

STAFF REPORT

TO: Chairman and Members, Engineering Services Committee
FROM: Roger Ashworth, Transportation Manager
DATE: 25 August 2008
SUBJECT: **TRANSPORTATION REPORT**

1 MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS

- **General**

Given the recent storm events and continued wet weather the ability of the contractor to complete maintenance work as well as cope with the severe storm and flood damage has been severely tested. Fulton Hogan has performed extremely well in this regard and I believe it is appropriate for Council to acknowledge their efforts.

- **New Road maintenance contracts**

Work is progressing well in putting together four new road maintenance contracts for the Tasman District that will be advertised later this year and early next year. As previously discussed with Council the make-up of the contracts has been changed to reflect mainly performance and levels of service.

2 PROJECTS

- **Richmond Town Centre – Sundial Square**

Work is complete on the Sundial Square with the official opening on 6 September 2008.

- **Richmond Ring Route**

As presented to the last Engineering Services Committee meeting the local road improvements necessary to implement the Richmond ring route are being programmed in the AMP/LTCCP.

A public meeting which has invited a significant proportion of directly affected residents in Salisbury Road and Talbot Street is to be held on Tuesday 3 September 2008 and will deal specifically with the Salisbury Road/Talbot Street intersection proposals. This meeting has been advertised in the Richmond Hubbub and also by letter drop. Some discussion will also be undertaken at the Richmond Community Forum meeting on 26 August 2008.

- **Spooners Range**

The recommendation regarding Spooners Range Road and the application from Toka Farms has been referred to the Property Services Manager. This work is currently in progress.

- **King Edward Street Motueka - Kerb & Channel**

This work is being undertaken by Concrete & Metals and is approximately 80% completed. The work should have been finished at the end of July and has been held up

due to the weather. Work is steadily progressing which is expected to be completed in September 2008.

- **Queen Victoria St/Moutere Highway Shared Path**

The path is being constructed by CJ Industries and is approximately 95% completed. Some additional work as well as the weather has held up completion. The work including additional work was due for completion on Friday 22 August 2008.

- **Back Block Roding – Rameka Creek**

A recent flood event caused about \$25-30,000 worth of damage to access tracks in the Rameka Creek area. A private landowner's access track built on unformed legal road reserve is the most affected. He has a new house being built at the top of the track and his builder has no way of completing the works as the access track has been completely lost in places.

The Back Blocks Roding budget has, in the past, occasionally provided small grants for the maintenance of such accesses where road formation or upgrading/reconstruction is requested. There is a proviso that the landowners have to be prepared to bring the road up to a permitted standard in the TRMP or obtain the necessary consents, and agreed by the Engineering Manager.

Precedents to provide a higher degree of subsidy have not been favoured. There is a policy that landowners who wish to develop back country blocks have to provide plans and documentation as part of subdivision and /or consent process that will achieve an acceptable engineering design standard. The Engineering Manager is required to approve of any work on an unformed legal road reserve.

Until these tracks meet the required standard Council is unable to apply to the New Zealand Transport Agency (formerly Land Transport NZ) for their inclusion in the subsidized works program. Local landowners who use the tracks have been advised of this policy in the past.

Currently the landowners have been advised again of this requirement. They have not yet responded and offered to fund the necessary work needed to reopen the track up the main stem of Rameka Creek. Three other parties who live at the end of a couple of other tracks leading off from the main ford, up the hill to the Rameka Track have also written expecting that their sections of the various tracks can be maintained by Council.

Back Block Roding funding cannot be used for this purpose unless the landowners collective or individually agree to the initial upgrading costs. The use of Council funding will inevitably result in Council accepting risk associated with any failure of the track and any claims for compensation. The standard of any work carried out by Council therefore must meet minimum engineering standards in terms of ongoing maintenance, NZTA subsidy, the TRMP and RMA requirements.

3 RIVERS

- **Gravel Relocation Works**

The processing of the twelve resource consent applications for a variety of sites is progressing with E&P Department. Funding has been set aside to ensure that one or two of the sites can be worked during the 2008-09 summer.

- **Wai-iti Irrigation Weir**

The contractor will be building the structure just below the Waimea West Bridge at the western end of Ellis Street, Brightwater at the end of the spawning season ending 30 September 2008.

4 FINAL REPORT


As this is my last Engineering Services meeting (as a staff member at least), I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Council and, in particular, Chairman Trevor for the support and humour over the years.

We have achieved many kilometres of seal extension and a significant number of bridge renewals. In these harder economic times with increased fuel/bitumen prices and different Council priorities, these opportunities for significant roading improvements will, I believe, diminish.

In my new position in the private sector I look forward to working with Tasman District Council and also with MWH as their consultants for engineering. As well as support from Council I have received significant support from MWH and believe they have provided Council's Engineering Department with an excellent service. The relationships gained with Council's consultants and also with other external organisations, Land Transport/Transit (now the New Zealand Transport Agency), Automobile Association to name a few will hopefully continue in the future.

5 RECOMMENDATION

THAT this report be received.



Roger Ashworth
Transportation Manager