

STAFF REPORT

TO: Chairman and Members, Engineering Services Committee

FROM: Roger Ashworth, Transportation Manager

REFERENCE: R860/2

DATE: 03 October 2006

SUBJECT: **PRIORITY CHANGE – UNDERGROUND CONVERSION PROGRAMME**

1 PURPOSE

To gain the Engineering Services Committee's acceptance of substituting the undergrounding of power for McGlashen Avenue in Richmond for Clifford/Whitby Road, Wakefield.

2 BACKGROUND

Attached for information is a copy of Network Tasman's Undergrounding Policy (July 2005). You will note under Clause 1 that the priorities for 2005/2006 were Wensley Road, Main Road Stoke, and Clifford/Whitby Road, Wakefield.

A meeting was held with representatives of Network Tasman on 19 September 2006 to discuss priority changes within the proposed programme and also difficulties in securing agreements with consumers on the Whitby Road section on the cost of undergrounding consumer service mains to the new service boxes.

2.1 Priorities

Following Council's approval to advance the McGlashen Avenue realignment project, it is now desirable, as part of that project, to consider the undergrounding of the power reticulation. The section under consideration is the full length of McGlashen Avenue from State Highway 6 through to Croucher Street including the Croucher/Talbot Street intersection. Conservative costs for this undergrounding are approximately \$250,000, of which Council's contribution would be approximately \$110,000. It is considered at this stage that McGlashen Avenue is a higher priority than Whitby Road in Wakefield. Continuing with the Whitby Road undergrounding has also struck some difficulties with the unwillingness of a number of landowners to meet their costs in providing the undergrounding of their mains to the new services boxes which is part of the Network Tasman policy.

The Network Tasman Board has considered our preliminary request for a possible change in priority and has agreed that McGlashen Avenue could be substituted for the Whitby Road section.

3 RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Engineering Services Committee approve the substitution of McGlashen Avenue for Whitby Road as part of the 2005/2006 underground conversion programme.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Ashworth', with a horizontal line underneath.

Roger Ashworth
Transportation Manager