

SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL

4 APRIL 2012

AGENDA ITEM E1

REPORT FROM HER WORSHIP THE MAYOR

Purpose of Report

To update Council on activities and issues which have arisen since my last report to Council.

Recommendations

Her Worship the Mayor recommends that Council.

1. *Receive the information.*

1. Safer Wairarapa

Due to clashes with both our Governance Review and LTP meetings I have not been able to attend the last two meetings.

2. Wellington Regional Strategy Committee – 23 March 2012

Committee briefing on work being carried out for the refreshed Wellington Regional Strategy. Indicative timeline is included in Appendix 1.

3. Mayoral Forum

Greater Wellington Regional Council have put a paper to their council regarding having an independent panel review governance options for the Wellington Region. We discussed this at length at Mayoral Forum today. There was no consensus to agree to this process for a whole range of reasons. The three Wairarapa mayors took the view that as we were already doing a study for our part of the region, there was no need to contribute money to another parallel process but that our information could feed into theirs if necessary. Wellington City is about to put options to their citizens in a separate process and the other councils agreed that they would consult their citizens independently of Greater Wellington's process.

4. Regional Transport Committee

The RTC meeting of 9 March 2012 adopted the draft Regional Land Transport Programme 2012-2015 for consultation (paper attached in Appendix 2). The programme is available from GWRC's website.

5. Waihenga Bridge

Correspondence to NZTA regarding Waihenga Bridge is attached in Appendix 3.

6. Shared Services

The Combined Wairarapa Councils Shared Services working party now acts as the steering group for the Wairarapa governance review. As such there has been a high workload of meetings to meet the tight timeframe we have set ourselves for this study. The work on the strategic vision and objectives is well underway and this will feed into phase two looking at the best options for governance.

7. Other Representation and Meetings Attended

Date	Meeting/Engagement	Date	Meeting/Engagement
24/2/12	Wreath Laying	14/3/12	LTP
25/2/12	Cobblestones	15/3 – 20/3/12	Away; Cowra Australia
2/3/12	Central Alliance	21/3/12	Japan Embassy reception
3/3/12	Aratoi Exhibition	22/3/12	UCOL graduation
4/3/12	Balloon Tragedy service	23/3/12	CDEM
4/3/12	Miss Wairarapa meeting	26/3/12	MBA Town Hall hearing
5/3/12	Wairarapa Moana	27/3/12	Fstn Walkways Trust
6/3 – 7/3	Wairarapa Governance	27/3/12	Fstn concert
8/3/12	Grow Wellington	27/3/12	FCB/Police meeting
8/3/12	EPA	28/3/12	GWRC
9/3/12	RTC	28/3/12	WoW lunch
12/3/12	Combined Council Forum	29/3/12	Wairarapa Governance
12/3 – 13/3/12	Wairarapa Governance	30/3/12	National Council
		31/3/12	Miss Wairarapa

8. Correspondence

Correspondence is included in Appendix 3.

Date	Inwards:
29/2/12	Road Safety Council
9/3/12	Fish & Game NZ
11/3/12	CLAIR
15/3/12	Gracyn Evans
19/3/12	NZHPT
25/3/12	Brian Robinson

Date	Outwards:
15/3/12	NZTA

9. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Wellington Regional Strategy Indicative Strategy Timeline

Appendix 2 – Draft Regional Land Transport Programme 2012-2015

Appendix 3 – Correspondence

Prepared By: Her Worship the Mayor, Adrienne Staples

Appendix 1 – Wellington Regional Strategy Indicative Strategy Timeline

Attachment 2

SUBJECT **WRS Refresh – Process and indicative timeline for strategy refresh**
 WHEN Friday 23 March 2012
 FILE NUMBER WRS/09/08/01

WRS Refresh - Process and indicative timeline for strategy refresh

Date	Meeting/workshops	Purpose
23 March	WRS Committee briefing following Mayoral Forum	Consider further detail on focus areas to inform the refresh
4 April	Chief Executive’s Group meeting	
18 April	WRS Committee	WRS Committee Terms of Reference – resolution for recommendation to GW
18 April	WRS Committee / Grow Wellington workshop (following WRS Committee meeting)	Workshop with Grow Wellington Board (further defining focus areas)
End April / Early May	WRS Committee workshop with key stakeholders	Test ideas with stakeholders
17 May	WRS Committee (hearings)	Hearings and deliberations on WRS Proposal in GW Long Term Plan Formal recommendation to GW
22 June	WRS Committee	Endorsement of the refreshed Strategy
27 June	GW Council	Formal endorsement of the WRS activity on the GW Long Term Plan

