

# STAFF REPORT

**TO:** Golden Bay Community Board  
**FROM:** Service Centres Manager  
**REFERENCE:** E855  
**DATE:** 5<sup>th</sup> September 2005  
**SUBJECT:** September 2005 Report

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## Apologies

It was true that I had intended to have a bit of a break following my first month in the new job. Needless to say my prayers were answered but not in the manner that I had anticipated! The affect of my little accident has put a bit of a damper on things but hopefully by next month I will not have to do the job single handed!.

## Speed Limit Reviews

A letter was sent to the Hon Harry Duynhoven, Minister for Transport Safety acknowledging the Board's frustration over the current warrant system and the lack of appropriate cognisance of road formation and other limiting factors, such as narrow winding roads, in setting speed limits.

The letter was initiated by the Chairman but was circulated around staff and other Board Members/Councillors for input prior to sending. (Copy of sent letter included in Info Pack).

A preliminary reply has been received from the Hon Pete Hodgson, Minister of Transport.

Interestingly the Motueka Community Board, in its deliberations, came up with similar concerns regarding use of long rural straights by speeding motorists.

## Energy Issues

The recent rapid rise in the cost of transport fuel prompted the Board to resolve to write letters to the Commerce Commission regarding matters that both generally and specifically affect the price of transport fuels in Golden Bay. (Copy of letter in Info Pack).

No response from the Commerce Commission has been received at the date of writing this report.

A letter was sent to the Hon Trevor Mallard, Minister of Energy, regarding the promotion of usage of solar energy. (Copy of letter in Info Pack).

A preliminary response has been received from the Minister.

### **Letters from the Board**

I would like to thank the Chairman for taking over the administrative role for writing some letters during my absence.

At the Managers' Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> September Management raised concerns regarding the Board sending letters to outside parties and particularly Government Ministers where such letters are issued under Tasman District Council letterhead. In the ensuing discussion it was noted that whilst community boards have the right to free and frank opinions, Board resolutions should only be made following recommendations from staff reports (this is provided under Standing Orders). Other comments or opinions should not be sent out on Council letterhead. In the circumstances the Board may wish to consider a letterhead specifically for matters other than formal resolutions. I believe that the Board did have a logo designed and it may be worth while looking at some letterhead options at the meeting.

### **Discretionary Funds**

The Motueka Community Board has requested that I look into a protocol with regard to distribution of Discretionary Funds. Such funds are mostly allocated to Community Groups for specific projects but a system for appraising and allocation of funds for each project is considered important and that the Board disperses the funds over the year so as to avoid any worthy projects at the end of the year being unable to be funded.

Comments and suggestions from the Board would be appreciated.

### **Un-permitted Dwellings**

This is a matter carried over from last month and the writer will provide a verbal briefing on this based on his previous experience as a Consent Planner and Environmental Health Officer.

### **Port Tarakohe**

The Chief Executive Officer has asked that I take over the administration function of the Port. This has still to be confirmed at the time of writing this report but is a function that I am quite happy to accept.

The matter of the rock 'tunnel' height at Port Tarakohe was assessed by the writer given the concerns raised that some trucks had to divert around the port as the ceiling height of the rock was too low and/or required trucks to traverse the wrong side of the road to avoid the overhang.

The matter is still under consideration but the following points are noted for the Boards information:

- The 'tunnel' is in fact not a tunnel but an excavation into the northern rock face of two large limestone monoliths that are leaning against each other;
- The additional height of 500mm required is for safety and to avoid trucks needing to use the port as alternative access
- The height may be provided by either raising the roof or lowering the road;
- Lowering the road may create additional gradient problems particularly with the sharp bend as you exit the rock on the eastern side;
- Raising the roof would be cheaper and avoid gradient problems;
- Excavations in the rock would expose new limestone which would take some time to develop the natural darker patina caused by oxidation although this can be speeded up by application of acidophilic bearing solutions (yogurt has been suggested);
- The current excavation on examination looks obviously 'man made' and any future excavation could, in the writer's opinion be 'modelled' to make a much more natural appearance.

### **Management of Golden Bay Wharves**

Following last month's Board meeting I will be raising this issue at the Managers' Meeting.

Management confirms that Council does not wish to be directly involved with administration of wharves other than those that they own (eg Port Tarakohe). A recommendation was to consult with DOC together with Paul Sangster who was the proponent of the private trust initiative and that a Board member be included in the deliberations on the matter.

If I get any further with this matter it will be reported back verbally at the Board meeting.

### **LTCCP Meetings**

At the time of writing this report I have been unable to confirm any arrangements with the Corporate Services Manager. Hopefully I will have more information at the Board Meeting but in the absence of any arrangement with David I would recommend that the Board proceeds with its own arrangements.

Note that the Corporate Services Manager will be holding an LTCCP Community Focus Meeting at the Takaka Service Centre on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September commencing 4.30pm.

### **Camping Issues**

The meeting on camping Issues held at the Takaka Service Centre on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September was well attended and a number of useful ideas and recommendations regarding this perennial problem area were discussed. Following the meeting a number of initiatives were recommended including better signage, having overflow

camp sites, improved monitoring and enforcement and modifying the Freedom Camping leaflet to distinguish overnight stays from 'camping'.

## **Bag Ladies**

I phoned Nicola Basham during the month to compliment the other bag ladies and to personally congratulate them on a fine initiative. The bags were give-aways at the Zone 5 Forum and what particularly pleased me was the positive response by all who received them. So a big 'well done' all around is due I believe. The option to place a levy on plastic shopping bags has been referred for legal advice and this option does not appear to be available under Council Bylaws. Despite this the ladies may want to pursue legislative change by lobbying the government and/or working a voluntary regime within Golden Bay. Perhaps something similar to what, I believe, the Warehouse has introduced. i.e. a rebate incentive for using your own bag, may be a positive way of achieving the same outcome.

