15 MAY 2013

AGENDA ITEM D3

CORPORATE SUPPORT GROUP REPORT/ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Purpose of Report

To update Councillors on the Corporate Support Group activities.

Recommendations

Officers recommend that the Council:

- 1. Receives the information.
- 2. Receive the financial statements for the nine months ended 31 March 2013.

1. Executive Summary

The 2013/14 Annual Plan was adopted on 17 April 2013, with a projected rates increase of 3.87%, slightly less than that predicted by the LTP (4.07%).

Workshops commenced on 6 May (Martinborough) with Featherston (13 May) and Greytown (14 May).

Governance meetings have continued, with the governance working group coming to the end of the current phase of its work. Briefings to selected groups have been undertaken, and governance will be on the agenda at the combined Council meeting on 7 May.

An interesting day was spent in Central Hawkes Bay reviewing their irrigation project. One of the key messages was the level of consultation required, and the fact that "non paid working groups had to consult with the paid lobbyists of other organizations. Another key point was the requirement to assess the impacts of the increased productivity that will result from the project.

The latest round of community board meetings has been completed and one observation is that a number of matters are raised for the first time in that forum that should simply be dealt with at Officer level. We will be liaising with chairs to investigate whether we can speed up the flow of this information. A combined submission on the Financial Assistance rates (FAR) was prepared, in response to a review being undertaken by LTNZ. The thrust of the submission was that the current system be maintained, or only modified slightly. In general any change (down) would result in either a reduction in service or an increase in rates. A copy of the submission is included as Appendix 3

Greytown District Trust Lands Trust (GDTLT) requested a meeting to discuss various matters, including their program for the next couple of years. GDTLT have a significant investment program planned and we are investigating ways to assist them through these developments.

I attended the Chief Executives forum in Upper Hutt.

The new Martinborough library was opened on Monday 6 May. It is a relief to finally be in the new premises and thanks must go to Shirley and Helen for their efforts on this project. The main outstanding item will be the lighting which can only be finalized once the shelving is installed – so that the shadow areas can be identified.

The combined Council meeting was held on 7 May. The agenda covered governance, DHB, Destination Wairarapa, and Pukaha Mount Bruce.

2. Discussion

2.1 Financial Statements

The financial statements for the nine months ended 31 March 2013 are attached as Appendix 1.

2.2 Rate Arrears

Efforts continue on rate arrears. The table below outlines the situation as at 11 February 2013, and excludes multi ownership Maori land.

Date	Amount \$'000	Number	Days since instalment due	SWDC component \$'000
				(81%)
30 June 2011	\$851	631	31	\$689
1 August 2011	\$780	463	64	\$632
28 November 2011	\$969	760	7	\$785
1 March 2012	\$925	690	7	\$740
16 March 2012	\$830	602	23	\$672
23 March 2012	\$790	555	30	\$640
1 June 2012	\$855	722	10	\$692
19 June 2012	\$730	632	31	\$591
10 September 2012	\$947		21	\$767
15 February 2013	\$820	565	57	\$664

2.3 Sandy Bay

Draft lease conditions have been received from Hiwi trust and these will be reviewed in the next week or so. I spoke to our valuers who indicated the price may have been at the high end of the range but was "reasonable".

A meeting is arranged for 9 May to discuss our response and clarify issues.

2.4 Annual Plan

The Annual Plan was adopted 17 April and public meetings have commenced.

Attached as Appendix 2 is the timetable for reference.

2.5 Governance

The bulk of the current phase of the Governance Working Parties work has been completed.

The final wrap up was discussed at the Combined Council Meeting of 7 May 2013 where next steps were finalised.

There have been some unexpected overtures from other regions which have introduced a bit of complexity and accelerated some timelines.

2.6 Chief Executives Forum

The CE forum was held on 12 April, with a full agenda.

The Wellington lifelines group presented their findings and an assessment of when various areas in the Wellington region could be accessed by road following a major event. Pinch points have been identified, and options to ensure materials could be moved around the district. Helicopters and barges featured strongly in the interim measures.

Rail and Roading was also on the agenda, with representatives from NZTA discussing the FAR review and the rationale for this.

