

REPORT

TO: Members, Engineering Services Committee

FROM: Chair, Trevor Norriss

DATE: 24 April 2008

SUBJECT: **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – APRIL 2008**

Welcome once again to the Engineering Services meeting.

Firstly, thanks to Deputy Chairman, Barry Dowler for chairing the last meeting in my absence. At the time of writing we are half-way through the draft annual plan presentations and those councillors who have attended will be hearing differing comments depending on what area of the district we have been in.

It is extremely important that our ratepayers submit to the process, not only on what they support in the draft plan but also what they don't want. I suspect there will have to be some pruning of budgets.

In my view, the decision to split the central zone roading contract is a good one. It has been evident over recent times that the diversity and large area has created problems not only for Council but also for the contractors.

Roger Ashworth and I presented Council's annual submission to Transit NZ and hopefully have had a good hearing. Sadly, once again major restructuring is taking place and goodness knows what format the restructure will be or who we will be dealing with in the future in this area.

The meeting with the Motueka Police regarding the Riwaka main road speed limit has taken place involving local Councillors, Roger Ashworth, and Paul Heywood representing the Automobile Association. The meeting raised some interesting information which is being taken up with Transit NZ and will be addressed at our next state highway liaison meeting.

Takaka Firefighting Supply – Two further meetings have taken place chaired by Cr O'Reilly and an update will be available at today's meeting.

The new transportation regional forum involving Marlborough, Tasman and Nelson is in my view a positive move to push major roading projects in the region. A collective voice will be essential in the future; this will not change each Council's Land Transport Committees but will enhance the process.

Regards

Trevor Norriss
Chair - Engineering Services Committee