

NRC Regional Transport Committee meeting – 5th June 2013

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The meeting today got underway at 1003hrs.

Chairman John Bain welcomed all for attending today's meeting.

Item No 1 Apologies were received for Mr Steve Westgate Environmental Sustainability representative and Mr Steve McNally Far North District Council representative.

Moved: Mr Peter Winder (appointed commissioner for Kaipara District Council)

Seconded: Mr Ken Rintoul Economic Development representative.

John Bain continued and explained the emergency procedures and exits and restroom facilities that were available. Emergency meeting area was in the car park.

It was **Item No 2. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest.** The chair stated that any 'Conflicts of Interest' were to be advised item by item as they progressed through the agenda and any appropriate action to be taken would be decided by the Committee.

3.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Time now 1004hrs and **Item No. 3.1.** Confirmation of Minutes – 3 April 2013 (Page 1)

Moved: Cr Joe Carr, Seconded: Mr Ken Rintoul.

Page by page the minutes were checked with the opportunity for any questions to be raised or matters arising from the minutes.

Cr Joe Carr advised in reference to Page 6, that Cr McNally had undertaken to clarify FNDC budgets.

Cr John Bain advised he would write to Cr McNally.

This item was duly accepted and no further discussion was required.

4.0 PRESENTATIONS

Item No. 4.1. High Performance Motor Vehicles (HPMV) (Page 9) (1008hrs)

Mr David Silvester, National Planning Manager at New Zealand Transport Agency & High Productivity Motor Vehicles (HPMV) Program Manager gave a presentation to the committee on the High Productivity Motor Vehicle project.

It was about Improving Freight Efficiency. Items such as smarter regulation were covered. High Productivity Motor Vehicles were to be used and these were up to 62tonnes on 4500km of roads were being considered. The Northland route was as far north as Kerikeri. Class 1 which was currently 44tonnes was rising up to 50tonnes. It was advised presently there were 2 bridges that needed upgrading to cater for this in this area.

Cr Greg Martin Whangarei District Council representative asked if there had been adequate investigation into balloon tyres, versus duals; as dual spread the loads better.

Mr Ken Rintoul had concerns that during the summer and winter periods there would be issues; during summer asphalt would be damaged when soft during summer with increased loads and loss of traction would be an issue during winter on steeper climbs like on the Brenderwyn' as happens now. With heavier loads and now increase on the driving wheels this will become a greater issue.

Cr John Bain claims he has concerns about the Brenderwyns.

Mr David Silvester continued that the proposal needed the support of councils, there needed to connect to the network, they had to identify restricted structures and councils needed the NZTA to permit on their behalf.

Cr John Bain asked what were the benefits back to Northland; from issue of permits and RUC (Road User Charges).

Mr David Silvester commented that some transport operators overloaded but having a permit gave them a greater control.

Mr Ken Rintoul asked how they were going to get these larger trucks through detours because of road closures which are frequent in Northland. He added "Our route security needs to be sorted before you start sticking these trucks up our roads".

Cr John Bain asked Jeff Divine, WDC Council Roothing Manager to inform where council was at with this discussion.

Jeff Divine advised they had met in forums and council had looked at some of their bridges; this new loading will increase the number of bridges needed to comply with the weights, hence it was good leverage to gain more funding for such projects.

Cr Joe Carr through the chair to Jeff Divine queried the two bridges on the Mangakahia route that don't comply.

Mr Peter Winder asked what the benefits to develop these routes were. He also asked was there no change to financial assistance from NZTA and who would bear the cost; the ratepayers?

Cr John Bain wanted it noted that as there was no representation from the Far North District Council at today's meeting it should be noted there are 500 bridges in their district. *Have they been delayed because of road closures because of the weather?*

Cr Greg Martin claimed if it was on the agenda for a vote today, he would vote for it. He asked was it on the agenda and able to be locked into happening.

Vaughan Cooper, Growth and Infrastructure Manager gave some details to this and the processes and time frames that apply.

Mr David Silvester confirmed that there were time frames and those depended on the support for the project.

Strange with all the discussion about efficiencies of freight; no one has raised RAIL. Is this out of the cross hairs now and the focus has moved to what government wants.

