

REPORT

TO: Members, Engineering Services Committee

FROM: Chair, Trevor Norriss

REFERENCE:

DATE: 6 October 2006

SUBJECT: CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - OCTOBER 2006

It has been a great relief to those of us in the rural areas to see the recent rains which will help get some much needed growth going – unfortunately, not enough to help fill the new Wai-iti Dam.

Many thanks to Council staff and all involved in making the opening an enjoyable occasion – especially to Robyn for her hard work leading up to the opening day and on the day itself. To Evan Baigent and the committee it has been the result of at least ten years hard work and commitment to what, at many times, must have looked a distant dream. Council should also be congratulated to have the vision to go ahead with the project that, if successful, will create more productivity and much needed employment in our region.

Agriculture Minister Jim Anderton's address at the opening was one of the best I have heard from a central government politician. This country, whether Auckland or Wellington like it or not, is still heavily reliant on the three F's (farming, fishing and forestry) and Tasman District is no exception. As a Council we need to be encouraging businesses to our area and not putting up unreasonable demands and costs on those prepared to invest in our region.

The recent changes to the Building Act and the aquaculture debacle are glaring examples of where Government has got it wrong and local government needs to get out from under the bedcovers with Government and start telling them so!

It is hoped that at some stage today to do a site visit to see first-hand the flood channel upgrades etc. at Brightwater. Councillor Higgins has some ideas he wishes to show the committee.

I also hope, if possible, to relay the conversations I have had recently with a frustrated landowner in our district.

Welcome back to Dave Cresswell after his recent health hiccup and, once again, thanks to Council staff involved in the Wai-iti Dam project.

Regards

Trevor Norriss
Chair - Engineering Services Committee