**Appendix 2 – Draft Regional
Land Transport Programme
2012-2015**

Report 12.78
Date 1 March 2012
File TP/01/16/03

Committee Regional Transport
Authors Adam Lawrence, Senior Project Coordinator/Analyst

Draft Regional Land Transport Programme 2012-15 for consultation

1. Purpose

To approve the draft Regional Land Transport Programme 2012-15 (RLTP) for consultation, approve the Community Engagement Plan and appoint a subcommittee to consider submissions.

2. The decision-making process and significance

The proposed adoption of a draft RLTP is part of a decision-making process that will lead to the Committee making a decision of high significance within the meaning of the Local Government Act 2002. The decision-making process is explicitly prescribed for by section 18A of the Land Transport Management Act 2003, this process includes the use of the special consultative procedure as set out in the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

The draft RLTP sets out the land transport activities proposed in the region for the next three years, provides an indication of significant activities for the following three years and includes a 10-year financial forecast.

The Land Transport Management Act 2003 requires the Regional Transport Committee to prepare and consult on a RLTP every three years. The RLTP constitutes the region's bid for funding assistance from the National Land Transport Fund. The NZ Transport Agency must take the RLTP into account when preparing its National Land Transport Programme.

The draft RLTP has been developed with input from a technical working group made up of officers from councils in the region and the NZ Transport Agency. The Regional Transport Committee endorsed the regional prioritisation methodology used to prioritise the activities in the programme on 26 September 2011 (**Report 11.462**). Two Committee workshops have also been

undertaken on the prioritisation approach and the activities included in the draft RLTP.

3.1 Legislative requirements

The Land Transport Management Act 2003 (the Act) sets out a number of specific requirements for the content of a RLTP as set out below.

3.1.1 Core requirements of the RLTP

The Committee must assess the RLTP against the core requirements set out in section 14 of the Act and include that assessment in the RLTP.

The Committee must be satisfied that the RLTP:

- contributes to the aim of achieving an affordable, integrated, safe, responsive, and sustainable land transport system
- contributes to a) assisting economic development, b) assisting safety and personal security, c) improving access and mobility, d) protecting and promoting public health, and e) ensuring environmental sustainability
- is consistent with the Government Policy Statement on Transport Funding and the Regional land Transport Strategy.

The Committee must take into account:

- any national land transport strategy (there is none currently) and any national energy efficiency and conservation strategy
- any relevant policy statements and plans under the Resource Management Act
- any Regional Public Transport Plan
- likely funding from any source.

3.1.2 Form and content of the RLTP

The form and content requirements for the RLTP are set out in section 16 of the Act. The RLTP must include the following activities for the next three years¹:

- Activities relating to local road maintenance, local road renewals and local road minor capital works, and existing public transport services.
- Other activities that are not identified above. The Committee must determine an order of priority for these other activities and include this in the RLTP.

¹ Only activities proposed by Approved Organisations (local councils in the region, Greater Wellington and the NZ Transport Agency) can be included in the RLTP.

The RLTP must include an assessment of all of the above activities as follows:

- The assessment must be undertaken by the organisation proposing the activity
- The assessment of each activity must include: the objective or objectives to be achieved, an estimate of total cost and the cost for each year, the expected duration of the activity, proposed sources of funding other than the National Land Transport Fund, and any other relevant information.

The RLTP must also include:

- A statement of regional transport priorities for the next six years
- All significant expenditure on activities that are not funded from the National Land Transport Fund.
- A list of all activities that have been approved by the NZ Transport Agency but that have not yet been completed.
- An indication of any activities of inter-regional significance.
- An explanation of the proposed action if any activity is varied, suspended or abandoned.
- An indication of any nationally or regionally significant activities that are likely to be included in the following RLTP.
- A 10-year financial forecast of anticipated revenue and expenditure.
- A description of how monitoring will be undertaken to assess implementation of the RLTP.
- A summary of the consultation carried out in preparing the RLTP.
- A summary of the significance policy adopted by the Committee under s106 of the Act.

