

REPORT

TO: Members, Engineering Services Committee

FROM: Chair, Trevor Norriss

DATE: 19 November 2007

SUBJECT: **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – NOVEMBER 2007**

Welcome to the first meeting in this Council's term. Many thanks to Stuart Bryant who has been Deputy Chair of this committee for the past two terms and good luck with your new position as Chairman of Community Services. Welcome also to Barry Dowler as Deputy Chair of this committee and also to the new Council members.

Engineering Manager, Peter Thomson will give a brief outline of areas that we are involved with and how certain projects and areas are funded. Please ask any questions of myself or staff if you are unsure, not only today but also going ahead into the future in this term of Council. There's a lot to get one's head around! You will find Engineering staff only too pleased to answer any queries you have.

The Council budget workshops in December will also be important – this is the time to query any projects and costs – don't leave it until the final meeting to set the rates and charges which can be frustrating for everyone. You are about to find out we get many submissions in the "I want" category but not many suggestions in the "we don't need this" area. It's our job to prioritise and keep things affordable.

There are going to be huge challenges in the term ahead – especially in areas of central government legislation that sets the rules by which we are required to operate. The big one for our district will undoubtedly be new drinking water requirements (sadly at this time little or no funding being provided from central government). The cost implications for Tasman District will be unaffordable and we need to fight this at all costs.

We need to urgently get in place our Regional Land Transport Committee and have a strategy in place as soon as possible to secure funding for future projects in Tasman. This does not mean the abandonment of Nelson City – once they get their strategy in place I'm sure we will support their decision.

As your Engineering Chairman I am looking forward to working with you all in this term. You will all get the opportunity to have your say. Again please ask any questions.

Thank you all for your support for my continuation in the Chairman's role.

Regards

Trevor Norriss
Chair - Engineering Services Committee