

Featherston Long Term plan meeting

A good turn out for the long-term plan meeting held on the 13 April.

Issues that were discussed

1. There was disappointment in the ability to have assurance on the water situation. The Council could have no definite decision on the three waters as the Government was still developing its water strategy.
The Government proposal is that there will be four to five large corporate bodies managing water for the regions they cover.
Serious concerns over the possible privatisation of water in the future.
Another concern is that these bodies will not have to consult with local bodies or communities over they charges.

This has implications for communities and councils who have to look at the economic livelihoods of future generations.

2. **Stormwater** due to these uncertainties the Council was concentrating on storm-water infrastructure, some of the pipes might be asbestos and at least 60-70 years old.
There was good support the storm water management infrastructure upgrade.
3. **Roading** was discussed as to whether there was support to stop the new seal. The cost this year for 1km of new seal was \$126,000 next year it will be \$400,000. This is because the NZTA has removed its subsidy mainly due to cost overruns in places like transmission gully. Option one was preferred by the people but they are mostly urban and rural people were not well represented so this might change as to who is asked.
 - **New Curbing** There was support for option 1, to increase the roading budget so that new curbing and good drainage to be done. This is because the biggest damage to road seal is water.
 - The issue of a Wairarapa Roding Network was raised, that could carry out roading maintenance for the three Councils.
4. The closure of the Greytown Refuse Station was discussed. This would make Featherston the main SWDC station. With the excess transfer rubbish it there were concerns that part of the dog park might be taken if there was a need to expand. This was voted down. We must preserve the dog park as it is.
5. **Berm Mowing** The stopping of urban berm mowing, rural mowing would not be affected, was supported partially. Concern was raised about the people who were mobility challenged or had illnesses that hindered their movement. Also those who do not have mowers. We need to think how council would deal in these circumstances.