On to 5.0 INFORMATION REPORTS

Time now 1047hrs and **Item No. 5.1.** Northland Regional Land Transport Programme 2012-2015 - Funding Uptake (Page 11)

Cr John Bain Invites Chris Powell, Transport Operations Senior Programme Manager to speak to his report.

Chris Powell advised that the report was an update of each of the projects. He advised he was happy to answer any questions.

Moved: Cr John Bain, Seconded: Mr Peter Winder.

Item No. 5.2. Regional Road Safety Update (Page 18) (1049hrs)

Cr John Bain invites Ian Crayton-Brown, NRC Transport Projects Officer to speak to his report.

Ian Crayton-Brown gave an update; he claimed it was good results from the Queen's Birthday weekend as far as road safety was involved. There were some good messages out there prior to holiday weekends like the safe tyre promotion at the moment with the wet weather upon us. He advised last month there had been 3 fatalities in Northland. Ian was happy to answer any questions.

Mr Ken Rintoul had a query on the far north fatalities for last month.

It was advised those figures in the report were until the 20th of May.

Moved: Cr Joe Carr, Seconded: Cr Greg Martin.

Time now 1054hrs and **Item No. 5 .3.** Progress of the Land Transport Management Act Amendments (Page 25)

Cr John Bain invites Vaughan Cooper to speak to his report.

Vaughan Cooper, Growth and Infrastructure Manager advised that the bill had been passed yesterday in parliament.

Moved:?, Seconded:? .

It was now 6.0 DECISION REPORTS

Item No. 6.1. Dust Related Problems on Unsealed Roads of Northland – Update (Page 27) (1055hrs)

Cr John Bain Invites Chris Powell, Transport Operations Senior Programme Manager to speak to his report.

Chris Powell gave a brief update but informed that confirmation of the recommendations was needed. He advised of the meetings held in regards this issue as outlined o pages 27 & 28.

He claimed the main issue was in securing funding for this project to proceed.

Cr John Bain advised that Charirman Craig brown had discussed this issue with a number of Members of Parliament. *Interesting read in the report; one of the meetings where MP's were invited and only a representative from Hone Harawira's Mana party turned up. What does that tell you? Is he the only one representing the people?*

John gave details of meetings and teleconferences that had taken place. He informed that they were getting it together and that the figures must be accurate before they take this issue forward.

Chairman Craig Brown advised that at the next Mayoral Forum, MP's are attending. The people who live in the Pipiwai (affected) area are not beneficiaries of the industry creating the dust nuisance, but are being affected by it. The activities of this industry on a road that was originally arranged for peoples private access has turned it into an industrial road. Cr Joe Carr advised that tar seal can be a huge burden and there are some aggregates that can solve the issue of dust. This project should be driven on a technical not a political basis. Craig Brown informed the meeting that they need the facts on petroleum suppressants before debating this issue at higher levels; we need up to date information and can't rely on old council rulings. *How true Craig; you can't beat facts!*

Cr John Bain advised that ongoing applications of suppressant could have high costs compared to fixing the issue properly once. *Yes there is a lot of merit in 'do it once, do it right'.*

Mr Peter Winder made some very valid concerns about the health side of things and cost benefit factors. He advised he had done some research prior to the meeting on funding and he had checked it out. He asked a pertinent question; is dust right up there in priorities? Craig Brown commented that the Mayoral Forum had this to discuss and other issues; this was not the only issue.

Chris Powell informed that the recommendations were what the report was about and there was a structured plan.

Mr Rawson Wright Cultural Interests representative questioned about new housing being developed in these dust prone areas and how councils were dealing with this. This was clarified about set backs from roads with new developments.

Moved: Cr Greg Martin, Seconded: Rawson Wright.

Mr Peter Winder was the only one who was not supporting the recommendation and wished for that to be recorded.

Cr Joe Carr asked that comments made by Peter Winder be recorded in the minutes.

John Bain closed the meeting at 1123hrs thanking all for attending.

All information in regards to this meeting's agenda and others are available on the Northland Regional Council website by clicking on this [link](#).