Kiwirail provided an update on network reliability; they acknowledge they are failing to meet timetable times in certain areas. An interesting observation was that due to a train rescheduling on the western line, the bus timetable in Wairarapa had to be altered. This highlights the very tight interrelationships with the entire public transport system.

Other reports were received from WREMO and Grow Wellington.

2.7 Combined Council

Most Councillors attended this meeting, the following matters were discussed:

- The Wairarapa Governance Review Working Party presented a wrap up of the process – the findings had been well circulated previously. A report is included separately regarding the findings and recommendations.
- An update on the working relationships and structure of the Wairarapa District Health Board was presented. The relationships

between Wairarapa, Hutt, and Capital and Coast DHB was outlined. The initial structural change was the integration of back office services. Clinical and other services were being assessed with a cautious, clinician driven approach. The Combined Council raised some concerns about the restructure and level of services.

- Destination Wairarapa (DW) outlined their current projects, and visitor statistics. DW needs to finalise the funding agreements with Councils. Trusthouse had confirmed funding at current levels for three years, however had signalled they will be reviewing this for the next funding round.
- Pukaha Mount Bruce Trust outlined their upcoming initiatives which include taking back the operation of the shop and educational area from DOC. Other projects were discussed including a large walk in aviary.

2.8 LGOIMA Requests

Since the last meeting there have been two requests under LGOIMA, One request related to impounded/ destroyed dogs and the other to seek a copy of the building inspection forms used between 1998 and 2003.

3. Appendix

Appendix 1 – Financial Statements for the Nine Months Ended 31 March 2013

Appendix 2 – 2013/14 Annual Plan Timeline Appendix 3 – FAR Submission

Contact Officer: Paul Crimp, Group Manager Corporate Support

Appendix 1 – Financial Statements for the Nine Months Ended 31 March 2013

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2013

	YTD				2013		
	Actual	Budget	Variance	İ	Budget	% of Budget	
OPERATING INCOME							
Rates	8,295,559	8,292,690	2,869		11.057.000		
Rates Penalty	273,928	264,323	2,609 9,605		11,057,000 283,449	75% 97%	
Interest	148,148	173,871	(25,723)		194,000	76%	
Internal Interest Loans	28,154	28,125	29		38,000	74%	
Fees & Licences	511,324	462,566	48,758		581,000	88%	
User Levies	335,232	339,700	(4,468)		610,000	55%	
Commissions	21,499	45,774	(24,275)		61,550	35%	
NZ Transport Agency Subsidy	785,603	785,000	603		1,310,252	60%	
Petrol Tax Grants, Donations & Subsidies	38,792	39,000	(208)		93,000	42%	
Rental / Hire	11,320	17,694	(6,374)		42,000	27%	
Profit on Sale of Assets	210,589 6,889	234,162	(23,573)		312,000	67%	
Miscellaneous Income	232,037	249,300	6,889 (17,263)		- 377,000	62%	
						0276	
Total Operating Income	10,899,075	10,932,205	(33,130)		14,959,251		
OPERATING EXPENDITURE							
Corporate Services	1,262,885	1,342,431	79,546		1 700 000		
In-House Professional Services	517,635	555,201	79,546 37,566	l	1,789,000	71%	
Governance, Leadership & Advocacy	274,346	315,270	40,924		740,262 420,289	70% 65%	
Public Protection	713,698	798,183	84,485	;	1,064,480	67%	
Resource Management	286,006	321,102	35,096		428,576	67%	
Economic, Cultural & Community Development	202,691	209,736	7,045		235,477	86%	
Amenities	1,552,450	1,408,896	(143,554)	1	1,878,579	83%	
Land Transport	3,504,184	3,631,230	127,046		4,841,747	72%	
Water Supply	1,517,766	1,604,835	87,069		2,139,327	71%	
Solid Waste Management	859,239	887,589	28,350		1,183,475	73%	
Sewerage	884,770	910,944	26,174		1,214,170	73%:	
Stormwater Drainage Rate Debtors Written Off	98,611	101,412	2,801		134,710	73%	
Bad Debts	13,148	30,717	17,569		41,000	32%	
Loss on Sale of Assets	35,700	_	(35,700)		-	0%	
						0%	
Total Operating Expenditure	11,723,130	12,117,546	394,416		16,111,092		
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(824,055)	(1,185,341)	361,286		(1,151,841)		
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE INCOME							
NZ Transport Agency Subsidy	1,140,649	1,140,000	649		1,113,748	102%	
Grants, Donations & Subsidies	-	14,067	(14,067)		-	0%	
Contributions	161,450	226,719	(65,269)	ļ	302,000	53%	
Total Capital Expenditure Income	1,302,099	1,380,786	(78,687)		1,415,748		
OTHER INCOME							
Assets Vesting in Council	788	31,626	(30,838)		~	0%	
Gain on Asset Revaluations	-			ŀ	40,000	0%	
Total Other Income	788	31,626	(30,838)		40,000		
TOTAL SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$ 478,832	\$ 227,071	\$ 251,761		\$ 303,907		
				_			

