

STAFF REPORT

TO: Chairman and Members, Engineering Services Committee

FROM: Steve Elkington, Road Asset Engineer

REFERENCE: R860

DATE: 30 May 2006

SUBJECT: **SEALING RATE REVIEW - COUNCIL'S SEALING LOW TRAFFICKED ROADS POLICY**

1. PURPOSE

To recommend an increase in the sealing rate used to calculate ratepayers share of the cost for sealing a gravel road under Council's policy for Sealing Low Trafficked Roads.

2. BACKGROUND

Council updated its policy for sealing low trafficked roads in 1998, with a rate of \$16/m². This rate is used to calculate the total cost of which contributing rate payers pay 50% towards sealing a determined length of gravel road at a width of 4.5 metres.

The policy was established to allow low trafficked roads to be sealed that would otherwise not achieve funding through the National Land Transport Programme.

3. COMMENT

A new rate of \$32/m² (excluding GST) has been calculated and based on similar recent works across the district. The rates that were reviewed ranged between \$27/m² and \$35/m². The rate of \$32/m² falls in the upper mid range, however bearing in mind that most sealed lengths tend to be in the order of a 100 metres rather than the longer length of 300 metres where a lower rate may apply.

Within Council's policy it clearly states that where the final cost of the work is less than that initially calculated using the sealing rate in the policy, then ratepayers 50% share will be recalculated based on this lower final cost, noting that ratepayers share cannot go up.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Engineering Services Committee adopt the new sealing rate of \$32/m² (excluding GST) thereby replacing the existing rate of \$16/m², in its Low Trafficked Road Sealing Policy.

Steve Elkington

Road Asset Engineer