

STAFF REPORT

TO: Chairman and Members, Engineering Services Committee

FROM: Roger Ashworth, Transportation Manager

REFERENCE: A302

DATE: 3 May 2007

SUBJECT: **TAKAKA AERODROME RUNWAY RESEALING - ADVANCE FUNDING REQUEST**

1 PURPOSE

To request Council approve advanced funding to seal the runway at Takaka Aerodrome next financial year, 2007/08.

2 BACKGROUND

The aerodrome north-south sealed runway was built and sealed in 1995. The design life given to the pavement is 30 years. Typically the seal life is 12-15 years.

The aerodrome is the responsibility of Tasman District Council and was established in 1940. The Engineering Services Committee has delegated responsibility for the Takaka aerodrome.

Under Council's Activity Management Plan for aerodromes, the strategy is to maintain these facilities suitable for the recreational and commercial users at the least long term cost to Council.

From an inspection undertaken late last year, the seal is showing signs of degradation, with sealing chip in places losing bond with the bitumen.

Unfortunately, in a number of areas the tightly packed gravel surface under the seal has become exposed.

3 COMMENT

The runway is only for light aircraft use with an equivalent axle loading up to three tonnes.

The sealing of the runway needs to be undertaken as a matter of course without undue delay otherwise this asset will continue to deteriorate. Should the runway not be resealed, potholes will form requiring extensive patching with the seal eventually breaking-up leading to the closure of the runway. The runway will then need to revert back to an unsealed runway at considerable cost.

The Aerodrome Committee has suggested that a 100 metre length of asphalt be constructed at each end of the runway over its full width and which is estimated to cost in

the region of \$30,000 to \$40,000. With the runway only being rated for light aircraft, this expenditure cannot be justified and therefore has not been included the funding requested.

4 FUNDING

In Council's LTCCP, approximately \$180,000 has been listed for expenditure in Year 7 - 2013/2014, to reconstruct the unsealed runway.

It is therefore proposed to recommend that part of this funding be brought forward to fund the reseal expenditure in 2007/2008 of approximately \$100,000

This amount will be funded from loan at 8% per annum for 15 years. The additional payment per year including interest is \$11,500 and will be financed by the income from the Takaka aerodrome; therefore there is no requirement from rates.

5 RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council include in the 2007/2008 Draft Annual Plan, a sum of \$100,000 for resealing the Takaka Aerodrome runway. And, that this amount is set aside from funds identified in the LTCCP for 2013/14 for renewal of the unsealed runway.

Roger Ashworth
Transportation Manager