

STAFF REPORT

TO: Chairman and Members, Engineering Services Committee
FROM: Roger Ashworth, Transportation Manager
REFERENCE: RD3565
DATE: 3 May 2007
SUBJECT: **PATON ROAD (BATEUP ROAD TO RANZAU ROAD)**

1 PURPOSE

To request the committee to consider advancing funding under the Annual Plan process for land purchase for road improvement works in Paton Road between Bateup Road and Ranzau Road.

2 BACKGROUND

A preliminary design report was produced in 2005 which investigated the options for realigning and reconstructing Paton Road between Hart Road and Ranzau Road. Paton Road is currently classified as a Rural Distributor in the TRMP and has an AADT of approximately 2000 vehicles per day. The current land use is a mix of orchards, grazing land, residential and rural-residential sized lots. The road has a regulatory speed limit of 60 kmh in this section.

The topography is rolling and there are two very sharp vertical curves (known as the "switchbacks") with design speeds of 30-40 kmh in the section between Hart Road and White Road.

A road safety audit carried out in July 2002 identified several deficiencies on this road. The proposed upgrade will eliminate or mitigate the majority of issues raised in the road safety audit and provide for a much improved and safer road.

Currently in the LTCCP for years 2009-2012 there is \$2.8 million allowed for Council to undertake these improvement works. The estimate only allows for the physical construction and does not include land purchase costs.

Recent work undertaken to determine what the typical land cost would be indicates that at current values approximately \$200,000-\$250,000 would be required.

3 COMMENT

As the committee is aware there have been several minor safety improvements carried out on this section of road over the last five years. These have included improved signage, additional road marking, resurfacing work, drainage improvements, reduction in speed limit etc. However, it is acknowledged that while these changes may have made a slight

improvement, this section of road remains one of the most, if not the most, dangerous in the district. The complexity of the design detail particularly with respect to providing access to existing properties is a challenge. The preliminary design work to date does not deal with these complexities in any detail.

In the LTCCP year 4 (2009-2010), \$217,000 has been budgeted to complete the design, followed by \$1.67 million (2010-2011) and \$0.98 million (2011-2012). An option that Council could consider would be to advance this figure so that the design can be completed and also to advance funding from other projects to begin land purchase.

4 POSSIBLE OPTIONS

The LTCCP has identified a project for Eighty-eight Valley Road to complete the urbanisation of the section from Hunt Terrace through to Totara View Road. This project has \$205,000 allocated for the 2007-2008 financial year. Low traffic road seal extensions, of which we have not received any applications for the 2007-2008 financial year, also allows us to consider this as an option which has \$113,000 allocated of which Council's share is approximately \$60,000.

These combined funding sources could provide up to \$265,000 in 2007/2008 to progress land acquisition and detailed design activity ahead of physical construction works in later years.

We put these options forward for the committee's consideration and any changes would need to be worked through the Annual Plan process.

5 RECOMMENDATION

THAT this report be received.

Roger Ashworth
Transportation Manager