

REPORT

TO: Members of Engineering Services Committee

FROM: Chair, Trevor Norriss

REFERENCE:

DATE: 3 November 2005

SUBJECT: Chairman's Report for November 2005

Welcome to Engineering Services – this will possibly be the last Committee meeting for the year. The next scheduled meeting is 22 December 2005 and Peter Thomson and I will make a decision regarding this – we may need a “tidy-up” meeting prior to Christmas at some stage.

With water restrictions already in place in parts of the District, which is unprecedented for this time of the year, I suspect Council's Engineering Services could come under pressure for upgrades, extensions etc to many of the District's water supplies, if this dry period continues. A drive through my silage paddocks last evening shows that if we do not get some serious rain shortly this District could be in dire straits farming-wise as well.

It appears that there is considerable opposition building towards the Pohara water supply proposal. Maybe we could delay spending anymore time and money on this proposal until we hear what the final drinking water standards are. I'm sure this money could be spent in other areas of Tasman where it is needed.

Dennis Bush-King's submission regarding the above has hit the nail on the head – hopefully some of his points will sink into those reading it.

It is rather disappoint that the rules regarding government subsidies for small sewerage schemes have changed. Not only have they changed but the way the information has been conveyed to this Council is also far from satisfactory. With the new rules, it appears only two councils in the country now have any hope of fitting the criteria. Jeff Cuthbertson will update the Committee on this.

Regional Land Transport

Cr Bryant, Roger Ashworth and myself are involved in this and an update will be provided at today's meeting and I'm sure there will be some very pertinent comments from us all.

Tutaki Seal Extension and Upgrade

On a brighter note, it is pleasing to see this work which was put off last year come in considerably under budget predictions – long may this continue.

As Chairman of Engineering Services I have concerns over some of the proposals put forward regarding how to save time at meetings. I have no problems with having the full Council on all committees, but to put a number of items on Engineering Services agendas as attachments is a bit alarming. It is pleasing to see the proposed meeting schedule still gives us a full meeting day. This is the core business of Council and we need to make sure it continues to deliver. The short circuiting of debate and the committee's understanding of processes and what's going on in the district cannot be allowed to happen. I will attempt as Chairman to give the new expanded committee a fair go.

I have a "Straight Talk" (Fulton Hogan) which makes for interesting reading and "The Accessible Journey" – report of the inquiry into accessible public land transport (Human Rights Commission Te Kahui Tika Tangata). If any members are interested in some bedtime reading!

Talking of things from small beginnings and just for information to some of you older around the Council table – last Sunday morning at approximately 4.00 am Linda and I became grandparents for the sixth time – a grand-daughter born 7 weeks premature (mother and baby doing well).

Regards

Trevor Norriss (Pop Pop) – thought you'd like that Gordon, perhaps I'll have to sign
up for Grey Power!
Chair - Engineering Services Committee