Included in the operating expenditure is: Depreciation Interest

3,138,669 (61,602) 484,317 (16,991)

3,077,067

467,326

3,914,248 722,992 79%

65%

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2013

	31 MARCH 2013	30 JUNE 2012	MOVEMENT
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and Bank	461,323	1,869,551	(1,408,228)
Short Term Deposits	6,965,987	2,191,218	4,774,769
Investments	-	2,482,206	(2,482,206)
Prepayments & Receivables	1,833,602	2,988,152	(1,154,551)
Inventories Properties Intended For Sale	48,203	42,460	5,743
Total Current Assets	9,309,115	9,573,588	(264,473)
Non-Current Assets			, , -,
Investments	83,207	82,747	460
Investment Properties	8,325,000	8,325,000	460
Intangible Assets	59,404	43,547	15,857
Property, Plant & Equipment	386,015,716	386,666,317	(650,601)
Total Non-Current Assets	394,483,327	395,117,611	(634,284)
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 403,792,442 \$	404,691,199	(898,757)
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Cash and Bank	-	-	••
Payables and Accruais	1,569,651	2,925,794	(1,356,143)
Employee Entitlements	218,021	226,101	(8,080)
Public Debt - Current Portion	0	1,074,760	(1,074,760)
Finance Leases - Current Portion	-	10,119	(10,119)
Provisions - Current Portion	·	32,821	(32,821)
Total Current Liabilities	1,787,672	4,269,595	(2,481,923)
Non-Current Liabilities			
Public Debt - Non-Current Portion	9,282,069	8,263,259	1,018,810
Finance Leases - Non-Current Portion	52,704	**	52,704
Provisions - Non-Current Portion	406,955	374,134	32,821
Total Non-Current Liabilities	9,741,728	8,637,393	1,104,335
EQUITY			
Public Equity	141,506,775	141,029,629	477,147
Special Separate & Trust Funds	16,944,570	16,944,570	····)_··
Asset Revaluation Reserve	232,020,146	232,018,461	1,685
Sinking Fund Reserves	1,789,199	1,789,199	-
Other Reserves	2,352	2,352	
Total Equity	392,263,042	391,784,210	478,832
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$ 403,792,442 \$	404,691,199	(898,757)

STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS AS AT 31 MARCH 2013

Government Grants & Subsidies 2,99 Petrol Tax 3 Other Income 2,01 Interest on Investments 16 Total Operating Cash Inflow 13,42 Cash was applied to: 9,58 Payments to Suppliers & Employees 9,58 Interest Paid 49 Total Operating Cash Outflow 10,08 Net Cashflow from Operating Activities 3,34 INVESTING ACTIVITIES 3,34 Cash was provided from: Sale of Property, Plant & Equipment Term Investments, Shares & Advances 10,08 Investing Cash Inflow 2,442 Purchase of Property, Plant & Equipment 2,442 Total Investing Cash Inflow 2,442 Purchase of Property, Plant & Equipment 2,442 Total Investing Cash Outflow 2,442 Net Cashflow from Investing Activities (2,442 FINANCING ACTIVITIES 2 Cash was provided from: 2 Public Debt 13 Total Financing Cash Inflow 13 Cash was applied to: 13 Repayment of Public Debt 13	9,110 8,390,3 1,089 499,5	322 2,956,994 014 80,743 284 1,811,947 246 236,841 012 18,265,396 359 12,900,557 388 654,053 047 13,554,610
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SCHEDULE OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2013

