

# REPORT

**TO:** Engineering Services Committee

**FROM:** Trevor Norriss

**DATE:** 18 May 2005

**SUBJECT:** Chairman's Report – May 2005

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Having completed the last draft Annual Plan meeting at Tapawera, I believe there is general support or certainly no negatives to Council's proposed Engineering budget, with one exception, the proposed \$21 rubbish collection route targeted rate. One ratepayer wanted us to spend less on infrastructure and more on walkways. Landowners in Wills Road who are requesting a bridge/splash questioned whether there was more benefit in sealing Wills Road rather than Central Road. (An on site meeting is to be organised regarding this). Hopefully Council will receive a large response by way of submissions to the plan for our hearings.

## **SUBMISSION TO TRANSIT**

Transportation Manager, Roger Ashworth, and I, presented Council's submission on behalf of Council. Hopefully as I pointed out we do not have to present our list of priorities unchanged next year as this priority list has not changed in my time as Engineering Services Chair.

## **RIVERS WORKSHOP**

Congratulations to all staff involved in organising the Rivers day. This proved to be an excellent day for all concerned and those Councillors new to the process will now have a better understanding of the management of rivers and gravel issues. Staff will have also got some understanding of issues Councillors face from adjoining landowners, gravel consents, and who ends up with the money etc.

## **GOLDEN BAY TRIP**

It is unfortunate, but not unexpected, that this trip has clashed with Councillor/staff unavailability at this time of the year. This trip should have been made back away from the busiest time of the year for Councillors and a list of assets to be visited distributed. Engineering Committee members are well aware of Council's assets in the district in general, as we are dealing with them on a six-weekly basis. My concern is, who is paying for this trip – Golden Bay Community Board, Engineering Services, or Council? I have not seen a proposal come to Engineering Services.

## **REFUSE COSTS**

Council will, I believe, over the next year have to get out and explain clearly the costs associated with refuse collection and explain that this charge has been taken from the general rate where everyone, whether or not they could use the service, or have the service have already been paying a percentage of these costs. It appears many ratepayers / residents are already using private contractors and wish to continue this practice.

We will need to spell out our commitment to waste minimisation and explain the costs associated if we do not reduce the volumes going to landfill.

At the moment our contractor has to service every road on our collection route, regardless of volume. Is this efficient or cost effective?

Should Council get out of refuse collection and just manage recycling, transfer stations and landfill sites?

These are just a few of the issues but they need to be addressed or we will be forced to continue subsidising this service through the general rate, which is not a good option.

## **STATE HIGHWAY LIAISON MEETING**

An update will be given at the committee meeting.

To the Committee Members, old and new. If Council decides to reduce its proposed rate increase and looks at Engineering Services budget, I will be asking you all to look at projects in your Wards to give that reduction across the district.

Regards

Trevor Norriss