

STAFF REPORT

TO: Chairman and Members, Tasman Regional Transport Committee

FROM: Peter Thomson, Engineering Manager

DATE: 19 June 2009

SUBJECT: **REGIONAL LAND TRANSPORT PROGRAMME**

1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to approve the final Tasman Regional Land Transport Programme (RLTP) 2009/10 – 2011/12.

2 BACKGROUND

The Draft RLTP was publicly advertised in late March at the same time as Council's Draft Ten Year Plan (LTCCP). There were eight public consultation meetings held at various locations around the district between 30 March and 9 April. Submissions closed on 27 April with 21 submissions received.

A total of ten submissions were heard by the Regional Transport Committee (RTC) at hearings held on 8 May 2009.

The RTC is required to approve the RLTP for adoption by the Unitary Authority, Tasman District Council before the end of June 2009.

3 COMMENT

3.1 Submissions

Many of the submissions addressed the local roading programme, covering the maintenance, renewal and minor capital works for Tasman's local roads which are outlined in the Council's Ten Year Plan. The public are consulted separately on the service levels and projects in the local roading programme through the Ten Year Plan process.

Council has considered these aspects of the RLTP submissions along with its Ten Year Plan submissions. The response to these issues is summarised in staff reports to Council, appended as Attachments 1, 2 and 3. These attachments are for information only.

The consequent financial changes to the local roading programme have been made to Section 8 and Appendices 2 & 3 of the final RLTP.

3.2 Government Policy Statement (GPS)

The release of the government's new GPS in May 2008 has required changes to the RLTP to reflect consistency with this new document. The revised GPS is very different from the GPS it replaced.

In particular reference to the earlier GPS "targets" has been replaced with "impact statements".

Activity classes and funding ranges have also been amended.

3.3 Revised Assessment Framework and Prioritisation

In response to the revised GPS, the primary focus of the NZTA's investment strategy is on those projects or packages that make greatest contribution to economic growth and productivity. Safety, social and environmental impacts remain relevant. Therefore the revised prioritisation process gives much greater weight to economic efficiency.

The NZTA has released a revised draft assessment and prioritisation framework for activities and projects that will replace section 7.2 of the Draft RLTP. However NZTA advise that the assessment framework will remain in draft form until the NLTP is finalised, and is likely to be subject to further changes.

A letter from the NZTA of 3 June 2009 is attached to this report which includes the revised draft assessment and prioritisation framework.

The NZTA will commence assessment and prioritisation of all RLTP's later in June, and identifying activities for inclusion in the National Land Transport Programme (NLTP) to be finalised in August.

The RTC has been given the discretion by NZTA to decide whether or not they will review their RLTP in light of the revised assessment framework. Given the time constraints to complete and adopt the RLTP, it is suggested that the prioritisation ranking shown in the Draft RLTP remain unchanged and submitted to NZTA in the final RLTP.

4 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 THAT the attached Tasman Regional Land Transport Programme 2009/10 – 2011/12 dated 10 June 2009 be approved by the Tasman Regional Transport Committee, and**
- 4.2 THAT the approved Tasman Regional Land Transport Programme 2009/10 – 2011/12 be recommended to the Tasman District Council for adoption and to be submitted to the New Zealand Transport Agency prior to the 1 July 2009.**

Peter Thomson
Engineering Manager