DESCRIPTION	Mon	th	Year to D	Annual	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Budget
Amenities					
Playgrounds	2,893	1,888	2,893	10,000	
Parks & Reserves		4,721	2,635	16,992 42,489	22,660
Campgrounds	-	2,575	27,031	23,175	56,650
Swimming Pools	18,444	4,721	22,659	42,489	30,900 56,650
Toilets	27,548	17,167	159,081	154,503	206,000
Cemeteries	-	3,863	6,212	34,767	46,350
Libraries	-*	-	-	-	-
Rental Properties	-	1,717	-	15,453	20,600
Community Housing	-	3,004	17,799	27,036	36,050
Community Buildings	-	3,922	4,187	-	56,881
Greytown Town Hall Martinborough Town Hall	-	-	-	-	4,635
Featherston Town Centre	-	-	-	-	54,006
ANZAC Hall	-	-	-	-	-
Featherston Stadium	-	-	-	-	15,450
Featherston Town Centre	9,712	858	9,712	7,722	16,480
Greytown Town Centre	-	858	J, I ± 4-	7,722	10,300 10,300
Martinborough Town Centre	-	858	•	7,722	10,300
Library Books	3,839	7,983	64,791	71,847	95,790
Amenities (Miscellaneous)	-	-	-	-	-
	62,435	54,135	314,965	451,917	750,002
Mister County					
Water Supply Water Supply	04 770				
Water Supply Water Supply (MBA)	81,770	31,260	127,596	281,340	375,120
Water Races	-	1,303	*	-	-
Plant & Bores	-	1,505	-	11,727	15,630
FSTN Supplementary water supply	1,313	2,605	4,838	23,445	-
Plant & Bores (MBA)	-	-	8,884	20,440	31,260
Reservoirs	862	-	56,511	-	
Pirinoa Water Supply		667	9,151	6,003	8,000
Water Supply (Misc.)	-	-	9,636	-	-
	83,945	35,835	216,617	322,515	430,010
Solid Waste Management					
Solid Waste Management Solid Waste Management	-	4,437	-	3 9 ,933	53,244
Solid Waste Management (Miscellaneous)	-	-	-	-	-
bono maste managenent (miseenuneous)		4,437	-	-	-
Stormwater Reticulation		1,101	-	39,933	53,244
Stormwater Reticulation	· -	-	*		167,060
Stormwater Reticulation	-	-	-	-	107,000
Stormwater Reticulation (Miscellaneous)	-	-		-	~
	-	-	-	*	167,060
					,
Sewerage					
Sewerage	186	14,328	11,432	128,952	240,370
Sewerage	-	-	3,859	-	-
Sewerage Sewerage (Lake Ferry)	-	-	7,718	-	-
Oxidation Ponds	- 5,707	1,303 3,473	10 200	11,727	15,630
Oxidation Ponds	300	5,475	18,388 300	31,257	81,680
Oxidation Ponds	6,377	-	22,974	-	-
Sewerage (Miscellaneous)	-	36,905	110,357	-	52,100
Alternative Disposal System (GTN)	-		-	-	644,904
Alternative Disposal System (MBA)	-	-	-	-	78,150
Alternative Disposal System (FSTN)	-	-	-	-	104,200
	12,570	56,009	175,029	171,936	1,217,034
1					
Land Transport					
New St. Lighting (Other Roads) - 222	*	3,455	• • • • • •	31,095	41,456
Signs/Guardrails (Other Roads) - 222 Signs/Guardrails (SPRs) - 222	1,111	3,460	14,224	31,140	41,520
endual anathrana (at tra) - 222	-	-	-	-	-

