

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

MEETING NOTES: Thursday 27 November 2014 – Brentwood Hotel – 4.00 to 7.00 pm

Present:	Jamie Cox Warren Furner Martin Taylor Wayne Newman	Wairoa District Council, Ruapehu District Council Whakatane District Council Research and Guidelines Steering Group	Convenor Secretary
-----------------	---	--	-----------------------------------

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Welcome and apologies	Jamie welcomed the group. Wayne apologised for lateness.	
1. Review of data for roads serving forest blocks	<p>The detailed data on expenditure on each road serving a forest block, whilst offering a general sense of range, is not specific enough to accurately quantify costs as a function of various forest planted areas without additional data on forestry activities.</p> <p>To identify a cost attributable to forest harvest the data should provide a correlation of a spike in pavement maintenance against a known harvest along that road.</p> <p>To obtain this data we need to identify where a road has provided the primary access for a known forest harvest and review the annual pavement maintenance history of that road over a period of at least 10 years that includes the forest harvest.</p> <p>If this data can be obtained and compared to the annual pavement maintenance history of an otherwise very similar road on which no forest harvest has occurred, any correlation between the forest harvest and any sudden deterioration in the pavement outside the normal pattern of deterioration should become evident.</p> <p>If a pattern of similarity can be shown from widely dispersed harvest events, the data can be relied on to establish a correlation with the need for unplanned renewals.</p>	<p>Each group member to search for at least one (up to five) single forest harvest events (exclude perpetual or continuous harvest), for which the date is known (ideally since 1999), that had single or simple access and pull up the pavement maintenance history for that road. Where possible, pull up the maintenance history for a similar road that is known not to have had forest harvest for comparison.</p>

2. Associated research	<p>MBIE is investigating the economic benefits of dairy conversions from forestry use. This research is expected to identify the area and age cohort of forest blocks on specific roads, from which data on the likely tonnage on those roads in a likely harvest period should be able to be extrapolated.</p>	<p>Each group member to provide updates where they are involved in this exercise.</p>
3. National vs local funding of forestry impacts	<p>Anecdotal evidence suggests that forestry returns minimal benefits to localities, whether in rates, employment or local investment.</p> <p>Work done by Ruapehu DC comparing four categories of land use (dairy, deer, pastoral and exotic forestry) by rates per ha and rates per tonne of freight productivity is strongly suggestive that non-forest owners are directly subsidising forest owners. (refer to 140819-RDC-landuse rates vs costs in Dropbox).</p> <p>Further work on the cost per load suggests that RUC fail to address the impact of forestry harvest and create a high local cost (refer to 140819-RDC-logging truck costs in Dropbox).</p> <p>A business case might be able to be made that accelerated pavement deterioration or extraordinary pavement failure resulting from one-off forest harvest events should be funded from national, rather than local funds, perhaps through the targeted enhanced FAR category.</p>	<p>Each group member to replicate the analysis done by RDC to yield local rates per ha and rates per tonne for basic land use types.</p> <p>Each group member to test the forestry cost per load calculation done by RDC using their local costs and assumptions.</p> <p>Results to be circulated within the group.</p>
4. Budget and support	<p>Chris Olsen is contracting for Equip and has expressed interest in this topic. Steven Findlay of LGNZ regards it as an important area of research. Murray Gimblett is interested in becoming involved. Once preliminary data is available a business case should be able to be put to NZTA/LGNZ for expert statistical or economic support.</p>	<p>Wayne to maintain contact with NZTA and LGNZ and set up meeting with group members when appropriate.</p>