

SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL

14 JULY 2022

AGENDA ITEM B3

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM ASSETS & SERVICES COMMITTEE

Purpose of Report

To provide an opportunity for members to consider recommendations received from the Assets and Services Committee.

Recommendations

Officers recommend that the Council:

1. *Receive the Recommendations from Assets and Services Committee Report.*
2. *That the following recommendations from the Assets and Services Committee be considered:*

Recommendations from Assets and Services Committee	Resolution Number
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Recommend to Council that it approves the use of up to \$500,000 unbudgeted capital expenditure for phase 1 to allow Management to continue work on new roading alignment and design.2. Recommend to Council that it approve the use of up to \$200,000 capped for capital works from the Rural Road Reserve to continue the maintenance and improvement of the alternative route to Hinekura via Admiral Hill.3. Recommend to Council that it approve up to \$100,000 capital grant from the Rural Road Reserve to support the creation of a temporary farm track built by private landowners to reconnect the Hinekura community to the road on the Martinborough side.4. Recommend to Council that it consider options for funding fully or partially funding the ongoing maintenance costs of a temporary farm track built by private landowners to reconnect the Hinekura community to the road on the Martinborough side.	A&S2022/32

1. Background

The reports to the Assets and Services Committee meeting relating to the recommendations in this report can be found here: [Assets and Services Committee Agenda](#)

The report relating to recommendations (A&S2022/32), was considered by the Assets and Services Committee at their meeting on the 13 July 2022. Item B1, Hinekura Road Landslide Report.

2. Appendices

Appendix 1 - Hinekura Road Landslide Report

Contact Officer: Stefan Corbett, Group Manager Partnerships & Operations

Reviewed By: Harry Wilson, Chief Executive Officer

Appendix 1 - Hinekura Road Landslide Report

ASSETS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

13 JULY 2022

AGENDA ITEM B1

HINEKURA ROAD LANDSLIDE

Purpose of Report

To update Councillors on the landslide damage to Hinekura Road and gain initial budget approvals to a) continue work on new road alignment and design, and b) continue a programme of maintenance and improvement to the Admiral Hill route to Hinekura, and to fund a community-led effort to create a temporary farm track to reconnect the Hinekura community to the road on the Martinborough side.

Recommendations

Officers recommend that the Council:

1. *Receive the Hinekura Road Landslide Report.*
2. *Recommend to Council that it approves the use of up to \$500,000 unbudgeted capital expenditure to allow Management to continue work on new roading alignment and design.*
3. *Recommend to Council that it Approve the use of up to \$300,000 from the Rural Road Reserve to continue the maintenance and improvement of the alternative route to Hinekura via Admiral Hill, and to support the creation of a temporary farm track built by private landowners to reconnect the Hinekura community to the road on the Martinborough side.*
4. *Note that \$20,000 emergency unbudgeted expense from Council operating expenditure has been approved by the Chief Executive to establish the Hinekura Road Relief Fund.*
5. *Note the rebuild of the Hinekura Road will be a capital project that is anticipated to be loan funded over a 30 year term (the average life of a rural road).*

1. Executive Summary

Over 500 metres of Hinekura Road was destroyed by a large landslide on 14 June 2022. Geotechnical advice from WSP confirmed the landside was 500 metres long, 80 metres wide and approximately 500,000 cubic metres in volume. The landslide has travelled over 80 metres down the valley and is still active. The existing road alignment is unusable, and the old road cannot be remediated.

The priority is to explore alternative alignments for a new road, which will run through the private property of at least two landowners. Close collaboration with the landowners involved will be imperative to the success of the project. WSP, an international engineering consultancy that we have worked with for two years on Hinekura Road issues, has provided some suggested alignment options using desktop data and drone footage. We now seek approval for budgets to assign the work of confirming alignments and designing a new road to WSP. This is only the first stage. Once verification, planning, land stability investigation, consenting and design is completed, and a final road design is ready, we will return to Council for further instructions.

In tandem with the ongoing effort to confirm and design a new permanent road, we seek approval to support a community initiative to create a temporary farm track suitable for 4WD and light vehicles to reconnect the existing route to Martinborough from Hinekura. This initiative will be led by local landowner Don McCreary and has the backing of a majority of the Hinekura community. A temporary farm track would alleviate much of the anxiety, stress, and additional expense that the Hinekura community is experiencing because of the road closure. It would avoid most users having to use the much longer and more complex alternative road route via Admiral Hill. It would provide emergency access to Martinborough should the Admiral Hill route be closed.

