

REPORT

TO: Motueka Community Board Members
FROM: David Ogilvie, Chair
DATE: 8 April 2010
SUBJECT: Report to meeting of 13 April 2010 – RMK10-04-01

1. General

The build-up to the Annual Plan, and the end of the Council year (30 June) seems to get busier and more involved each year!

It is pleasing that the wastewater rising main renewal in High Street has begun. Traffic delays have been acceptable, although, as the contractors move further into the central retail area, it could be more difficult. We are grateful that this work was deferred from November to now.

Most of the resealing/rehabilitation work has been completed, with the loose chip remaining to be swept.

The mobile-scooter/pram ramps priority list which was tabled last meeting, has been sent to Steve Elkington for action. I asked whether the 12 ramps could be funded over a three month period crossing two financial years (eg June 2010 to August 2010).

There have been two public meetings on the Lower Motueka River Flood Control with a workshop scheduled for Wednesday 14 April 2010 in Richmond. This process is a key to the Study and Analysis (Feasibility) by MWH prior to a proposal to Motueka ratepayers and the Council.

The Annual Operating Management Programme for River Works (AOMP) has not been presented to the Landowners/Interest Groups as yet – it was scheduled for late February 2010.

The reply from Gary Clark explains the Council's position for footpaths, cycle-lanes in Motueka. (The annual allocation is clearly insufficient across the District for this project – as the Board has highlighted). Well-maintained footpaths, cycleways, mobile scooter/pram ramps may be mundane jobs but they are important to residents. This is a Council/Engineering project which consistently fails to measure up to residents' expectations.

While Gary Clark's letter answers (partly) the matrix query, it does not provide the list of "roading projects" for the District, which took precedence.

2. Targeted Rate for Community Boards

The Bill amending the Local Government Act (2002) has not yet been introduced into Parliament, although it is the intention of the Minister (Rodney Hide) to introduce it during this calendar year.

The usual process is for such an amending piece of legislation to be sent to a Select Committee which would call for public submissions.

The two Boards (Golden Bay and Motueka) would make their submission at that stage and respond further to the submissions made by TDC and the Department on the targeted rate issue.

It is noteworthy that the DIA recommended that an amended LGA would then **enable** councils to levy targeted rates to fund the administration of the Community Boards.

This DIA submission sits alongside the Local Government Commission's judgement (July 2008) "We believe community boards are a part of the governance structure **for the district as a whole** and therefore their administration should be **funded across the district**, not just the community concerned."

The TDC in its Draft Annual Plan has continued to levy the Golden Bay and Motueka communities by way of separate Board rates. For 2010 – 2011 the combined rates will raise less than \$100,000 (approx \$5 = per District ratepayer).

The issue of targeted rates has divided the District, and continues to do so.

3. Proposed Rates for 2010 – 2011

UAGC increase of \$20 to \$260

Stormwater (Motueka) increase of 19.18% to 0.0435 of Capital Value
Stormwater (District) increase of 19.44% to 0.0043 of Capital Value

Water Supply (metered connections) increase of 22.2% to \$1.43 per m³
Water Supply (Motueka) increase of 2% to \$73.87
Water Supply (Kaiteriteri-Stephens Bay) unchanged at \$123

Wastewater increase of 3.17% to \$625.34 (per pan)

River Works Rate (X + Y) increase of 8.18% to 0.1058 of Capital Value
River Woks Rate (Z) increase of 7.69% to 0.0224 of Capital Value

District Facilities Rate increase of 10.13% to \$46.82

Motueka Stop Bank Rate (A) increase of 166% to 0.0064c of Land Value
Motueka Stop Bank Rate (B) increase of 140% to 0.0012c of Land Value

Shared Facilities Rate increase of 11.5% to \$50.47

Facilities Operations Rate increase of 17.9% to \$28.60

Museums Facilities Rate increase of 3.2% to \$54.20

Refuse Recycling Rate increase of 2.2% to \$115.00
Kaiteriteri Refuse Rate increase of 2.8% to \$18.11

Tourism Rate increase of 3.1% to \$141.50

Motueka Community Board increase of 3.0% to \$10.95

There will be varying increases for individual ratepayers but the average increase seems to be in the 4% to 6% range for Motueka ratepayers.

There are some significant increase, as shown for Stormwater, River Works and the District's Facilities rates.

These proposed rates are subject to public consultation and may be altered depending on submissions and the Council decisions.

Submissions close at 4.30 pm Monday 26 April 2010 with Hearings from 12 May to 21 May 2010.

The Council's decision will be made in late June 2010 in time for the new 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 financial year.

4. Annual Plan 2010 – 2011

I was unable to attend the Motueka presentation on 30 March 2010 (a very small attendance). The issues which were significant for Motueka last year remain as such this year, notably Lower Motueka River Flood Protection, Water issues, Environment & Planning, Community Services, Targeted Rates etc.

