

REPORT

TO: Members, Engineering Services Committee

FROM: Chair, Trevor Norriss

DATE: 31 January 2008

SUBJECT: **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2008**

Welcome to the first meeting of this committee in 2008. I hope all staff and councillors enjoyed the Christmas break and are ready for the challenges ahead.

Congratulations to all involved in last Friday's rugby match at Sports Park Motueka, both organisers and participants have shown that rural areas can successfully host these events and enjoy the atmosphere and entertainment. It was also great to see the TDC-owned seating used for the first time. The only downside of the evening for some folk was when returning to their vehicles or exiting the event, the traffic department had issued tickets for many trivial issues. I feel the time is long overdue for Council to meet with the area commander to discuss some of these issues. Communities will support the police when they earn the communities respect.

As Chairman of Engineering Services I believe this Council has made a mistake in planning priorities set at the pre-Christmas Environment & Planning meeting. To place a priority on Western Golden Bay and the Waimea Estuary ahead of Brightwater and Wakefield, where we have the fastest population growth in the district and to not have planning in place is, in my view, ridiculous. To ask Engineering staff to plan infrastructure issues for this area will put great pressure on staff resources without any consideration of priorities and work programme.

I have asked the Engineering Manager to give us a report on the consequences of this decision urgently and would hope Council will revisit the issue.

The issue of the Motueka stopbanks will mean a huge amount of consultation with the public and the adjoining landowners (both sides of the river) will be required. The replacement and staged process is going to be a huge challenge for all involved.

The turning of the first sod (the Mayor, not me) at the conclusion of today's meeting for the Richmond town centre upgrade has been five years in the planning and it is appropriate that Mayor Kempthorne, who has been heavily involved, kicks the project off.

All the best for the year ahead.

Regards

Trevor Norriss
Chair - Engineering Services Committee