The RLTP must include assessments of how it complies with the above core requirements and of the relationship between police activities (which are not required to be included in the RLTP) and the RLTP.

4. Draft Regional Land Transport Programme 2012-15

4.1 Core requirements

The draft RLTP is set out in **Attachment 1**. Section 6.1 includes an assessment of the core requirements of the Act, demonstrating the matters that have been considered and its compliance with the Act. In summary, the draft RLTP contributes to an affordable, integrated, safe, responsive, and sustainable land transport system. Its development has taken into account the strategic context

(set out in section 2) and the wide range of activities reflect the Regional Land Transport Strategy's intention to develop a balanced land transport network consistent with an affordable, integrated, safe, responsive, and sustainable land transport system.

The draft RLTP also contributes to assisting economic development, assisting safety and personal security, improving access and mobility, protecting and promoting public health, and ensuring environmental sustainability. There are a wide range of activities included in the RLTP, with objectives for these activities contributing to all the above matters as demonstrated by the activity objectives in Table 3 of the draft RLTP.

The draft RLTP is also consistent with the Government Policy Statement on Transport Funding (GPS) and the Regional Land Transport Strategy. It has been prepared taking account of the strategic funding context provided by the GPS and its priorities are based on the RLTS outcomes and prioritisation policies.

Development of the RLTP has also taken into account the other matters that must be considered, as demonstrated in the assessment of core requirements and financial forecasts sections of the draft RLTP.

4.2 Form and content

The draft RLTP has been prepared based on the legislative requirements for form and content, with Appendix D of the draft RLTP setting out how these requirements have been met.

5. Community Engagement Plan

A Community Engagement Plan is set out in **Attachment 3**. Consultation on the draft RLTP will be carried out in accordance with the special consultative procedure under the Local Government Act 2002 and will be combined with consultation on Greater Wellington's Long Term Plan. This is to reduce the overall costs of consultation. The region's local councils will also be consulting on their respective Long Term Plans at this time.

Advertisements will be placed in the Dominion Post and local papers and a summary document (**Attachment 2**) will be distributed, along with Greater Wellington's Long Term Plan summary document, to all households in the region.

The consultation period for feedback will cover six weeks (including Easter) from 26 Mar to 4 May 2012. All people making submissions will be offered the opportunity to be heard in support of their submission.

6. Establishment of subcommittee to consider submissions

A subcommittee is an efficient option for hearing a number of submitters and considering submissions in some detail. It is recommended that a *Regional Land Transport Programme Hearing Subcommittee* be established to consider submissions on the draft RLTP.

The subcommittee will be scheduled for a full day session on 28 May 2012, with 1 June 2012 as a reserve day. The subcommittee will report back recommending a final RLTP to the Regional Transport Committee on 22 June 2012.

All members of the Regional Transport Committee are eligible for appointment to the subcommittee. However, as the objective and cultural interest representatives on the Regional Transport Committee do not have voting rights on the RLTP (refer section 9 below) they are not being recommended for membership of the hearing subcommittee. The terms of reference for the subcommittee are set out in **Attachment 4**.

It is recommended that at least four Committee members be appointed to the Subcommittee to ensure appropriate coverage in the event of illness or any absence. It is recommended that the Chair of the Regional Transport Committee to be appointed as chairperson of the Subcommittee.

7. Next steps

The final RLTP must be adopted by Greater Wellington by the end of June 2012. The key steps leading to adoption in June are as follows.

Committee decision	Timing
Committee approve draft RLTP for consultation and appoint subcommittee to hear submissions	9 March
Consultation period	26 March to 4 May 2012
Subcommittee to hear submissions	28 May 2012 (with 1 June as reserve date)
Committee approve and recommend final RLTP to GW for adoption	22 June 2012
GW adopt final RLTP	27 June 2012

8. Communication

Communications are planned in accordance with the Community Engagement Plan as discussed above.

9. Voting

Section 107 (1) of the Act states that objective and interest representatives have full speaking rights, but are not entitled to vote on matters related to regional land transport programmes. As the subject matter of this report relates to the regional land transport programme, objective and interest representatives **may not** vote on the resolutions.