2. Background

2.1 Maintaining the alternative route via Admiral Hill and working on new alignments

Damage to the existing road is significant and the landslide is still active and dangerous to cross. Specialist advice is that the current alignment of the road is not feasible. That is, reinstating the road is very unlikely to be possible.

Alternative access to Hinekura via the Admiral Hill route is presently open to all vehicles. We have several crews on the road improving manoeuvrability, visibility, and traction. Road conditions will be carefully monitored, and improvements made where needed. Further work on signage, metalling, safety features and control of stock may be required. We will do our best to keep the road safe and open, but the reality is that this section of road may close temporarily due to flooding, snow, slips or other reasons. Road conditions at night and/or in heavy weather may be challenging for some drivers, particularly if they are driving an extra 2-3 hours each time they commute.

WSP engineers are investigating two alternative alignments for the road (please refer to WSP maps at Appendix one). WSP has been working with landowners to leverage local knowledge of the land and to build on their preliminary assessment. Gradient, stability, ease of build, and expense, are all important factors in considering the most optimal route. The project team will need to collaborate closely with landowners to be successful.

We seek Council approval for up to \$500,000 to cover the first phase of work, which consists of:

- a) Hiring a Project Manager to lead the work stream
- b) Monitoring the existing site using remote sensors, rain gauges etc
- c) Optioneering the new alignment to determine best fit
- d) Completion of the engineering design and producing plans and estimates

This first stage of the project will produce a verified engineering design that we can use for tendering purposes. The reality is that this process, plus the build stage, will take many months. It will however be very important not to rush the verification process. Our ambition is to provide a new road that is resilient and open to all traffic types. Land stability investigations must be thorough as landslips are characteristic of this part of the Wairarapa. WSP has done some surveys of the area using drones and photogrammetry, which reveal evidence of many old slips.

2.2 Road maintenance and Temporary farm track

We seek Council approval to use up to \$300,000 from the Rural Road Reserve for

- a) Repairs and maintenance of the Admiral Hill alternative route
- b) To fund on a grants basis the construction of a temporary farm track by private landowners to allow residents to access Martinborough more safely and quickly, to ease stress on the community while the new road is being planned and built.

Maintenance and improvements to the Admiral Hill route will be ongoing through the Winter months. We have already spent \$65,000 in a matter of weeks. It is vital that the route is kept in good repair to avoid any possibility of accidents. The route must remain open to avoid a serious emergency arising whereby the Hinekura community becomes landlocked.

Private landowners on behalf of the community intend to create a farm track suitable for 4WD and light vehicles that will temporarily reconnect the closed section of road. This initiative is well supported by the Hinekura community. We are still confirming details, but early costings suggest a total cost under \$70,000, covering hire of heavy machinery, materials, and specialist labour. This temporary farm track would ease the stress being caused by the alternative route, which is considered unsafe by many residents and adds 2-3 hours to the roundtrip Hinekura/Martinborough. We consider the initiative is a much needed one that people will use for a significant period, including through Winter. It would be a vital lifeline for emergency use if the Admiral Hill Road route closed for any reason.

Council could offer the financial support on a grant basis and on the understanding that it accepts no responsibility for the standard or safety level of the temporary farm track. The landowner will have to construct the track to the best standard possible and will remain liable for any safety issues that occur on their land by people using it.

The funding would be provided contingent on the landowners receiving any necessary consents and approvals from the GWRC. Furthermore, we will need to ensure that in the construction of the farm track there is no impediment to the construction of the permanent road. Council will need to be satisfied that this is a justifiable use of public money, bearing in mind the serious economic and social impacts of the road closure on the 33 households in Hinekura.

2.3 Support to the community

During a Hinekura Road Community meeting on 29 June 2022 we launched the Hinekura Road Relief Fund (the Fund) which, using \$20,000 of Council funding, is providing immediate support to residents who are impacted by the road closure. We are partnering with the East Coast Rural Support Trust to administer and deliver the Fund. During the meeting we received numerous requests for more assistance across education, transport, training, accommodation, wage assistance, household costs, and animal health/welfare issues. We continue to work with support organisations to ensure a wraparound service is provided to the community. We will be monitoring the pattern of spending for the Fund and will report on progress.

3. Discussion

It is not yet possible to accurately estimate how much the feasibility, design and build of a new road will cost, however it is reasonable to expect it to be within the range of \$2-5m. The benefits of rebuilding the road in broad terms are that: the Hinekura Community is reconnected to the Martinborough ward, restoring long held and valuable education, social, cultural and business ties; there is an operable route out of Hinekura if the other route fails for any reason; and prevention of the degradation of the Hinekura community and economy.

