

REPORT

TO: Members, Engineering Services Committee
FROM: Chair, Trevor Norriss
DATE: 26 March 2009
SUBJECT: **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Welcome to today's meeting. It is a great opportunity today with our meeting in Tapawera to see some of the work going on in one of our rural communities and also see the completion of the Tapawera Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade. Those of you who will have travelled through the Motueka Valley this morning will have also seen the nearly completed Black Bridge project at Ngatimoti.

The Draft Regional Land Transport Programme is now out for consultation and I thank all those involved in the completion of this document.

Attached is a letter from the Hon Steven Joyce, Minister of Transport outlining proposed changes to the Government Policy Statement and funding changes.

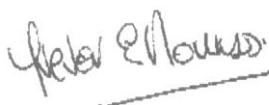
A meeting was held with local members of the New Zealand Contractors Federation to discuss changes to Council's 2008 Engineering Standards which are now being put into practice, and air any concerns from the contractors. This was a constructive meeting and provided a good opportunity to catch up with those who do the vast majority of Council's infrastructure work.

I have been approached by a company willing to participate in a water-based dust suppressant trial (lasting up to 18 months). Their product is used widely in the mining industry in Australia and New Zealand and has been through all the environmental checks and balances. It would be good to do a trial area especially with all the hassles nowadays getting road oiling permits. This new product will give those people living alongside dusty roads another more affordable option. This information is with staff and hopefully we can get a trial underway as soon as possible (Eves Valley Road).

The Hearing Panel for the Takaka Fire Fighting Water Supply proposal has made some recommended changes to the funding options and some minor amendments to the rating area. This will be discussed at today's meeting.

My final comment is regarding the use of disaster funds for infrastructure repairs after flood or storm events. I have no problem with the first \$200,000 coming from existing budgets but remember that will mean that planned projects will have to be shelved and I suggest that we need to put at least another \$100,000 into the budget to help cover this as used to be the case.

Regards



Trevor Norriss
Chair - Engineering Services Committee