10. Recommendations

That the Regional Transport Committee:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*
3. *Approves the draft Regional Land Transport Programme 2012-15 (Attachment 1) and Summary of draft Regional land Transport Programme 2012-15 (Attachment 2) for public consultation.*
4. *Approves the Community Engagement Plan for the draft Regional land Transport Programme as set out in Attachment 3.*
5. *Delegates to the Chair of the Regional Transport Committee authority to approve minor editorial amendments to the draft Regional Land Transport Programme 2012-15 and Summary of draft Regional land Transport Programme 2012-15.*
6. *Establishes a Regional Land Transport Programme Hearing Subcommittee to consider submissions on the draft Regional Land Transport Programme 2012-15 and make recommendations to the Regional Transport Committee in accordance with the Terms of Reference in Attachment 4.*
7. *Appoints Councillor Fran Wilde to the Regional Land Transport Programme Hearing Subcommittee as the chairperson and other members as agreed by the Regional Transport Committee.*

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Report approved by:

Adam Lawrence
Senior Project
Coordinator/Analyst

Luke Troy
Manager, Corporate Planning

Jane Davis
General Manager, Strategy
and Community Engagement

Attachment 1: Draft Regional Land Transport Programme 2012-15

Attachment 2: Summary Document for draft Regional land Transport Programme 2012-15

Attachment 3: Community Engagement Plan for the draft Regional Land Transport Programme 2012-15

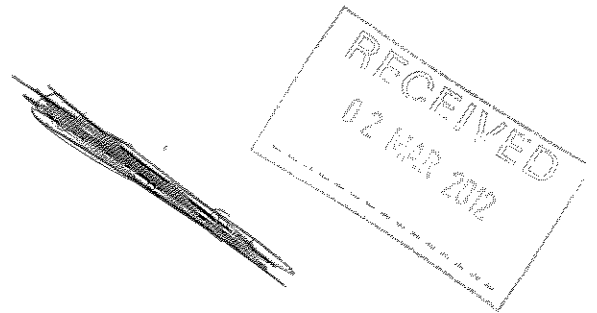
Attachment 4: Terms of Reference for the Regional Land Transport Programme Hearing Subcommittee

Appendix 3 - Correspondence



WAIRARAPA ROAD SAFETY COUNCIL

Mark Allingham,
Group Manager,
Infrastructure Services,
South Wairarapa District Council,
19 Kitchener Street,
MARTINBOROUGH.



29th February 2012

I am writing to thank you for your recent support of the "Free Motorcycle Skills Day" held at Martinborough on Sunday 19th February. The assistance given by Chris Ferguson in organising the road closure was very much appreciated.

We had 18 motorcyclists experience the course run by Instructors from Roadsafe and the New Zealand Police. All participants had positive comments on the event. It was unfortunate we did not have more riders, but reports were that the weather was not great over the hill that day.

Thank you once again for your continued support of Road Safety within our region.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dave Ryan'.

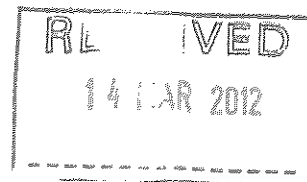
Dave Ryan
Road Safety Manager
rsmanager@wairsc.org.nz





Ref: 1222

9 March 2012



Adrienne Staples – Mayor
South Wairarapa District Council
PO Box 6
Martinborough 5741

Fresh Start for Fresh Water Funding For Wairarapa Moana

Wellington Fish & Game Council is encouraged that around \$1million of funding has been recently allocated to the Lake Wairarapa area from the Government's Fresh Start for Fresh Water Fund.

Game bird hunters consider Lake Wairarapa's wetlands as a treasure of the lower North Island, as do iwi and the local community.

Fish & Game will continue to contribute significant resources to wetland management around the lake as part of the overall direction for improvement to the lake's health.

Fish & Game are keen to work collaboratively with all stakeholders in Wairarapa Moana. We have some particular management actions which we are seeking to progress and look forward to working you on these.

Martin Taylor

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Martin Taylor'.

