

REPORT

TO: Members, Engineering Services Committee

FROM: Chair, Trevor Norriss and Deputy Chair, Barry Dowler

DATE: 10 March 2008

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

Welcome to today's meeting. As I will be away the Deputy Chair, Barry Dowler will be in the chair. I have asked him to do a brief report on the issues from his viewpoint.

Takaka Firewells

A very constructive meeting between the NZ Fire Service, the Golden Bay Community Board, Golden Bay Councillors, Tony Sandall and staff was held on 22 February chaired by Councillor Riley. I thank all those involved and I hope that we will have something positive to report in the near future.

Trevor Norriss

Chair - Engineering Services Committee

My turn to follow on from Cr Norriss' introduction and I hope he is having a fine time consuming plenty of McDonalds and warm beer in Australia.

A couple of things I wish to briefly mention while I have this opportunity.

Since being elected to Council late last year it has been a steep learning curve and something I am now really starting to enjoy. Engineering Services is a group that I feel works hard and well within its budget – although some critics think the dollar should always produce more than it can in today's volatile pricing market.

It was interesting to hear at the recent Transit NZ State Highway Liaison meeting that a Motueka bypass is possibly 20-50 years away. And it is great to see that the Ruby Bay bypass may come to reality later this year.

I was standing on the side of the road in King Edward Street in Motueka last week and watched as a local contractor's truck pulled in to the side of the road, the driver obviously stopping to buy his lunch. The truck came in contact with the main fuse holders on one of Network Tasman's power transformers which protrude on to what I call the road reserve. The outcome was that the businesses feeding off the transformer lost their power supply and there was a truck that was possibly "live". Fortunately, no one was hurt and the power was restored reasonably quickly. This is not the first time that this has happened and I feel that all power transformers mounted on pole platforms on the road edge should be checked and, if there is a chance of contact with a vehicle, they should be moved back to create a safe zone. Alternatively, the area should be marked with no parking lines.

Autumn is upon us and it is timely to remind people that use leaf vacuum/blowers that the correct operation of these units is to suck up the leaves and dispose of them as compost and then to use the blower to get rid of the dust. Not to use the blower to blow the leaves out on to the road reserve where, when it rains the next time, the Council gets a number of

complaints due to leaves blocking up the roadside drains. It is easy really and we appreciate all the help we can get.

Within the next month or so there will be messages coming out regarding the performance and weaknesses found in the Motueka River stopbanks and what remedies are necessary to fully protect the town. This is a major exercise and will require a lot of public input.

Let's get on with a fully productive meeting and I hope my nervousness doesn't show too much!

Regards

Barry Dowler
Deputy Chair