SCHEDULE OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2013

DESCRIPTION	Month		Year to D	Annual	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Budget
New Bridges (Other Roads) - 215	-	-	54	_	
Structures Renewal (SPR) -215	-	7,136	-	64,224	85,635
Seal Extensions	-	-	-	-	
Seal Extensions (SPRs)	· _	-	-	_	-
Reseals (Other Roads) - 212	386,470	40,932	447,752	368,388	491,182
Reseals (SPRs) - 212	59,594	5,313	63,236	47,817	63,759
Rehabilitation (Other Roads) - 214	3,095	22,490	25,085	202,410	269,880
Rehabilitation (SPRs) - 214	-	6,033	36	54,297	72,401
New Footpaths	-	6,920	3,877	62,280	83,040
Footpath Renewals	-	3,460	-448	31,140	
Drain Renewal (Other Roads) - 213	7,962	17,300	11,908	155,700	41,520
Drainage Renewal (SPR) - 213	-	1,730		15,570	207,600
Minor Safety Works (Other) - 341	1,627	8,888	6,742	79,992	20,760
Erosion Control (SPRs) - 244	-	18,641	994	167,769	106,656
Land Transport (Misc.)	-			107,709	223,689
New Bridges (SPRs)	-	-	-	-	-
Minor Safety Works (SPRs) - 341	-	567	-	F 102	
Road metailing (renewal) other - 211		19,895	38,412	5,103	6,808
Road metalling (renewal) (SPR) - 211	-	1,298		179,055	238,740
Development Work	_	1,290	125	11,682	15,570
Asso Improvments (Other) - 231		4,325		20.005	
Asso Improvements (SPR) - 231	_	4,323	54	38,925	51,900
Traffic Services Renewal (SPR)		433	54		51,901
Preventative Maintenance (SPR)11/12 - 241	1,001	455	70.004	3,897	5,190
Improve-expand-replace - 322	1,001	-	79,881	-	-
Emergency Work (SPR)11/12 - 141	1 001	-		-	-
Preventative Maintenance (SPR) 12/13 - 241	1,001 241,404	-	81,744	-	~
	703,264	172,276	<u> </u>	1,550,484	2,119,207
			1,040,020	4,000,404	2,119,207
Information Technology					
IT Hardware	-	4,267	42,364	38,403	51,200
IT Software	840	24,500	107,507	220,500	294,000
IT Networks & Cabling	-	-	-	-	-
Geographical information system	13,516	1,784	13,516	16,056	21,402
	14,356	30,551	163,387	274,959	366,602
Land					
Land		· +	35,130	• ·	-
Country Discourse and	-	-	35,130		-
Council Property					
Council Offices	-	833	7,717	7,497	10,000
Office Equipment & Furniture	-	2,327	-	20,943	17,680
Other Equipment	-	-	622	-	10,240
Motor Vehicles	47,332	9,297	92,525	83,673	111,560
	47,332	12,457	100,864	112,113	149,480
Public Protection					
Rural Fire		-		~	-
	-	-		-	-
				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
	\$ 923,902 \$	365,700	\$ 2,401,908 \$		

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS AS AT 31 MARCH 2013

ORGANISATION	INTEREST RATE	DATE INVESTED	DATE MATURES	TOTAL INVESTED	INVESTED	AUTHORISED FUNDS %
SHORT TERM FUNDS					<u></u>	<u>. 01100 //</u>
Registered Banks						
BNZ Autocall Account BNZ Reserves Fund	3.20% 4.00%	31-Mar-13 13-Mar-13	On Call 9-Sep-13	823,398.24 731,974.40		
Total BNZ Funds				\$ 1,555,373	22%	30%
Kiwibank Reserves Fund	2.50%	31-Mar-13	On Call	721,030.57	A. 42 7 U	50 78
Total Kiwibank Funds				\$ 721,031	10%	30%
ASB Loan Redemption Reserves	3.93%	28-Feb-13	27-Aug-13	\$ 1,187,751		30%
Total ASB Funds			-	\$ 1,187,751	17%	30%
National Bank of NZ	2.40%	31-Mar-13	On Call	\$ 2,094		5676
National Bank of NZ	0.00%	31-Mar-13	On Call	\$ 372		
Total NBNZ Funds				\$ 2,467	0%	30%
ANZ Call Account Loan Redemption Reserves	3.00% 3.90%	31-Mar-13 28-Feb-13	On Call 27-Aug-13	\$		
Total ANZ Funds				\$ 1,237,014	18%	30%
Westpac Call Account	2.50%	31-Mar-13	On Call	\$ 192,712		
Westpac Call Account Westpac Term Deposit	3.11% 3.70%	28-Feb-13 28-Feb-13	20-Apr-13	\$ 500,000		
0		28-Feb-13	20-May-13 5-Jun-13	\$ 500,000 \$ 650,000		
Total Westpac Funds				\$ 1,842,712	26%	30%
Other						00 /8
WBS (21220)	4,35%	21 Dec 40	40.1.40	-		
WBS (21220)	4.25%	21-Dec-12 18-Mar-13	19-Jun-13 14-Sep-13	\$		
WBS (21220)	4.25%	31-Mar-13	27-Sep-13	\$ 153,454 \$ 118,896		
WBS (21220)		31-Mar-13	On Call	\$ 334		
Total Other Funds				\$ 419,640	6%	10%
TOTAL SHORT TERM FUNDS				<u>\$ 6,965,987</u>	99%	100%
SHARES						
NZ Local Govt Insurance Co Limited				\$ 69,570		
Airtel Limited Farmlands Trading Society Limited				\$ 7,252		
				\$ 1,159 		
TOTAL SHARES				<u>\$ 77,981</u>	1%	
FORESTRY						
Plantation - Hurupi Stock				\$ 5,226		
TOTAL FORESTRY				\$ 5,226		
				·····		
TOTAL INVESTMENTS				\$ 7,049,194		
REPRESENTED BY:						
Short Term Deposits				6 065 097	001/	
Investments - Current Assets				6,965,987	99% 0%	
Investments - Non-Current Assets				83,207	1%	
				<u>\$ 7,049,194</u>	100%	

