

STAFF REPORT

TO: Chairman and Members, Engineering Services Committee
FROM: Roger Ashworth, Transportation Manager
REFERENCE: BG357001
DATE: 24 January 2008
SUBJECT: **PEARSE RIVER BRIDGE UPGRADE**

1 PURPOSE

This report is to request the committee to consider a contribution from our Bridge Maintenance budget towards upgrading the Pearse River Bridge to a standard that will accommodate over-capacity loads.

2 BACKGROUND

On behalf of Crown Forest licence owners FWF (NZ) Ltd, Tasman Forest Management Ltd proposes to harvest about 250,000 tonnes of logs over the next several years at approximately 40,000-50,000 tonnes per year. The Pearse River Bridge on the Pearse Valley South Road provides the only access to the site. The bridge has been inspected and requires repairs to the pier and an upgrade of the steel beam bracing system in order for it to carry Class 1 traffic loads. At this stage the timber deck is in a reasonable condition.

Tasman Forest Management Ltd wish to also see the bridge strengthened to take over-capacity loads for log haulers with a gross up to 75 tonnes plus the transporter.

3 COMMENT

Proposed upgrade options:

- a) Upgrade to Class 1 standard. This includes:
 - Pier upgrade at an estimated cost of \$18,000;
 - Steel beam bracing system upgrade estimated cost of \$25,000

- b) Upgrade to take over-capacity loads. This includes:
 - Pier upgrade at an estimated cost of \$18,000
 - Replacement of the timber deck and steel beams with pre-stressed concrete beams and deck at an estimated cost of \$80,000.

The above costs exclude the final design and contract management costs.

3.1 Cost Sharing

Tasman Forest Management Ltd have offered a contribution of \$40,000 towards the cost of the bridge upgrade provided it is to a standard that will take the over-capacity suitable for transporting the log hauler. This contribution is 50% of the replacement beam costs and therefore is in line with other local share contributions undertaken on other bridges within the network. As you will appreciate, upgrading to a class 1 standard is part of the Tasman District Council's responsibility as the road controlling authority. This work would need to be programmed in any event.

3.2 Funding

The upgrade work will qualify for Land Transport New Zealand subsidy and Tasman Forest Management's contribution will assist in the local share of the total cost.

Council's contribution will be funded from the Bridge Maintenance budget.

6 RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council accept the \$40,000 contribution from Tasman Forest Management Ltd towards the upgrade of the Pearse Valley Bridge and proceed with the selected tender process as soon as possible.

Roger Ashworth
Transportation Manager