Waka Kotahi have approved our initial application for \$200,000 of emergency works funding - being \$100,000 for works to date in FY 2021/22 and \$100,000 towards future works and design. Waka Kotahi management have visited the site with us to better understand our situation. Further funding applications will be made once costs firm up.

Stage two of the project will be to build the new road using the feasibility and engineering design. We intend to progress to this stage as soon as possible.

3.1 Consultation

None required. We have engaged carefully with the Hinekura community on the content of this report.

3.2 Legal Implications

None at present.

3.3 Financial Considerations

Note the requests for unbudgeted expenses in this report are outside the Annual Plan and Long Term Plan budgets.

4. Supporting Information

4.1 Long Term Plan - Community Outcomes

The recommendation to reconnect the damaged section of Hinekura Road is essential to maintaining the current level of social and economic activity in the Hinekura region. Not providing the road would impact the vibrancy and resilience of that community. There would be a deficit in the provision of education to approximately 10 school age children in the community. Lack of access to the Martinborough side restricts the ability to join social activities, sports, to access farm labour, educate children, do business (transport products and animals). Permanent closure of the land could affect land prices in the area, and potentially lead to people leaving the community. Healthy & Economically Secure People

4.2 Treaty of Waitangi

Not applicable.

5. Appendices

Appendix 1 – WSP maps of possible new alignments for the road

Contact Officer: Stefan Corbett, Group Manager Partnerships and Operations

Reviewed By: Harry Wilson, Chief Executive Officer

Appendix 1 – WSP maps of possible new alignments for the road

Main Options :

Option	Description	Comment
red	Existing tracks to near hilltop, traverse	Steep grade 18% (too steep stock trucks?)
Light blue	As for red to top then flatter longer drop to existing road to east	Blue is Better grade but longer (~1km) and may be land stability issues to check
Orange	Through paddocks	Alternative to red
Yellow	through upper landslide	Better alignment. Only feasible if 1) landslide completely fails and exposes stable ground here or 2) can dig out

Other Options :

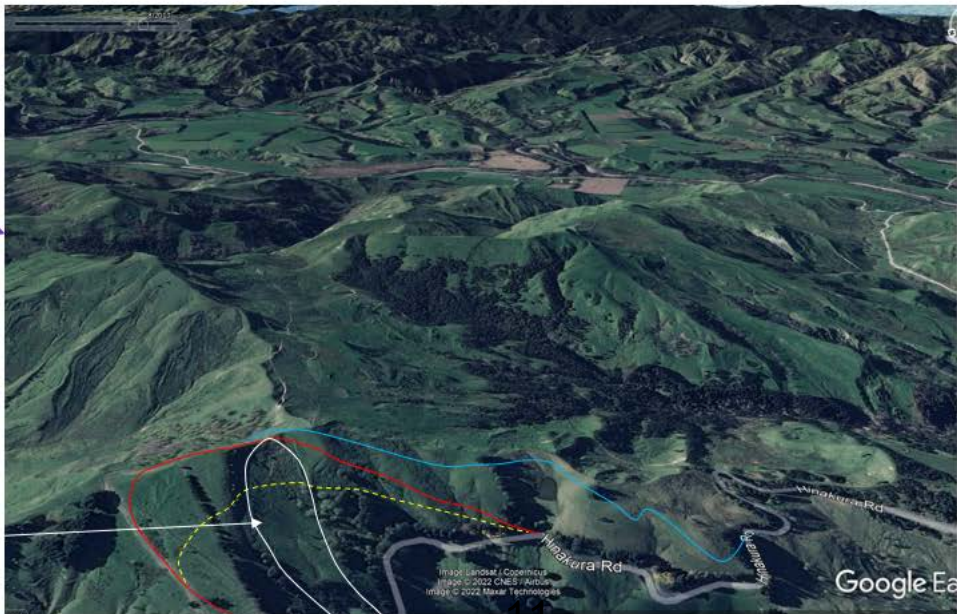
Option	Description	Comment
Brown	large fill embankment	Very deep valley to fill Unlikely to be feasible
Grey	Bridge landslide	Very expensive 140m span needed!
Purple (refer separate plans)	route N to Moeraki Road via farm 4WD Tracks and forestry	Need to check re feasibility of using line of tracks (signs of existing landslides)
White (refer separate image)	downslope of road following existing 4WD tracks and road remnants	Signs of unstable land where old road has disappeared

Indicative Realignment route positions

Moeraki Road

Purple
(back)
route

1673
Hinekura Rd
Landslide



2013 photo