## **Zone 5 Forum**

This forum was held on the 13<sup>th</sup> August at Seifried's Vineyard.

Zone 5 incorporates all those Local Authorities in the upper half of the South Island basically from the Waitaki north, 19 councils in all.

The majority of Board Members from the two Tasman Community Boards attended together with Councillors Noel Riley, Eileen Wilkins and Gordon Currie.

In all over twenty Board members plus other parties attended the forum.

The forum was opened by His Worship the Major Mr John Hurley and the Chairperson was Yvonne Palmer, QSM, who is both the Chairperson for the Zone 5 Boards and also the Chairperson of the Community Boards' Executive Committee.

Keynote speaker was Eugene Bowen, CEO of Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ)

His address was comprehensive and illuminating and provided participants with the mission, goals and activities of LGNZ.

The question time enabled Board members to note some of their frustrations in dealing with their community/council interactions.

Noted was that LGNZ has a comprehensive web site at [www.localgovt.co.nz](http://www.localgovt.co.nz).

The afternoon address was by Susan Chamberlain who detailed the processes involved in Transit New Zealand's Forward capital Programme.

The address included the changes brought about by the Land Transport Management Act 2003 and their involvement in preparation of land transport programmes and development of the ten year planning forecast for State Highways.

The final session was presented by Bev Wood of UNICEF NZ and was about the 'Every Child Counts' initiative.

Whilst New Zealand appears to have so much wealth for its population (both income as well as environment) it was truly shocking to discover that 1 in 3 children in New Zealand live in poverty, and child abuse/neglect continues to rise. Also it was noted that New Zealand's care for children is in the five worst countries in the OECD.

Truly shocking facts and the Board may wish to consider resolving that they support the 'Every Child Counts' initiative and supporting the council and other community groups to do likewise.

The Forum was acknowledged by all attendees to be extremely successful. Apart from the formal sessions, networking with other Board members was invaluable.

The Board has made a request to Susan Chamberlain to attend one of the Board meetings principally to discuss matters regarding SH60 from the Takaka Hill to Collingwood.

### **Old Yacht Club building at Pohara**

This building is very run down and needs about \$50,000 spent to make it habitable. There are plenty of people wanting to use it, but obviously do not expect to have to pay to do it up. The Property Manager, Jim Frater, recommends that the building be demolished.

The Board did visit the property last year; at that time an arts group were interested.

If the building is going to be demolished, the Property Manager would like it down before Christmas; he has received a letter from the Boat Club expressing concern that their name is still on it and asking what the situation is regarding the building.

Community Services recommends also that it is demolished.

### **Briefly**

The following matters are noted as being matters likely to be of interest to the Board:

1. Eco-Fest

I attended part of this year's Eco-fest in Nelson. It was the first one I have ever been to and I was impressed by the variety of stalls and displays and the large number of attendees. It is worth the trip even from Golden Bay!

2. Puramahoi Aerodrome Committee

I hope to attend the triennial meeting on Thursday the 8<sup>th</sup> September

3. Sharon McGuire – CEO Commerce Nelson

Sharon is the CEO of Commerce Nelson and she has been invited to attend next month's Board meeting. Sharon will provide a summary of her topics she will cover and these will be sent out with the next agenda.

4. Planning Issues

I could not attend either the Urban Growth Study Forum or the Landscape Character Assessment Forum this month but have had a one-on-one briefing with Sonya Leusink and have talked with Steve Markham on the Landscape Issues. I trust the Board will provide some input into these important issues. I would also urge the Board to include the Golden Bay Consent Planner, Laurie Davidson in any deliberations on planning issues.

5. LTSA Update

Training has been confirmed for Tuesday 27 and Wednesday 28 September. PC and camera should be installed in Takaka in mid-September.

6. Representation Review

The Representation Review Sub-Committee meets for the first time on 16<sup>th</sup> August. The Local Electoral Act 2001 includes that "all territorial authorities must consider whether their district should have communities and community boards, and if so, what the nature and structure of each board should be." Councillor Riley is a member of that Sub-Committee and he should be able to keep the Board updated on progress.

7. Other Council Meetings (Extracts attached)

Engineering Services Committee – Asset Management Report on Golden Bay Road Maintenance. Utilities Manager Report on Hamama Water Scheme, Firewalls, Collingwood ware, Pohara Water. Sanitary works Subsidy, Takaka wastewater treatment plant and sewer pump upgrade. Refuse and Recycling Report on waste trends and waste education contract.

Enterprises Sub Committee – Property Manager's report on proposed Sale of Pakawau Property and 186 Commercial Street. (Extract enclosed). An update from the Property Manager is hoped to be available at the Board Meeting. Corporate Services Manager's Report on Port Tarakohe.

Community Services Committee – Property Manager's Report re Takaka Library and Packards Road Reserve.

8. Bouquet

Finally I would like to thank Nancy for her swift action in alerting Engineering over the demise of the roadside daffodils on SH60. An oversight has now been corrected and Nancy has saved the Collingwood daffs to endure a few more weeks of springtime glory. Apart from the visual feast, the daffodils require this time to feed the tubers otherwise they can become stunted in following years.

Bob Askew  
Service Centres Manager

Please note that I will have to leave the Board Meeting at 2.30pm latest as I have a commitment to attend a Red Cross Training session in Wellington.