

REPORT

TO: Members, Engineering Services Committee

FROM: Chair, Trevor Norriss

DATE: 19 November 2008

SUBJECT: **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Welcome to the last Engineering Services meeting for this year. I would like to thank the committee and the staff for their support during the year and hope you all enjoy the festive season with family and friends.

The Black Bridge project in the Motueka Valley is progressing well and will certainly be a long-awaited improvement for residents and all road users. Similarly, the Swamp Road realignment is also underway and will also provide a huge improvement to this road.

The Tasman Regional Transport Committee met and has put in a submission to the Draft Nelson Regional Land Transport Strategy (copy attached).

Comments by Nelson MP Nick Smith regarding the regional transport committees and other issues have also been addressed by a press release (also attached). I believe the two committees should be seen as an advantage to the region with each being able to focus on the separate needs of each authority while working together on cross-boundary issues.

The Takaka firefighting water supply working group has met and agreed on the release of information, presentations to the community and submission timeframes for the public consultation process. My thanks go to Cr Riley for chairing this committee and other members for their positive contribution to this issue.

While in Takaka I met with a group of long-standing residents regarding the flooding issues in the township. Council needs to listen to what they are saying regarding changes to the river, protection works and historic flood levels before deciding to shift the town. After all we have just built a new library and have spent considerable money in the central township area over many years.

A copy of the front page of the latest Motueka Valley newsletter is attached. Please note the editorial regarding the illegal dumping of rubbish and school bus services.

There is mounting concern from schools and the community in general, with the way the Ministry of Education has handled the school bus service tender process. It is starting to look as though costs and not safety and driver experience were the main drivers. I will keep you informed of any significant changes.

On behalf of the committee I would like to record my thanks for the tremendous support and hard work we have received from our outgoing MP, Hon Damien O'Connor over the past years. With the committee's agreement, I will write an official letter of thanks and wish him all the best for the future.

Similarly, I suggest we write to Chris Auchinvole congratulating him on his success in the West Coast-Tasman electorate noting that we hope he will continue the good work that Damien has been doing.

Finally I will be glad when Movember is over. Please remember this is a great cause and donations will be gratefully expected by Robyn at Engineering Services.

Again, I wish you a well deserved break over the holiday period and thanks for your support during the year – with the exception of Dugald who objected to my resource consent!

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