Appendix 2 – 2013/14 Annual Plan Timeline

2013/14 [Draft Annu	ial Plan Ti	metable
February	Wed	6	Waitangi Day
rebluary	Wed	20	Council / Policy & Finance Meetings
	Wed		
	vved	27	Workshop with Councillors on issues and seek guida
March	Wed	20	Draft first cut AP to Councillors
	Friday	29	Good Friday
April	Mon	1	Easter Monday
	Wed	3	Council / Policy & Finance Meetings
	Wed	3	Annual Plan workshop
	Thur	10	Deliver final Draft Annual Plan to Mayor / Councillors
	Tue	17	Adopt Draft Annual Plan- Special Meeting
	Thur	25	ANZAC Day
May	Mon	6	Public consultation Martinborough
	Tue	13	Public consultation Featherston
	Wed	14	Public consultation Greytown
	Wed	15	Council / Policy & Finance Meetings
	Thur	16	Public consultation Rural
	Mon	20	Submissions close
	Fri	31	Submission summary to Mayor / Councillors
June	Mon	3	Queen's Birthday
	Mon	10	Hearing of submissions
	Tue	11	Hearing of submissions
	Wed	26	Council / Policy & Finance Meetings
	Wed	26	Adopt AP

Appendix 3 – FAR Submission



MASTERTON DISTRICT COUNCIL SERVING THE COMMUNITY

64 Chapel Street P O Box 444 MASTERTON 5840 DX PA 89022 Tel: (06) 370-6300 Fax: (06) 378-8400 www.mstn.govt.nz

In reply please quote: 140.01

3 May 2013

Attention: Clare Sinnott FAR Review Discussion Document Submissions NZ Transport Agency Private Bag 6995 Wellington 6141

Dear Madam

FAR Review Submission

The three Wairarapa Councils thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback to NZTA on the Funding Assistance Rates (FAR) review. We would also like to support the approach NZTA have taken to initially consult on the principles that will be used for any FAR changes before consulting on detailed options.

Background/Context:

Masterton District Council (MDC) serves a population of 22,623 people on 11,780 properties spread over 229,500 hectares.

Carterton District Council (CDC) serves a population of 7,650 people on 4,450 properties spread over 118,000 hectares.

South Wairarapa District Council (SWDC) serves a population of 9,430 people on 6,500 properties spread over 248,500 hectares.

We are acutely aware of the importance of the roading network for our communities and the need to see this maintained into the future. At the same time, with an ageing population and lower than average household incomes, affordability is a key concern for our Councils. A key challenge has been, and will continue to be, balancing affordability for our community with the need to maintain our roading and other infrastructure.

FAR Principles & Approaches:

The three Councils generally support the submissions made by GWRC and Southland District Council. These submissions capture and outline our key concerns and opinions in relation to the FAR principles and approaches.

In addition, we would like to emphasise and expand on the following points:

1. The Purpose of FAR

It is our view that the FAR funding should not be used to incentivise or influence investment in particular activities.

