

REPORT

TO: Members, Engineering Services Committee

FROM: Chair, Trevor Norriss

REFERENCE:

DATE: 19 April 2006

SUBJECT: **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - APRIL 2006**

Since our last meeting Council's Engineering Services staff, Chairman and Deputy Chairman have been involved in meetings of the Regional Land Transport Committee to Transit New Zealand submissions regarding State Highway priorities for the region and Tasman District.

The priorities for the region are Ruby Bay (1) and Whangamoia (2). This is supported by Marlborough, Nelson City, Tasman and the joint Nelson/Tasman Regional Land Transport Committee. Ruby Bay is a project that is ready to go whereas the Whangamoia still has considerable planning, land purchase and consent issues ahead of it.

The discussions on how the regional share (TDC/NCC/MDC) funding split will be spent over the full ten years are still taking place! Revised costs of Ruby Bay are underway! Our best outcome is to get Ruby Bay construction underway in 2007-2008.

Committee members have been involved in two road closure hearings – Cemetery Road and Trafalgar Road – and these decisions and submissions will now be forwarded to the Environment Court for a final decision pending Committee ratification.

Once again this beauracatic process is a huge cost to all parties and needs to be simplified somehow.

There has been some comment that there was no local representation on the Cemetery Road hearing. This was not so, one member of the committee was brought up in Motueka, went to kindergarten, primary school, high school, and has children and grandchildren still doing all of the above in Motueka. He also has grandparents, parents, family and friends, both iwi and pakeha buried in the Motueka Cemetery, still lives in the area and will probably end up in the Motueka Cemetery. Councillors, when elected, are elected to represent the whole district, not just the wards they stand in! So if the member above is not representative, it may be hard to find someone, and is the reason that the Deputy Mayor chaired the hearing and not me.

Rubbish

I should not have to remind the committee that the costs involved in this need to be regularly checked and future options discussed.

Gravel Roads

My congratulations to Fulton Hogan on the way they have been attempting to keep these roads in rather dry and trying conditions. I have only had two complaints in the last month, a record since I have been Chairman – thanks again, keep it up.

Gravel Extraction - Rivers

We as a committee need to keep a close eye on the process about to take place in the Rivers and Lakes section of the TRMP and make sure that it does not undermine or affect the global consent held by Engineering Services which cost this Council to get not too long ago.

Finally it is good to see the tender prices for work coming in under-estimate in the majority of projects (see latest tenders attached in agenda papers).

Representation Review

While I do not want to pre-empt the work the committee is doing, I feel that it is only fair to signal that I now have the numbers in Council to support the status quo and will be recommending this to Council at the appropriate time.

I would ask those Councillors supporting this to start recording the reasons for their support. The loss of two rural councillors to this district and the consequences of this would be a disaster. Councillors also need to know that the Community Board issue is not part of this review.

Regards

Trevor Norriss
Chair - Engineering Services Committee