

Workgroup developing Guidelines for funding accelerated pavement consumption from unplanned heavy vehicle traffic on low volume roads

Teleconference: 9:30 Thursday 4 February 2016

Present: Jamie Cox -Wairoa DC, Warren Furner –Ruapehu DC, Jeff Devine –Whangarei DC, Carolyn Copeland – South Taranaki DC, Michael Harrison –Dunedin CC, Wayne Newman –RCAF/RGG

Apologies: Wayne Furlong -Waikato DC, Henri Van Zyl -Kaipara DC, Joe Bourque –Southland DC, Peter Scott – AT, Wil Pille –Far North DC, Steve Murrin – Marlborough Roads, Murray Gimblett - NZTA P&I, Rui Leitao -Wanganui DC, Martin Taylor –Whakatane DC, Michael Voss –Waitaki DC.

Meeting summary

Common summer issues of reseals flushing and dust from heavy vehicles was discussed before the workstreams reported. Tasks and priorities for work to be completed to have the first draft guidelines sections available by the end of March were identified.

Heat effects on reseals

Preliminary discussion of common issues identified the recurrent problem of reseals flushing in higher temperatures. This quickly becomes a political issue when bitumen ‘tar’ starts to get on cars, clothes, footpaths and flooring. Over-metalling in response can ameliorate the problem, but it can bring its own political issues as loose metal spreads into drains, side-roads, drives, berms and lawns.

As increased numbers of longer and heavier vehicles on the network are expected to result in an increase in the number of reseals, appropriate ways to mitigate flushing will become a higher priority in many areas.

Dust

Jamie Cox reported on a programme of dust suppression on Wairoa’s roads. The reports to the last Forum on the PM10 health risks from road dust and on the trials of proprietary dust suppressants in Whakatane by Opus encouraged Wairoa to provide a budget of \$30,000 for dust suppression this summer.

As the product costs about \$5/m² and has an effective life of about five months, picking the right time and the right place to use it are critical. Wairoa has used a tool based on Excel to assess the priority sites for dust suppression, based on heavy traffic volume, proximity to dwellings, number of potentially affected dwellings at the site, special needs such as school bus stops, exposure to prevailing winds, and other factors. This has allowed the dust suppression programme to be fitted into the network strategy for prioritising seal extensions.

Wairoa will be monitoring the treated sections and analysing the benefits and costs of the current programme. Jamie agreed to do some more work on this and circulate the tool to the group.

Work-stream Reports

Engagement: Jamie reported the MOU with FOA needs to be signed as a priority. FOA has become engaged, with Brigid Jenkin involved on land use and Chris Bailey and Damon Wise nominated to

work in the pavement consumption work-stream. FFA has nominated Peter Berg to work with the group.

Warren reported that HHA was interested, because HHA was involved in carrying over-sized loads, particularly haulers, into new forestry harvesting blocks. Jamie agreed that representatives of the trucking industry will need to be involved in the work-streams.

Pavement: Jamie noted that the work stream has sought the assistance of Martin Gribble, NZTA, as a very experienced pavement designer and Martin has expressed interest in being involved, so his name should be added to the circulation list for meetings and the group Dropbox.

It would be helpful to undertake a monitoring programme that began before logging commenced and continued throughout the logging period. Carolyn reported that Rangitautau West Rd is about to come on-stream and would offer a monitoring opportunity for an unsealed road. Jamie noted that Wairoa also has a potential monitoring opportunity imminent.

Murray has previously noted the importance of addressing the effect of overloading of the pavement and monitoring subgrade and water penetration, and Michael Voss has reported that *Roadroid* has proven to be very effective for Waitaki district as a monitoring tool. Jeff noted that a consistent and standardised monitoring structure will be needed to ensure comparability of data. Whanganui has been doing some monitoring and Whangarei has been monitoring 100m seals done for dust suppression.

Carolyn will join the pavement consumption work-stream. Developing an agreed monitoring structure will be a priority activity for this work-stream.

Carolyn noted that a substantial body of data may have already been assembled by the forestry industry through the former Logging Industry Research Association (LIRA) and FOA, and using this data would ensure that potential defensiveness by the industry was already addressed.

Land use: A draft was circulated to the work stream team and FOA representative to review in November. Warren will follow up with Brigid. Further work on expanding the discussion of conversions of pastoral dry-stock farms to dairying, including the effects of conversions and irrigation installation and background similar to that provided for the conversion of marginal pastoral farmland to forestry, remains to be done.

Business case: Murray has prepared a draft guide to help RCAs prepare business cases for the effects of forestry harvest. Although the focus is only on the effects of forestry, the precepts of the guide would be applicable to any land use that generates abnormal pavement consumption. Members are to provide comments to Murray.

Editing: The draft sections can be edited as they appear, as was done with the draft Land use section, to keep momentum and to keep the editing task manageable. Under the timeline adopted at the last meeting the first draft of the pavement consumption section should be completed by March and both this section and the land use section should be completed by June 2016.

Meetings for 2016

The group will meet by teleconference again on 3 March and 7 April.

A meeting on 12 May in Wellington before the next Forum will review the completed sections.

Actions

Engagement:

- Complete signed MoU with FOA. (Jamie)
- Approach HHA, RTF, DCANZ and Federated Farmers. (Jamie, Martin, Wayne)

Pavement consumption:

- Progress technical section using Martin Gribble. (Rui)
- Develop standard monitoring structure for trials. (Carolyn, Rui, Jeff)
- Establish monitoring trials. (Rui, Carolyn, Jamie)

Land use

- Follow up FOA comments on circulated draft section. (Warren)
- Add research on dairy conversions and irrigation. (Wayne, Michael V.)
- Add research on large farm machinery. (Wayne, Michael V.)
- Add impending forest harvest data. (Wayne)

Business case

- Provide comments to Murray on draft section. (ALL)
- Look at possible back-country narrow-valley business-case study. (Murray, Carolyn)

Editing

- Draft analysis of RUC and relevance to issue. (Murray)
- Research Rating Powers (Wayne)

Reseal flushing

- Circulate any assessment of change in scale or effect, and measures being employed to mitigate these. (ALL)

Dust mitigation

- Circulate report on dust suppressant trials and site selection tool. (Jamie)