

REPORT

TO: Members, Engineering Services Committee

FROM: Chair, Trevor Norriss

DATE: 22 October 2009

SUBJECT: **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Welcome to today's meeting.

As Chairman the recent comments from NZTA Regional Director, Dr Deborah Hume that Tasman District Council District Council is "one of the best in the country" in management of its budgets and roading programme is something we should be very proud of. This is a compliment and Peter Thomson and the Engineering staff involved deserve a pat on the back. A compliment to this Council and previous Councils that have made the decisions and got on with the job.

We have a large state highway and local road network and we need to take advantage of any external funding we can get our hands on. My thanks to all involved.

The recent NLTP funding allocations have also seen us compare well with neighbouring authorities although there is some concern that the 3% maintenance escalation this year also sees no increases in the following two years.

Comparisons are:

	Tasman \$m	Nelson \$m	Marlborough \$m
State highway maintenance, operations and renewals	38.4	11.5	18
State Highway improvement projects	29.8	7.1	16.6
Local road maintenance, operations and renewals	17.6	5.4	13.2

The recent "Top of the South Land Transport Liaison Forum" with the three Councils discussed these results and what activities were in each authority's programmes and where we could support each other.

A public meeting is to be held with communities around the Ruby Bay Bypass regarding the need to rename some parts of the old Coastal Highway and parts of Old Coach Road. Lindsay Skinner and the Engineering Manager will make a presentation aided by Ward Councillors who will then make a decision via a public submission process that will follow.

The Ruby Bay Bypass itself is progressing well as you will have seen in the recent NZTA update. Unfortunately due to a misunderstanding NZTA has confirmed it is only funding the 59% construction rate subsidy on the underpass cycle/walkway connections. Thankfully Council has allowed for this in the Ten Year Plan.

As I also hold the Rural Services portfolio I would encourage Councillors to attend the opening of the new Dog Pound facility which was built to budget. This facility will be an asset for our community. My thanks to the contractors, staff and all involved in donations and fundraising for this facility.

Best wishes to Cr Brian Ensor for his speedy recovery.

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