Chairman

Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, game birds and their habitats

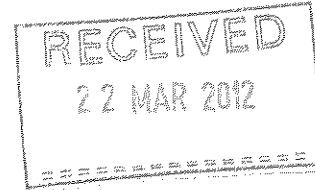
Wellington Region

292 Featherston Street, PO Box 1325, Palmerston North 4440, New Zealand. Telephone (06) 359 0409 Facsimile (06) 356 2780
Email: wellington@fishandgame.org.nz www.fishandgame.org.nz



Postal Address: Level 12, Challis House,
4 Martin Place Sydney,
NSW 2000 Australia,
TEL: (02)9241-5033
FAX: (02)9241-5014

Mrs. Adrienne Staples
South Wairarapa District Council
Mayor
PO BOX 6 Martinborough
5741NZ Air Mail



Dear Mrs. Staples

March 11th 2012 marks the one year anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake. Throughout the past year, we have received assistance from many Australians and New Zealanders. Thank you very much for your support.

Even now, over 300,000 victims of the disaster are living in temporary housing. Nine municipalities near the Fukushima nuclear plants are either completely off limits or have restricted access. In Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima, the number of children under the age of 18 who have lost a parent or both parents to the disaster is over 1,500.

Three charities have been established to help such orphans of the disaster. If you would like to make a donation, please visit the CLAIR Sydney website for the links. Also, many local governments have been periodically publishing pertinent information in English which is available on our website as well, so please feel free to take a look.

Most major tourist destinations have resumed operations. Particularly, those in the Tohoku region of Japan are calling out for people to visit as they are open for business and wanting your support. The Tohoku region is a wonderful place to visit and most people who have been there after the earthquake have had a pleasant experience.

CLAIR coordinates the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program, which has been closely supporting the recovery process. At the moment, there are 37 JETs from Australia and New Zealand living in Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima. Last year, two former JET Program participants, Ms. Sharon van Etten and Ms. Heidi Bresler, represented Australia in the Japanese Foreign Ministry's official program to revisit the Tohoku region where they lived in during their time on JET. Sharon went back to Iwate prefecture, while Heidi went to Fukushima prefecture, and they both observed the recovery process in the affected areas.

Sharon has presented about the state of the recovery process in the affected areas at different events in Sydney. Heidi will also have such opportunities in Tasmania. If you

would like Heidi to speak about her experience at an event you are hosting, please contact us at CLAIR Sydney. Also, you can read about Heidi's experience on her blog listed below:

Ms. Heidi Bresler: "Yamato Damashi"

<http://www.yamato-damashii.net/iwaki.htm>

Also, another former JET Program participant, Eden Law, who was living in Iwaki City, Fukushima prefecture at the time of the earthquake, has been working hard to raise awareness and providing encouragement to his former students affected by the disaster. Please see the attached for an example of his efforts.

One of the current JETs, Alison Lam from Sydney, has been living in Fukushima City, Fukushima prefecture since July 2011 and enjoying her life there. Here is her message:

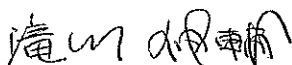
"I'm sure at times that Japan may have felt abandoned during the aftermath of the disasters. However, with worldwide support and empathy, Japan truly has innumerable friends. The one year anniversary will be a painful reminder of Japan's misfortune but it's also a time to marvel Japan's progress to recovery."

With the floods in Queensland, earthquake in Christchurch, and earthquake in Japan, there were many unfortunate and tragic events in 2011. It is impossible to avoid natural disasters, but if Australia, New Zealand, and Japan continue to work together and further develop relations, we can make 2012 a better year.

I would like to thank you again for all your support, and I hope that you will help strengthen both the cultural and economic partnership between Australia, New Zealand, and Japan.

Thank you very much.

Kind regards,



Shinsuke Takigawa

Director
Japan Local Government Centre (CLAIR Sydney)

March 11th, 2012

Letters from children in Fukushima

Many people have banded together in support and sent various messages of encouragement to Japan. Message from overseas have been especially encouraging for those who are trying to overcome the disaster. One example of this is a former JET Program participant, Eden Law, who was living in Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture at the time of the earthquake. Although he evacuated for close to a month, he came back to Iwaki City and continued to teach English.

Upon returning to Sydney, Eden gave a talk about state of the affected areas at the Japan Matsuri Festival in Darling Harbour last October and gathered messages of support at CLAIR's stall. These messages were sent to the junior high schools Eden worked at in Iwaki as a gesture of encouragement. The children were overjoyed and in response wrote thank you notes -- in fact close to 400 were received, many of them very moving. Please find below some examples of these messages.



