

REPORT

TO: Members, Engineering Services Committee
FROM: Chair, Trevor Norriss
DATE: 01 May 2007
SUBJECT: **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – MAY 2007**

Welcome to today's meeting. My thanks go out to Council's Engineering staff, consultants, councillors and community board members who have been involved in the open days and meetings regarding Engineering Services application for the Motueka water supply. It is sad that some have used this as an opportunity to have a crack at Council over unrelated issues and the amount of misinformation surrounding the application has not helped. The community has had the opportunity to present submissions on the application and the result will be awaited with interest by all. I suspect this may not be the end of the issue.

The Regional Land Transport Committee (RLTC) decision to go out for consultation on options 1 and 2b seems on the surface to be the best, provided option 2b is clearly explained for what it is, and the how and who will fund the option and the process are not hijacked by political interference.

The Engineering Services Committee, by way of resolution, moved that its preferred option was option 1. I have asked Engineering staff to investigate who has voting membership on the RLTC and what is required of them. Although the committee operates under Nelson City Council standing orders it is my belief that it is not a Nelson or Tasman District Council committee but in fact a Regional Land Transport Committee. I may be wrong!

Thanks to Councillor Henry for attending a meeting at the Hope School regarding the Paton's Road switchbacks. On the surface there seems to be a simple solution – unfortunately there is not! I will ask Councillor Henry to update us at the meeting.

I have had considerable and favourable comment regarding Council's intention in this year's plan to upgrade the "Black Bridge" at Ngatimoti and not just from people living in the valley. This bridge must be the most dangerous between Murchison and Motueka and is used by a huge amount of traffic. It will be good to see this project finally completed.

In today's agenda there will be some recommendations regarding the Ruby Bay sea wall. I will be attending another meeting of adjoining landowners prior to the Engineering Services Committee meeting and will hopefully have more information to report.

Thanks also to Lynn our temp for her assistance in Robyn's absence – and all the best to Robyn on her speedy recovery.

I cannot finish my report without firing a shot on another completely unrelated engineering matter – the Local Government Commission's final decision regarding representation for our district. For something the Council, our ratepayers and residents never asked for, I find many inconsistencies in the final outcome. Comments regarding the Murchison Service Centre and the decision to put parts of Wakefield into the Murchison-Lakes ward are rather bizarre to say the least especially given the reasoning for not putting parts of Riwaka-Kaiteriteri into the Golden Bay ward. I hope at some stage Council will discuss this final outcome.

Regards

Trevor Norriss

Chair - Engineering Services Committee