

## RCA FORUM LOW VOLUME ROADS – FUNDING HEAVY VEHICLE IMPACTS WORKING GROUP

### MEETING NOTES: Friday 5 September 2014 – Telephone Conference – 8.30 to 9.30 am

<b>Present:</b>	Jamie Cox Warren Furner Andrea Nicol Wayne Furlong Henri van Zyl Jeff Devine Martin Taylor Wayne Newman	Wairoa District Council, Ruapehu District Council Ruapehu District Council Waikato District Council Kaipara District Council Whangarei District Council WHakatane District Council Research and Guidelines Steering Group	Convenor          Secretary
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ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Welcome and apologies	<p>Jamie welcomed the group. Warren introduced Andrea.</p> <p><u>Noted:</u> Dawn Inglis (Waipa) has resigned and nominated Wayne Furlong to replace her, as having direct experience with these issues in Waikato District.</p>	
1. Roundtable discussion of work already done	<p>Ruapehu began looking at issue more seriously after LTMA Amendment gave TAs ability to make bylaws to respond to such issues. It developed a draft bylaw, but chose not to make it after completing public consultation. RDC has decided not to be proactive, but to provide for rehabilitating pavements after harvest. Funding this, and achieving an equitable and consistent mechanism, is the issue.</p> <p>Wanganui began looking at effect of forestry harvest projections about 5 years ago. Road consumption will double the budget for road renewals over decade 2020-30, but finding an extra \$20m within 'flat-line' allocations will be a challenge. Forest owners have said a loss in LOS during harvest is acceptable, but other road-users reject this, so an equitable funding mechanism is needed.</p>	

	<p>Kaipara reported that it has similar concerns. Using work done by Whangarei it has assembled the data on the impacts and reached the point of trying to identify how to fund the work and who will pay.</p> <p>Waikato began consultation with forest owners over increasing demands for reactive maintenance and proposed targeted rates. This was strongly resisted by forest owners and any proposal for a differential or targeted rate will need to be backed by robust research. WDC will fund renewal and reactive maintenance for 3 years while a means of funding this work over the next decade is agreed on. Lack of notice of harvesting has been a difficulty.</p> <p>Whangarei has felt the impact of the first harvest cycle in the Northland region and the shift of the port. Work has been done on quantifying the impact on the local roads. As 40% of the logs moving over those roads were harvested outside the district, a rating response cannot provide a full solution. NZTA has responded favourably to a regional application for an allocation increase in the LTP for increased maintenance costs.</p> <p>Whakatane has 900km of road (about 200km unsealed), of which about 80-85% are LVR. The problem is not with the corporate forests, but with smaller, scattered private woodlots. There is almost no notice of harvesting and the district has had a 50% increase in maintenance costs from remetalling pavements. WDC has looked at land value vs capital value rating as it has investigated how to increase contributions from forest lands.</p> <p>Wairoa has 30% of 400,000ha in forest within its district. It secured generous RDR funding at the time of the transfer of the major corporate forests, which represented about 18% of the district land area, but has since had a massive increase in smaller, scattered private forests and woodlots, with significant impacts on rural roads.</p>	<p><b>Henri to share data and reports.</b></p> <p><b>Wayne to share data and reports.</b></p> <p><b>Jeff to share data and report from Beca Carter.</b></p> <p><b>Martin to share data and reports.</b></p> <p><b>Jamie to share data and reports.</b></p>
<p>2. Background to setting up the working group</p>	<p>NZTA called for sector challenges in Sep 2013 for research topics. Ruapehu and New Plymouth both raised need for funding policy guidance in providing for roads affected by forest harvest, while Waitaki raised a need for a model to equitably apportion costs from the impacts of heavier vehicles. A working group on this issue was proposed to</p>	

	<p>the Research and Guidelines Steering Group in Oct 2013, but RGG decided to hold a workshop to define and scope the issue first. Difficulties in coordinating a workshop in conjunction with a Forum delayed the workshop until Aug 2014.</p>	
<p>3. Terms of reference and work programme</p>	<p><u>Noted:</u> Martin Gribble, NZTA (ex GHD) and Marinus la Rooij, (NZTA) both have useful experience and expertise on these issues and could offer worthwhile assistance to the project.</p> <p><u>Agreed:</u> A Dropbox folder be set up to allow research and work done to date by group members to be swapped and readily accessible.</p> <p><u>Agreed:</u> While focus to date has been on impact of forest harvesting and getting an equitable contribution from forest lands, the issue is whether the activity is above the designed base level of the road and that activity can be the result of a variety of land uses – forestry, quarrying, dairying or arable and horticultural farming with heavy machinery being moved between separate holdings, so the group should work to develop equitable funding policy guidelines applicable to all activities.</p> <p><u>Agreed:</u> the group will need to work with representatives of the industries having an impact on LVR pavements, such as NZFOA, AQA and DairyNZ.</p> <p><u>Agreed:</u> Accurate and credible data on loading and volumes, and robust measures of impacts, will be essential.</p> <p><u>Agreed:</u> A template be developed and circulated for filing data and information to be shared.</p> <p><u>Agreed:</u> A programme of actions, with timeline and budget estimates, needs to be completed for the TOR to be finalised.</p> <p><u>Agreed:</u> Group will convene for 1 hour teleconference each month and meet in person at Forum meetings to progress actions.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>WN to contact Martin and Marinus to advise them of the WG and its activities.</b> Due date: 12/09/14</li> <li>2. <b>WN to set up a Dropbox folder for WG and place material already circulated by Warren and Rui into it.</b> Due date: 8/09/14</li> <li>3. <b>Jamie to design template and WN to complete draft and circulate.</b> Due date: 12/09/14</li> <li>4. <b>WN to draft first draft programme and budget. Jamie to review draft and circulate for comment</b> Due date: 12/09/14</li> <li>5. <b>ALL WG to provide comment on draft programme.</b> Due date: 19/09/14</li> <li>6. <b>WN to present final TOR and work programme to RGG meeting on 9/10/14.</b> Due date: 26/09/14</li> </ol>