Dear every one is Australia.
Thak you very much, Mr. Eden.

When got many letter from Mr. Eden, we cheered up.

We have a lot of problem.

But I think we can recover.

I think you very much for you kindness.

Your friend,

Hello, everyone. I live in Fukushima.

The earthquake happened on March 11.

I'm for some days find refuge for awhile.

But I want to return to former life little by little now.

Everyone from get a letter, We are fine.

We from now in the future work hard.

Thank you for some letters!

Good-bye!

Dear people in Australia

Thank you for a lot of
your messages.

Your thought reached us.

We continue doing our best,
without giving up

from now on.

I would
appreciate
your aid.



Dear people in Australia.

Thank you for your messages

We are in good health. We're
trying hard since that day
for the future.

We will change Japan in
the future.

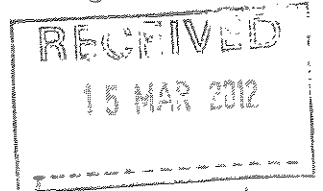
Let's keep a good
relation between
Japan and Australia.

From



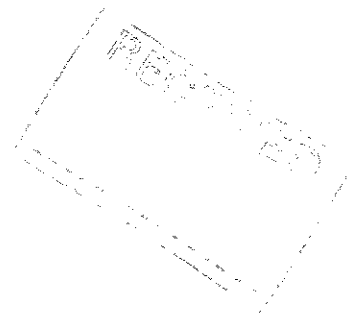
166 West St
Greytown

Dear South Wairarapa Council



My Name is Gracyn Ewins
I live in Greytown and just got a new scooter
and I'm quite good on my scooter
but I have no where to get better.
Every other town in the Wairarapa besides
Greytown has a skate park and a lot of people
from Greytown have scooters too and I'm
sure they would like a skate park as well. A skate
park in Greytown would be the best idea
because kids on their scooters
use past shops and shop owners get
angry and tell them off when they
do. Just trying to have fun. I hope you
make Greytown a skate park because
Greytown really needs one.

from ~~Gracyn~~ Gracyn





19 March 2012

HP 22012-033

Mayor Adrienne Staples
South Wairarapa District Council
PO Box 6
MARTINBOROUGH 5741



Dear Adrienne,

The New Zealand Historic Places Trust (NZHPT) has revised the proposal to declare the south side of Featherston Military Training Camp an archaeological site under section 9(2) of the *Historic Places Act 1993* (HPA).

We have given due consideration to landowners' concerns about the declaration proposal and now suggest registration as an alternative tool to recognise the high historic significance of the Featherston Military Training Camp. Under this revised proposal the south side of the camp would not be declared an archaeological site, meaning that archaeological authorities would not be required in order to undertake works there.

The registration would cover the entire camp extent, including the northern section that was declared an archaeological site in 2011.

We would like to meet with landowners in the first instance to discuss this revised proposal and will be organising these meetings during March and early April.

In the meantime we have set out below some information about the purpose and process of registration, and attached an information sheet explaining the effects of registration on land and buildings.

Registration is recognition of a place's 'status' as a heritage site. It does not, as is commonly believed, provide direct regulatory 'protection' or place restrictions on the use of the land by a property owner or lessee.

The purpose of registration is to inform the public, the owners, and other interested parties about the heritage values of the place and to assist in protection under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). This means that the NZHPT may be consulted by the applicant or Council on any proposed consent application and offer an opinion on the appropriateness of the works and any effects on heritage but NZHPT is not the decision maker- Council is.

The registration process involves the preparation of a registration report assessing heritage values under Section 23 of the HPA, peer review and owner/public consultation. The final decision on registration lies with the

Te Putahi Central Region Office
Level 7, Alan Burns Insurances House, 69-71 Boulcott Street, PO Box 2629, WELLINGTON 6140
Phone (04) 494 8320 Fax (04) 802 5180
www.historic.org.nz

NZHPT Board, and all public submissions are taken into consideration by the Board in their decision.

NZHPT would also advocate for the Featherston Military Training Camp to be listed as a heritage item in the Wairarapa Combined District Plan. This is a separate process managed by South Wairarapa District Council and includes landowner consultation.