Potential changes to levels of service for the varying road categories or transport activities should be determined through NZTA's programmes and policies. The purpose of FARs being to enable, as much as possible, consistent and comparable levels of service for any particular road categories across the country.

Decisions to maintain existing and invest in new roading infrastructure should be based on NZTA policies, project cost benefits and specific strategic transport policies the Government has identified, not on the local ability to pay.

2. Changes in the FAR rates

The funding process and principles underpinning the Long Term Plan (LTP) for local authorities means that FAR changes are hard to accommodate. FAR rate changes should not occur between LTP periods, and any changes should be phased in over multiple years and forecast well in advance.

3. Principle 1: Value and affordability

The FAR rates currently vary based on local affordability. Future rate changes should continue to be based on a community's ability to pay, to ensure the nations transport network can be maintained at the appropriate levels despite any local affordability pressures. Changes in levels of service and ensuring money is well spent should be driven by NZTA policies and the existing project assessment and approval processes, not through affordability or lack thereof.

Smaller rural councils spend up to 40% of their rate take on their roading programmes, compared with as little as 12% for larger urban councils. This comparison clearly highlights the affordably pressures that are currently being faced by rural councils and must be addressed in any changes to FAR rates.

GWRC's suggested change to principle 1 should be the key principle used in the review.

"Principle 1: Recognises the impact on local government affordability and the limits on increasing local funding share from rates".

4. Principle 2: Whole of Network Approach

The Wairarapa Councils support GWRC's network comments and would like to reiterate the need to recognise the important economic contribution of <u>both</u> urban and rural roading networks.

While the majority of "freight miles" occur on state highways, it cannot be emphasised strongly enough that these miles would not occur without the entire network that connects with these roads. The transport system operates as a network and must be viewed holistically. Each feeder road in the network is necessary to achieve the total freight miles (closely related to the national GDP) or to provide a back-up route in the event of a temporary closure. This statement is especially true for the rural road network in the Wairarapa.

We strongly advocate the need for funding approaches to recognise the significant investment made by road users in existing transport infrastructure, and also the significant private investments that have been made that are reliant on maintaining the transport network.

There will continue to be, as in the past, on-going local pressure to invest in particular transport issues e.g. local congestion. When addressing these local issues NZTA must not lose sight of the critical role the entire transport network has in delivering the nations GDP, and in the local government partnership necessary to continue to make this happen.

Alternative funding sources such as congestion charging or targeted charges should be investigated to address new project expenditures. However these alternatives are beyond the scope of this current FAR review process.

GWRC's suggested change to principle 2 should also be a key principle used in the review.

"Principle 2: Support a whole of network approach to land transport in New Zealand, recognising the important contribution of both rural and urban transport networks to economic outcomes".

5. Future FAR Approaches

In our opinion the current FAR approach works. It considers both the national needs and the community's ability to pay, addressing the network affordability and maintenance concerns we have raised.

The Wairarapa Councils therefore join with the Southland DC and GWRC in supporting the status quo, or a modified version that is based on addressing affordability.

A potential modified version could combine differential and flat rate funding depending on the nature of the work or project being undertaken. For example:

- Maintenance, renewals, public transport and safety projects The importance to the nations GDP of the existing infrastructure investments needs to be recognised and be maintained. The community's ability to afford this must be considered and factored in. Therefore the current approach for maintenance and safety improvements to the existing network should be used, but focusing even more strongly than currently on affordability considerations. Alternatively this could be achieved by the inverse population funding option proposed by the Southland District Council.
- New infrastructure A common FAR or flat rate approach could be applied nationally. New projects would be assessed against each other based on the actual or strategic benefits that would be generated, rather than being undertaken because a community can afford it. Economic benefit should be a key consideration for any new investment.

Summary:

The Wairarapa Councils strongly advocate the need for affordability issues to be a key consideration in any future FAR approach, especially in relation to maintenance and levels of service of existing roading infrastructure. Any changes to levels of service should be driven by NZTA standards, NOT affordability pressures.

The Wairarapa Councils support the status quo, or a variation of this FAR approach, that will emphasise affordability and support communities to maintain their existing roading infrastructure and levels of service.

If there are to be changes to the existing FAR approach, the Wairarapa Councils support a phased introduction.

Yours sincerely

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David Hopman On behalf of Masterton, Carterton and South Wairarapa District Councils