

# REPORT

**TO:** Members, Engineering Services Committee

**FROM:** Chair, Trevor Norriss

**REFERENCE:**

**DATE:** 30 May 2006

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

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Welcome to today's meeting. With the recent heavy rains a number of areas have once again experienced flooding events. Many of these have work programmed in the LTCCP to alleviate these problems. Unfortunately, this does not give those affected a great deal of relief, especially if the work is several years away.

The recent fuel price rises are going to have significant effect on Council's roading, works and infrastructure costs. I believe we need to get some estimate of this, sooner rather than later. A report detailing the projected costs is included in the agenda.

## **Meeting with Golden Bay Iwi**

This was an excellent meeting attended by myself and Jeff Cuthbertson and was focused on the resource consent issues regarding the Takaka Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade.

Iwi wish to work with Council on all issues and at the end of the meeting there were no major outstanding items. My thanks to all concerned for an excellent and very positive meeting.

The last injection of Government funds for roading looks good for the Ruby Bay completion of the Coastal Highway. Hopefully this project can be started sooner rather than later, and also hopefully, there are not too many hurdles attached to this extra funding.

Along with Councillor Higgins I attended the Federated Farmers annual conference at Siefried's Estate. National President Charlie Pedersen spoke regarding the farmers lobbying Government to fund all Council's roading maintenance – an interesting thought. The removal of \$35 in every \$100 collected by way of general rate collected by this Council would have a significant effect for Council and our ratepayers.

At the time of writing this report I have so far managed to read 58 submissions to the LTCCP – 55 of them wanting something.

Many ratepayers are facing huge increases in general rates as a result of the recent revaluations. I believe Council should be looking at a nil increase in the general rate and reducing our spending in areas that are not crucial or are clearly not affordable for a district the size of Tasman. We also need to start saying no to some of the very poor legislation that is being passed on to Councils without any cheques attached.

Proposed drinking water, clean air standards, micro-chipping of dogs, the costs attached to the LTCCP process, and future costs associated with the Tasman Resource Management Plan – to name a few.

The review of representation in our district is another debacle. The plus or minus 10% formula clearly does not fit this district which is a large rural unitary authority and is more aligned to a regional council.

Many of these issues were not asked for by ratepayers or Council. I often wonder what the people coming up with these bright ideas would do for a job if we said no!

Regards

Trevor Norriss  
**Chair - Engineering Services Committee**