

STAFF REPORT

TO: Engineering Services Committee

FROM: Trevor Norriss

REFERENCE:

DATE: 30 June 2005

SUBJECT: Chairman's Report – July 2005

Welcome to the Engineering Services Committee meeting. It is great to be able to have this meeting in Golden Bay and also have the Committee able to attend the opening of the Pohara sewerage upgrade this afternoon.

The subsidy made available for this work has not only reduced the cost for those in the Bay, but all users of reticulated sewage around the Tasman District. Without the government subsidy much of the costs are then reflected in the pan charge to all users.

The proposed Engineering budget seems to have survived the annual plan submission process. Congratulations to Crs Riley and Borlase for helping to reduce the spend in one area to enable some streetscaping to be done in Collingwood.

Many of the minor concerns raised by way of submission can be addressed through the existing budget. One of the frustrations for both Council and submitters is the long winded process we have to go through to reduce speed limits. Steve Elkington has this in hand and hopefully we can have the changes requested implemented as soon as possible.

This year's annual plan submission had by far the greatest number of requests for Council funding since I have been on Council. While many of these are worthy causes they are clearly unaffordable in any one year.

The revision of the rubbish bag and recycling rate has enabled Council to come up with what I believe is a fair compromise. Unfortunately many submitters did not realise that the expansion of the recycling service was in last year's annual plan and was always planned to be expanded into other areas this year, in line with Council's commitment to reduce waste to landfill and therefore lengthening the lifetime of the present site.

There have been a number of complaints regarding the state of a number of gravel roads in our central zone, hopefully the contractor and our consultants are addressing this urgently.

Submissions to Council's Water and Sanitary Service Assessments have been heard and this should be signed off by Council by the time of this meeting. My only

comment is that while it may rank issues by way of priority, it does not mean Council will be racing around committing ratepayers to large dollars. Any job will need extensive consultation with affected communities.

A Subcommittee of Crs Bryant, Borlase and myself have listened to submissions from the public and made recommended changes to the draft Stock Droving Bylaw and this should also be signed off by the time of this meeting.

Thanks to Sandra Hartley and Steve Elkington for their work on this and also congratulations to Steve and Donna on the birth of their son. Thank goodness some things don't have to be entered in the LTCCPI!

Regards

Trevor