

REPORT

TO: GB Community Board
FROM: Chairperson
REFERENCE: E855
DATE: 2nd October 2008
SUBJECT: Monthly report – 14th October 2008

Convalescence from my knee operation on 20 August continued.

Activities, events and meetings attended during the past month have included:

1 September: Agenda setting for 9 August Board meeting

9 September: Community Board meeting, Takaka

10 September: Coastal Policy Statement Hearing, Tahunanui

12 September: Broadband investment fund telephone discussions with Pip Jamieson, Nelson Development Agency, Peter Darlington, TDC and Wayne Mackey, Network Tasman.

12 September: Visited Lewis St/Gibbs Rd Swiftsure St Area regarding stormwater improvement suggestions.

12 September: Visited Collingwood Transfer Station for discussion with operator Murray regarding access to re-useable materials.

13 September: Community function at Kaituna, in honour of Dave Whittaker founder of Labyrinth Park

18 September: Baylit Awards night at Onekaka - 132 entries received this year. It was wonderful to see great community participation in all categories by children, youth and adults.

19 September: Western Golden Bay Planning workshop with TDC Planners Deborah Hewett and Neil Jackson discussing Landscape issues and consultation process in Takaka.

19 September: Long Term Council Community Plan Review briefing and discussion with TDC Strategic Planner Susan Edwards and CEO Paul Wylie in Takaka.

19 September: Gibbs Rd walkway and drainage issues on site meeting with residents and landowners together with Steve Elkington (TDC Roding Engineer) and Braeden Lobb (Montgomery Watson Harza). Drainage resolution needed prior to walkway upgrade.

21 September: HANDS market, Onekaka. A popular well attended community event for trading in local goods and services.

22-27 September: On leave

29 September: Long Term Council Community Plan/ Annual Plan meeting
Bainham

ISSUES

Alternative Fuels in Golden Bay (Agenda item 4.1.1)

The Board has supported efforts by a local group interested in local bio-fuels from sustainable resources.

There has recently been an approach from a resident interested in retaining used cooking oil in Golden Bay for refining as a fuel source. Provided such oil is stored and processed safely it makes sense for it to be retained in the Bay for reuse rather than sending it to Christchurch.

Accordingly it is recommended:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board supports the initiative to retain used cooking oil in Golden Bay for refining as a fuel source provided suppliers agree and it can be stored and processed safely.”

Local Road Width for Sealing (Agenda item 4.1.2)

We have been repeatedly advised that for local roads to be sealed they must be formed to a minimum width. A recent visit to Taranaki revealed that some local

roads there are sealed to a narrow width. Presumably they are working under the same National Policies as we are. (Photo attached: Please note the width of the sealed carriage way of 3 metres in comparison with width of the road reserve). It is therefore recommended:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board enquires of roading authorities regarding available discretion in the width for sealing local roads.”

Local Road Speed Limits (Agenda item 4.1.3)

During the recent visit to the North Island it also quickly became apparent that authorities are making good use of their ability to set appropriate local speed limits especially in coastal communities.

Local limits included 20, 30, and 40kmph with Napier City declaring itself a 40kmph ‘Courtesy Zone’.

Recommendation:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board writes to the Tasman District Council Engineering Manager seeking a more pro-active response to setting appropriate speed limits citing other areas which are doing so as examples.”

School Bus Passing Speeds (Agenda item 4.1.4)

Concern has been expressed about the speed of vehicles overtaking stationary school buses. The legal maximum passing speed is 20kmph.

In order to try to raise awareness it is recommended:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board writes to school bus operators suggesting that ‘20kmph when stationary’ signs be placed on buses in order to raise awareness of this requirement.”

Weeds on Council Land (Agenda item 4.1.5)

Concern has been expressed about weed infestations on Council land especially pest species. There are currently opportunities for community groups to seek funding for control of such weeds but the initiative needs the support of the local authority.

It is therefore recommended:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board writes to both Community Services and Engineering Services of Tasman District Council seeking their support for community groups to apply for funding for the control of weeds on Council reserve land.”

Tourism Access Roads (Agenda item 4.1.6)

Our Board has been making representations for special funding for several Golden Bay roads because of their high visitor access use. These include Puponga to the Farewell Spit Visitor Centre via Freemans Access; Puponga to Wharariki; Pakawau to Mangarakau; Bainham to Heaphy Track, and more recently, Pakawau to Kaihoka Lakes. Central Government used to operate a Special Roads Fund but suspended this while the policy was reviewed and we have subsequently been advised that the policy is not being reinstated.

With the elections imminent it is recommended:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board writes to the main political parties seeking their policy position on special funding for local roads with a high visitor traffic component and low local population”.

Transfund Roothing Subsidies for Local Roads (Agenda item 4.1.7)

Prior to Golden Bay County Council being amalgamated with Tasman District we enjoyed a local roads subsidy of 73% the same as the West Coast. As part of TDC the subsidy is 48%. The Western parts of Tasman District suffer the same constraints as the West Coast i.e. high rainfall, mix of dairy farming/tourism, low resident population, high proportion of Crown land.

It is therefore recommended:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board writes to the Acting Transportation managers of TDC, copied to the CEO, seeking support for applying to Central Government to increase funding support for the Western parts of Tasman District to equate with the 73% reportedly paid to West Coast local authorities.”

Variation 65 to Tasman Resource Management Plan re Water Permits

Following comments by Planning Policy Manager Steve Markham and a subsequent telephone discussion with Policy Planner Mary-Anne Baker it was decided not to make a submission to Variation 65. We were assured that Variation 65 would not introduce ‘transferable water permits’ and that Council

intended to keep control of Water Permits with no support for the privatization of Water Rights.

Te Kakau Stream Responses (Agenda Item 4.1.8)

With eight generally positive responses received to date it is recommended:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board advises Trevor James of the responses so that they can be taken into account for Te Kakau Stream Management proposals.”

Proposed Friday Bus Services Collingwood-Takaka, Pohara- Takaka (Agenda Item 4.1.9)

With a very small expression of interest it is recommended:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board takes no further action about organising a Friday bus service at this time and advises the bus operator and respondents of this decision.”

Broadband Investment Fund Application

There has been a great expression of support from our community for improved Broadband access in Golden Bay. Discussions with Nelson Development Agency, Network Tasman and Tasman District Council together with a study of the BIF website revealed that an entity has to be a service provider to apply.

Accordingly it was resolved that the Board write a letter of support for the funding application lodged by Radar Guidance Ltd on behalf of the Service Providers. The letters of community support were also forwarded.

Joe Bell