A meeting of the Board, even a public meeting, to formulate our submission is needed before 26 April 2010.

5. Variation 66 : Appeal to the Environment Court

The Board has received the "Complex Track Directions" from Judge B P Dwyer and our response is required by Tuesday 5.00 pm 20 April 2010. (Refer Information Pack "Correspondence").

The Board needs to meet in the week ending 16 April 2010 to meet this deadline.

The Board met the Mayor, and Managers Dennis Bush-King and Peter Thomson, following our March 2010 meeting where the differing relevant positions were outlined. It was a worthwhile, amicable meeting – it would be helpful to arrange similar mediation meetings, at least to comply with the Environment Court's requirements.

The previous concern regarding the need for a waiver on the filing of our Appeal has been resolved. The 22 February 2010 has been accepted; the filing fee has been paid.

Nelson Building Society has agreed to the Motueka Community Water Appeal Fund being set up. Nelson Building Society now requires a Board resolution to allow access to that fund:-

Recommendation:

That the Chairperson and one Board Member together be authorised access to the Water Appeal Fund and to sign cheques in payment for any costs to the Board arising from the appeal.

While anonymous donations to the fund are welcomed, it would be helpful if Nelson Building Society recorded the names of donors particularly for letters of thanks and also should there be a refund payable.

6. Motueka and Coastal Tasman Water Supply Hearing

As reported verbally to the 9 March 2010 Board meeting, I attended the Commissioner Hearing for the Engineering Services Department take and use of 20,000m³ of groundwater per day from the Central Plains Zone. (Application Lodged March 2007 – No RM 070187 – with 418 submissions, many in opposition). Although 96 submitters had indicated they wished to speak to their submission, only a few did (approximately 15). The main hearing was held 1 – 3 March 2010 and re-convened 12 March 2010 to hear the submission from the Tangata Whenua group.

Theirs was a powerful, cultural submission proclaiming the link of land, water, river and the Bay. The unsettled claims by iwi to the Waitangi Tribunal and the relationship of Maori and their culture to ancestral lands and water as “Matters of National Importance” under the RMA were highlighted.

The Commissioners have reserved their decision.

7. Newspaper Advertising

It is not uncommon for residents to comment that a Council notice has been missed. Occasionally, it is an important Council notice eg Tenders, Resource Management Notice, Situations Vacant, Public Meeting Notice etc.

The Motueka Guardian’s “inside back page” is helpful in showing these on a single page in every Tuesday’s publication. Unfortunately this is not repeated in the Nelson Mail and frequently (particularly on a Saturday edition) there can be three or four notices from the TDC on different subjects on different pages.

It would be convenient if all Council notices were placed together as a Local Government Notices column (or page). Nelson City Council could be part of this arrangement as well.

Recommendation:

That the Council’s Communications Officer consider a “Local Government Notices” page in the Nelson Mail and discuss this with the Nelson Mail, and if he believes practical, with the Nelson City Council.

8. Speed Limit Proposals

Enclosed is a report from Steve Elkington on the speed limits proposed (effective from 1 April 2010). The Community Board has supported these reductions with past submissions, although the High Street South and Wildman Road recommendation (from 70 kph to 50 kph) has not been adopted.

Consequently, it is timely to request that:-

- a) The footpath along High Street South to the Wildman Road “shared” path be widened and sealed.

- b) Street lighting be improved, by installing three new lights near No 480 High Street South, No 580 High Street South and No 80 Wildman Road.

Recommendation:

That the requests a) and b) above be referred to the Engineering Services Department for their consideration and action, noting this is a safety issue, in particular since the speed limit is to remain at 70 kph.

David Ogilvie
Chair

Meetings March 2010

Date	
1- 3 March	Attended the Commissioner Hearing of the Engineering Services Dept (TDC) to take and use 20,000m ³ of groundwater per day (max. rate of 320 litres per second) to supply Motueka, Riwaka, Coastal Tasman, Dovedale, Redwood Valley and Rural 3 areas.
3 March	Attended (with Tara Forde) the Whanau meeting to explain and discuss the role of the Community Board.
8 March	Motueka District Museum Trust Board – monthly meeting. Our Town Motueka – monthly meeting. Nelson Historical Society – Tex Morton in Nelson.
9 March	Motueka Community Board – monthly meeting.
15 March	Keep Motueka Beautiful – monthly meeting.
16 March	Tasman Bay Promotions – monthly meeting.
17 March	Memorial Park Sports Pavilion – 6 monthly meeting.
18 March	Lower Motueka River Flood Control Workshop.
19 March	Attended Steinway Concert at Nelson School of Music.
23 March	Motueka Music Group A.G.M.
26 March	Appointment with Chris Auchinvole, MP, to discuss Motueka issues.
29 March	Launch of Motueka On-Line (David Armstrong).
30 March	Nelson Bays Community Fund launch (Sir Stephen Tindall).