There is already a wealth of historic information to inform a registration report including books shortly to be published by Neil Frances, Wairarapa Archives; Tim Shoebridge and Imelda Bargas, Ministry for Culture and Heritage; and the archaeological reports prepared by Christine Barnett and Andy Dodd.

A recommendation to consider registration of the entire area of the former camp rather than extending the declaration as an archaeological site to the south side will be presented to the NZHPT Board following discussion with owners and interested parties.

Please note that this alternative suggestion does not signify a confirmed registration of the camp; rather our intention to begin the registration research process.

As discussed in my email, we would like to meet with you to discuss this revised proposal and will be in touch again to arrange a suitable time to meet. If you have any further questions about the NZHPT's decision to revise its proposal for recognising the significant heritage values of Featherston Military Camp, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Ann Neill
General Manager
Central Region
New Zealand Historic Places Trust/Pouhere Taonga
04 4948320

Encl: *Information Sheet for Owners- Historic Places and Historic Areas*

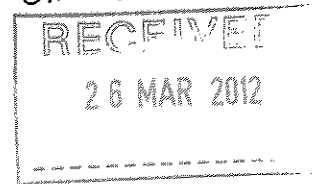
18 Main Street

Greytown

3049508

25 March 2012

Email



Adrian Staples

Mayor

South Wairarapa District Council

I would just like to say thank you that I received from the council via UCOL at their graduation ceremony in Masterton last week. I have already put some of the money to good use in purchasing a text book needed for my cookery level 3 courses that I'm currently undertaking. I hope in the next semester to undertake cookery level 4.

To do, that I will have to travel back and forward to Palmerston North.

Then I will be in a better position to place my self back in a work force that is always looking for staff.

Once a gain I thank the council for their generosity

Brian W Robinson

Office of the Mayor
Adrienne Staples



P.O. Box 6
MARTINBOROUGH
Telephone (06) 306 9611
Cell 0274 468 060
Email – themayor@swdc.govt.nz

19 Kitchener Street
MARTINBOROUGH
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Facsimile (06) 306 9373
Email enquiries@swdc.govt.nz



15 March 2012

Jenny Chetwynd
Regional Director Central
NZTA
Private Bag 6995
Wellington 6141

Dear Jenny

At our meeting on 22 February, Council resolved that I should write to you outlining our concerns about and stressing the importance of the Waihenga bridge on SH53.

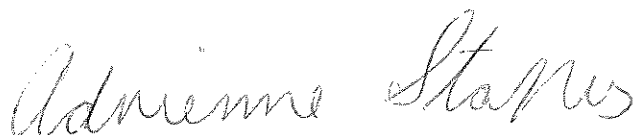
Council reluctantly accepts that under the current economic climate that the bridge is unlikely to be replaced in the short to medium term. We understand that the bridge's life expectancy has been re-evaluated to forty years. This re-evaluation however does not change the bridge's current condition and the need for it to close every time the river experiences a strong 'fresh'. This means that even with normal seasons we can expect the bridge to close several times during the year. With the climate extremes we now experiencing these closures are expected to increase. The storm in early March was an example of this. This is clearly unacceptable to Martinborough township and the surrounding rural properties for several reasons. Today's towns are no longer self sufficient and supplies, milk, mail etc are delivered on a daily basis; the town hosts many events and visitors during the year and a good portion of the town's residents commute to Wellington to work. Another concern with the bridge closure is the inability for farmers and contractors to move heavy equipment from farms on either side of the river. This may be for access to stock during floods, feeding out or civil defence. Council is certainly compromised during an emergency with the bridge closed. Alternative routes are often compromised during heavy weather events and they most certainly are if the spillways are operating.

Following discussions with both Rod James and Mark Owen I understand this situation can be remedied to a large degree if safety work which underpins the bridge's foundations is carried out. This work must however be approved through your current budgeting process. While I appreciate the pressures on NZTA's funding I urge you to give this work priority. The reliability of our highway network is vitally important to

our well being. We have no other choices. It's not like we can put a load of lambs bound for the freezing works on the train.

We look forward to being advised that this project has been approved in the new budgets.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Adrienne Staples". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and legible.

Adrienne Staples
MAYOR