

STAFF REPORT

TO: Mayor and Councillors

FROM: Peter Thomson, Engineering Manager

REFERENCE: T609-1

DATE: 21 June 2009

SUBJECT: **REGIONAL LAND TRANSPORT PROGRAMME**

1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to consider and adopt the final Tasman *Regional Land Transport Programme* (RLTP) 2009/10 – 2011/12, as approved and lodged by the Tasman Regional Transport Committee.

2 BACKGROUND

In accordance with the Land Transport Management Act 2003 the Regional Transport Committee (RTC) is required to prepare the RLTP on behalf of the Tasman District Council and lodge it with the unitary authority and the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) before the end of June 2009.

The RLTP provides an integrated three-year list of proposed activities for the Tasman District. The programme sets priorities for State Highway and Council roading activities and forms the basis for the NZTA to decide which proposals will be included in the National Land Transport Programme (NLTP).

The Draft RLTP was publicly advertised in late March at the same time as Council's Draft Ten Year Plan. There were eight public consultation meetings held at various locations around the district between 30 March and 9 April. Submissions closed on 27 April with 24 submissions received. A total of ten submissions were heard by the RTC at hearings held on 8 May 2009.

The RTC resolved at its meeting on Friday 19 June 2009 to approve the final RLTP. A copy of the final RLTP has been circulated under separate cover for today's meeting.

3 KEY CHANGES FROM THE DRAFT RLTP

3.1 Local Roding Programme and the Ten Year Plan

Many of the submissions addressed the local roading programme covering the maintenance, renewal, minor capital works, and passenger transport activities for Tasman's local roads which are outlined in the Ten Year Plan. The public are consulted separately on the service levels and projects in the local roading

programme through the Ten Year Plan process. Council has considered these aspects of the RLTP submissions along with its Ten Year Plan submissions.

Local road funding has therefore been altered in the RLTP to reflect the Council's programme changes, in particular section 8 Funding Plan and Appendices 2 and 3.

3.2 Government Policy Statement (GPS)

The release of the government's new GPS in May 2008 has required changes to the RLTP to reflect consistency with this new document. The revised GPS is very different from the GPS it replaced. In particular reference to the earlier GPS "targets" has been replaced with "impact statements". Activity classes and funding ranges have also been amended.

3.3 Revised Assessment Framework and Prioritisation

In response to the revised GPS, the primary focus of the NZTA's investment strategy is on those projects or packages that make the greatest contribution to economic growth and productivity. Safety, social and environmental impacts remain relevant. Therefore the revised prioritisation process gives much greater weight to economic efficiency through well targeted investment such as the initial seven Roads of National Significance in Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Wellington and Christchurch.

The NZTA has this month released a revised draft assessment and prioritisation framework for activities and projects that will replace section 7.2 of the RLTP. However NZTA advise that the assessment framework will remain in draft form until the NLTP is finalised by the Government in August, and is likely to be subject to further changes.

Consequently the RTC has not reviewed the profile rankings for RLTP projects in light of these very recent changes. Some project profiles are very likely to change and may affect final priorities within the 2009/12 approved NLTP.

As a result there is uncertainty regarding the level of funding for some State Highway and local road activities in Tasman's RLTP until the Government releases its NLTP later this year.

4 RECOMMENDATION

THAT Tasman District Council:

Adopts the Tasman Regional Land Transport Programme 2009/10 – 2011/12 and submits it to the New Zealand Transport Agency.



Peter Thomson
Engineering Manager