

REPORT

TO: Members, Engineering Services Committee

FROM: Chair, Trevor Norriss

DATE: 18 June 2009

SUBJECT: **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Welcome to today's meeting. Now that Council is close to signing off the Ten Year Plan, we will be able to concentrate on the delivery of services and not be bogged down with the huge amount of time the process has taken staff, councillors and the community we represent.

I believe the costs in time and dollars spent on this process need to be made public as councils are continually criticised for wasting money and are expected to keep rates within the rate of inflation. And yet much of the associated legislation and costs is the result of central government legislation (some of it very poor) and in most cases with no cheques attached!

Recent newspaper reports regarding councils sticking to core services must be in error as another report has suggested that central government is going to fund 50% of the purchase price of a waterfront area from the Ports of Auckland provided the Auckland Regional Council funds the other 50%. Something doesn't quite add up.

A most recent report suggesting that another central government bureaucracy be set up to manage water resources in council areas is another load of nonsense. The Tasman District Council is one of the country's leaders in water management and locals having no say in how and the way water is allocated within a region is scary to say the least.

Takaka Fire Fighting Water Supply & Motueka Water Supply

These projects remain in the Ten Year Plan but will be hugely reliant on government subsidy and community buy-in. We need to consult with affected parties once all the figures are available.

Motueka Stopbanks

This project fits into the same category as above and in my opinion all options will need to be investigated including the level of protection, what is practical to protect, what is affordable and consideration of all the risks.

Port Motueka Endowment Fund

I recently chaired a meeting with representatives of port users, Motueka Councillors, the Community Board Chairman and Council staff. This was an excellent meeting where future developments and priorities for the area were discussed.

Ruby Bay Bypass Site Visit

You will have seen recent media coverage of this project which is progressing well. I would like to thank the NZ Transport Agency, the project managers and the

contractor for a very informative site visit. I would also like to point out that all the appropriate consents are in place for the estuary work and were signed off by the Minister of Conservation as required for work in the coastal environment.

I will end now as I'm sure councillors and staff are sick and tired of producing and reading reports at the moment.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Trevor Norriss". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Trevor Norriss
Chair - Engineering Services Committee