the properties on the north side of the bridge. It is rewarding to receive a positive letter of thanks.

4. Abel Tasman Foreshore Reserve

- 4.1 The Abel Tasman Foreshore Reserve subcommittee has heard submissions and made a site visit and is at the deliberation stage of the process. This is another great example of how our Council works with others to achieve results; in this case iwi and DoC. I'm confident that the final result will be something that benefits the Foreshore Reserve and its surrounds for long into the future. However, as usual we may not please everyone.

5. Jakkett Island

- 5.1 Consultation with all affected parties is about to begin. This is going to be a rather drawn out process to find a final solution and is being dictated by an Environmental Court order.

6. Summary

- 6.1 Finally, it never ceases to amaze me how many experts from outside our district are so keen on telling us what we should or should not do. These people seem to have been out in force over the Christmas period. I am tired of the one-sided articles in local newspapers where clearly little or no research has been done on the subject matter. I'm damn sure we have better things to spend our ratepayer's time and money on than removing the speed humps in Queen

Street. Nor spending \$90,000 on a poll that once again an outside organisation will decide. If this poll goes ahead then two-thirds of submitters have been ignored and will be clearly rejected in Tasman. So much for all options at no cost to ratepayers! We have enough on our plate at the moment without having to satisfy someone on an ego trip.

- 6.2 We certainly have a challenging time ahead of us. I'm sure that with hard work, hard decisions based on the right information will be made that both Council and the communities it supports and will help us to get through the years ahead.

7. Recommendation

- 7.1 That this report is received.

8. Draft Resolution

- 8.1 THAT the Engineering Services Committee receives the Chairman's Report RESC12-02-01.**

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Nelson Mail article by Geoff Rennison – Separation Point Granite

Appendix 2 – Thank you letter from Jenny Pomeroy (7 December 2011)