

# REPORT

**TO:** Members, Engineering Services Committee

**FROM:** Chair, Trevor Norriss

**DATE:** 5 September 2007

**SUBJECT:** **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – AUGUST 2007**

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As this is the final Engineering Services Committee meeting for this term of Council I would like to thank the Committee and all Engineering Services staff for the support and effort that has gone into delivering what I believe are the core services of any Council. To our contractors and consultants who from time to time have had the odd 'rev up', I also take this opportunity to thank you for your efforts in keeping our maintenance programmes on track, sometimes under very trying conditions!

To Engineering Manager Peter Thomson – while we may have had the odd difference of opinion on some issues in the past 8½ years, we have managed to work well together and to retain our sense of humour – something that is important in this job! To Valerie who helped train me into some semblance of order and Robyn, who has had to retrain me, thanks to both of you for your patience (sometimes)!

Finally to Council who have given us the budgets to keep up the capital and maintenance programmes - without your support this could not happen.

I have invited the Engineering Services team to join the Committee for morning tea at this meeting at which a special presentation will be made!

## **Regional Land Transport**

It has been very difficult for me as Deputy Chairman of the Regional Land Transport Committee (RLTC) and Chair of the Engineering Services Committee to sit and read the letters, criticism of Council and Councillors, and of this process. This Council twice voted unanimously to support Option 1 which was the peak hour traffic lanes on Rocks Road and Waimea Road. Option 1 also preserved the southern link for the future and was funded to a large extent by Transit New Zealand. Option 2 is a two-lane Council road funded by the ratepayers of Nelson city (it is not the proposed southern link).

The RLTC voted to put both options out for consultation and also voted for Option 1 as a preference.

The final consultation document was signed off by the political steering group (just to refresh your memory of who this is – two Mayors, two Councillors from each Council, Engineering Managers of both Councils and the two Chief Executives).

The process should have been that the consultation on both options would have had to address concerns raised before any final design was done.

The rest is history. This Council has decided to go back to having its own Regional Land Transport Strategy as we need to progress issues in our district. It is notable that not once throughout this process have I heard of anything mentioned within the TDC district. It is not

appropriate that Tasman District Councillors make decisions that will affect Nelson City ratepayer's pockets, nor should we have to put up with the abuse of being involved.

This does not mean that we will not work with Nelson City in roading issues and we will support whatever option the city decides for. They will also have a representative on our committee who will be expected to have an opinion and to vote! The incoming Council should have our new strategy in place within six months and can then get on with issues that affect Tasman District.

There appears to be some magical 20,000 so-called Tasman District Council ratepayers travelling into Nelson city each day. I am unsure where this figure has been plucked from, but I am aware that there has been no substantiation of this figure either from Nelson City Council, Transit NZ or Tasman District. In fact a count station on Rocks Road shows an AADT of 21,000 vehicles of which approximately 6% are heavy vehicles. A count station at Wakatu Drive by the Songer Street overbridge has an AADT of 20,000 and a count station at Three Brothers Corner has an AADT of 19,000. Without undertaking extensive analysis it is difficult, if not impossible to suggest a figure of 20,000 is anywhere near accurate.

Finally thanks to Dugald Ley, Robyn and Sonia Leusink-Sladen for their work on the presentations for the Engineering Standards review. Although we have not been swamped with participants so far it is a worthwhile exercise as part of the consultation process.

Good luck for the future to those Councillors who are retiring and also to those seeking re-election.

Regards

Trevor Norriss  
**Chair - Engineering Services Committee**