

## REPORT

**TO:** Members, Engineering Services Committee

**FROM:** Chair, Trevor Norriss

**DATE:** 10 February 2009

**SUBJECT:** **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

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Welcome to today's meeting and the year ahead.

With the present financial situation I believe Council is going to have to be very careful in deciding what we should be doing and what would be nice to do. I do not need to remind Council that we have a great number of ratepayers and residents in the Tasman District on low or fixed incomes. We need to make sure that they can still afford to live here!

We appear to have an ever increasing list of "we want this" or "we expect the Council (ratepayers) to subsidise this or that". Added to that is the burden placed on Council's from central government legislation usually with no corresponding cheque attached. I wish John Key and his colleagues all the best in their endeavours to reduce this situation.

Over the Christmas period our community lost Tony Fry. Those of who worked with Tony around the Council table know that he always supported Council's involvement in what he saw as its core services of responsibility and always opposed rate increases above the rate of inflation.

Tony was a great sportsman in his youth and represented the district in athletics and rugby. He was elected to the Waimea County Council in 1986 and upon amalgamation served as a Motueka Ward Councillor until he retired in 2004. He was a member of the Kaiteriteri Recreation Board from 1986 until his death. He chaired the Motueka Airport subcommittee and was a member of the Motueka Community Board from 1989-2007. He also took an active interest in our rivers, especially the Motueka and was a long-time advocate for a reticulated water supply for Motueka. He was also a member of the previous Tasman Regional Land Transport Committee and a Director of Nelson Airport Ltd.

Tony Fry made a huge contribution to the district over many years and I would like a letter to be sent from the Engineering Services Committee to his wife Betty and their sons recognising this and expressing the committee's sympathy in his passing.

My thanks to all those involved in the recent fire fighting water supply meetings and presentations in Golden Bay. I believe the process that has been used in this is an excellent model to get communities involved in major projects in the future. A special thanks to Martine Bouillir who chaired the evening session. This meeting was excellent apart from a few who took the opportunity to have a crack at Council over other issues.

We should spare a thought for the communities in Australia who have faced the devastating loss of life, homes and infrastructure over the past 48 hours.

The Regional Transport Committee has met and is the first committee in New Zealand to approve the prioritisation of projects within the activity classes to be included in the draft Regional Land Transport programme. This includes both state highways and local roads.

I believe this committee are level-headed and will work well together in coming up with a realistic strategy for our district.

At our recent LTCCP workshops it was realised that our seal extension programme was to be drastically reduced. As a result I would like a change of policy to be presented to our next Engineering meeting to allow ratepayers who live on dusty roads to be able to (as it used to be) seal short areas of unsealed road to give some relief to dust issues that they endure as the result of increasing traffic numbers. It may be possible to use our low traffic roading policy to enhance this. I will be interested in the committee's thoughts.

I was interested to read in a recent Newline that Council is going to be increasing surveillance and action on illegal signage. I must have missed a meeting as I can't remember this being discussed – fair enough if we get a complaint but surely we have better things to do.

Last but not least, thanks to Council staff, Councillors and the contractors who funded my recent hair cut. The Evolve car club event at Marchwood Park and the staff, council and contractor's donations raised approximately \$1300 for the Breast Cancer Foundation. Thanks to you all – it is a great cause and the support for the Evolve event was greatly appreciated.

We also need to inspect the Wai-iti Dam site soon along with Councillors Currie and Inglis. I will go for their long overdue swim with them.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Trevor Norriss". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Trevor Norriss  
**Chair - Engineering Services Committee**