

Whangarei District Council Infrastructure and Services meeting

– 12th December 2012

[LINK to appropriate Agenda](#)

Chair Cr Greg Martin called the meeting to order at 0900hrs and welcomed all to this month's Infrastructure and Services meeting.

There were no apologies.

There were a couple of housekeeping points Greg added, Item No.2. was withdrawn from today's agenda. He also advised that today's meeting was to be recorded with both audio and video.

Greg handed over to the CEO Mark Simpson to explain the changes to the Local Government Act. Mark gave a brief on this. [Link to the CEO's quotation](#) on LGA.

Time was now at 0902hrs and it was Item No.1. 1. Minutes of a Meeting of the Infrastructure and Services Committee held 14 November 2012. (Page 1)

Moved by Cr Aaron Edwards, seconded by Cr Sharon Morgan.

These were duly passed, with no discussion necessary.

Item No.2. Bike Northland Proposal. (Page 4) had been removed from today's agenda.

Time still at 0902hrs. Item No.3. Unsealed Roads – Dust Control Options. (Page 15)

Moved by Cr Sharon Morgan, seconded by Cr Shelley Deeming.

Group Manager Infrastructure and Services Simon Weston explained that this item covers off what has been happening around New Zealand managing unsealed roads. He felt that one of the things that wasn't high-lighted is that he is very much in favour of ratepayer subsidies on seal extensions. If ratepayer groups want to get together to get sealing done, we are more than willing to work with these groups Cr Shelley Deeming was concerned that we are not allowed to use waste oil on roads for dust suppressant because of the Northland Regional Council. Other Regional Councils don't have those regulations. *I believe there is a fear of the waste oil on roads getting into water tables and finding its way into streams, rivers and our precious harbours; that is why NRC would be against it as they are entrusted to protect the environment.* Shelley claimed that if were to bring in the neighbours washing and throw it on the floor you would get covered in dust. *Strange comment, why the neighbours washing and not hers? Can I also suggest you hang the washing in the garage like we have to. We get dust from driveways and in general*

due to the fact we live in a volcanic area that dries out in summer. Shelley continued that waste oil kills a few snails, what about asthmatic problems.

Cr Brian McLachlan believed they were stuck between a rock and a hard place. He felt for these people and we need more money for resealing. *Easy fix; stop wasting money on fancy projects and focus on basic infrastructure like council is supposed to do.*

Cr Merv Williams claims he has sympathy with Shelley Deeming; they should allow management and staff to add a second point to Regional Council to allow an amendment to the policy about waste oil on roads.

Cr Sharon Morgan advises that she endorses what Shelley Deeming says. Sharon had a query on Seal Extension (Page 15) about the 25year pavement life.

Simon Weston gave some explanation to this query.

Mayor Morris Cutforth (*oh it's ten past nine and he's still awake*) advises that oil on roads has been discussed at Mayoral Forums. Mayor Wayne Brown is onto the Regional Council and has been harassing them to change the policy. There is an issue of oil contamination of the environment, verse health issues. He asked has there been any consideration by government of the costings of roads in the North compared to the costs in the South Island. Do we get a heavier subsidy? *Ask the mayor; he should know.*

Simon Weston gave some details of discussions they have had with NZTA (New Zealand Transport Agency).

Cr Sue Glen claimed that Cr Deeming needs support and she was happy to 2nd her change to the motion. *Gosh Sue, for a moment I thought you were going to support Shelley bringing in the neighbours washing to dust up the chamber.*

Cr Warwick Syers supported what Shelley Deeming has said and staff needed to do some research around the discussion.

Cr Aaron Edwards advised that they need some higher science on this.

Cr Crichton Christie had concerns about oil on roads versus health issues.

Cr Phil Halse advised that this issue had been around for years and Regional Councils had differing views. We have the hottest region in the country and the most unsealed roads. It should be put on our 'hotline' that any dust complaints should be forwarded onto the Northland Regional Council.

Cr Kahu Sutherland suggested there was a third issue with this; following a vehicle on dusty roads is a safety issue. *Could I bring your attention to this [LINK](#)*

Cr Sharon Morgan claims she also totally supports Cr Deeming as she also lives rurally and fields a lot of calls on dust issues. We need to go through the right channels at the NRC on this issue as we have 800 kms of unsealed roads.

It is interesting that all councilors excluding only a couple spoke on this issue for some 15minutes and often large dollars issues slip through with a blink of the eye; is this called priorities?

There was a vote for the public to be excluded before going into the **confidential** section of the meeting and this was moved by Cr Shelley Deeming, Seconded: Cr Merv Williams.

Not bad for an open and transparent meeting?; 3 items in the public section and 3 items in confidential.

Just a reminder, didn't Morris campaign that he wanted open and transparent council? And he always also tends to vote for it to go into confidential. Just another thing he did an 'about turn on'.

Chair Cr Greg Martin thanked all for attending and concluded the meeting with the time at 0918hours

CONFIDENTIAL INDEX

Item No. C.1 Confidential Minutes of the Infrastructure and Services Committee Meeting held 14 November 2012. (Page 1)

Item No. C.2 Infrastructural Services. (Page 2)

Item No. C.3 Infrastructure Improvements. (Page 5)

Those present left the chamber, off to the library (or to the NRC) to have a coffee before the next meeting at 1000hrs.

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