

## **STAFF REPORT**

**TO:** Chairman and Members, Engineering Services Committee  
**FROM:** Peter Thomson, Engineering Manager  
**REFERENCE:** W199  
**DATE:** 23 April 2008  
**SUBJECT:** **TAKAKA FIREWELLS**

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### **1 PURPOSE**

To report to the Engineering Services Committee a recommended proposal from the Takaka Firefighting Working Party.

### **2 BACKGROUND**

As has been previously reported to the committee a working party was established to consider the feasibility of options for firefighting systems in the commercial and residential areas of Takaka township. Representation on this working party has included committee members, Golden Bay community board members, NZ Fire Service, community representatives, staff and Council's engineering consultants.

A full report of the options evaluated by the working party including recommendations and copies of minutes to their meetings is attached in full for the committee's consideration.

### **3 COMMENT**

The recommendation in section 9 of the attached report provides a clear option for the Council to proceed with this project through full community consultation. However the working party has identified a number of issues that need to have additional work with a view to reducing the financial impact on the community and also to clarify some of the possible funding mechanisms recommended.

Given the short time available staff have not been able to provide all of the answers and clarifications to the issues raised for this committee meeting. Therefore some additional work needs to be done to refine and clarify funding issues, proposed targeted rating areas and any further refinement of estimates.

For example, the estimates provided in the report do not take any account of the current balance within the Takaka fire protection closed account. As Councillors will be aware the closed account balance as at 31 December 2007 has been reported as a credit balance of \$43,507. Therefore there is some potential for this balance to be used towards the capital cost of the project and reduce the rating impact. This effect needs to be further quantified prior to public consultation.

Also, the timing of the report has not enabled the proposed project and funding mechanisms to be included in the 2008/2009 draft Annual Plan for public consultation and submission. The current draft Annual Plan funding impact statement has provision for continuation of the Takaka Fire Protection Targeted Rate at \$88 per rating unit for 2008/2009. This proposed rate was based on funds needed to complete the feasibility investigations and preliminary design work associated with a recommended solution for a Takaka firefighting system.

It is recommended that any option considered by Council should be adopted following the special consultative procedures as outlined in the Local Government Act. In light of the urgency and priority attributed to this project by the working party, it is suggested that a separate special consultative procedure timeline be adopted by Council so that this firefighting system, if approved, can be established in the Takaka township at the earliest opportunity.

#### **4 RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the Engineering Services Committee recommend to full Council that:

- a) The Takaka firefighting system option as set out in section 9 of the attached Takaka Firefighting Options Evaluation report be proposed to the district community using the Special Consultative Procedure of the LGA at the earliest practicable opportunity.
- b) That staff refine financial, funding and rating issues for the recommended option and clarify these issues in the report to full Council.

Peter Thomson  
**Engineering Manager**