

## Chairperson's Report

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### 1. Purpose

To update the Infrastructure and Community Services Committee on activities and issues.

### 2. Recommendations

The Chairperson recommends that the Infrastructure and Community Services Committee:

1. Receive the Chairperson's Report.

### 3. Discussion

3.1 As a Council and Committee, we have nearly passed through the first quarter of 2023 which has been extremely busy, firstly with Cyclone Hale in January and closely followed by Cyclone Gabrielle in late February. While our District and rural areas were isolated for a number of days with flooding and slips, the roading team and contractors worked long hours including weekends to reopen access to our rural residents.

The initial work completed was rudimentary to enable immediate access with further work required at a later date to fully repair roads, water tables and culverts. Thanks to Tim, his team and the contractors for their efforts.

After each of these events, our Roding Manager applies to Waka Kotahi for emergency funding to cover the cost of reinstatement of our roading network. In some cases the funding granted by WK does not meet the full costs so funds are drawn from our Rural Roding Reserve Fund.

Over the last 18 months with the large number of extreme weather events occurring, the Rural Roding Reserve Fund has been significantly depleted and I believe that we need to seriously consider increasing the value of Fund so that we can face the increasing weather events in coming years. This will no doubt be a discussion for our upcoming Annual Plan workshops.

3.2 After Cyclone Hale, the CEO mentioned that a "Lessons Learnt Review" would occur with the aim of looking for improvements which could be made. Did this Review happen or was it delayed because of Cyclone Gabrielle and could the results please be shared with this Committee.

3.3 The Hinekura Hill reports have been delivered to Councillors by Council staff and WSP Consultants, along with a presentation to the Hinekura community on Monday night this week. After receiving the communities feedback, we will in coming weeks be having further discussions on the options/costs etc in what has been described as the biggest roading project South Wairarapa District has faced for a number of years.

3.4 Two weeks ago, I presented to the Combined Council Forum at Masterton concerns that I, along with other Councillors and ratepayers have regarding forestry slash, willows and gravel in our river systems and the risks that they place on Council infrastructure right across the Wairarapa.

Greater Wellington Regional Council are the regulatory authority required to inspect and ensure that forestry slash is correctly managed and doesn't enter waterways, while they also lopp willows in their erosion control programmes and control, ie restrict the extraction of gravel from our rivers and streams.

At the Forum there was a desire from Mayors and Councillors of all three Councils within the Wairarapa to work with GWRC to ensure that the issues regarding forestry slash, willows and gravel are dealt with proactively before we collectively face the sort of issues that Hawkes Bay and Gisborne have faced in recent times.

3.5 Recently we received the monthly report from Wellington Water which stated that "the impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle in the Hawkes Bay also presents a risk on full year programme delivery, where consultant and contractor resources may be drawn in to support the recovery efforts as the region transitions into rebuild."

Over the years there have been questions about Wellington Water only using Wellington based contractors here in the South Wairarapa and why do they not use local contractors?

Now that there is a risk that the work programme may not be delivered due to a shortage of contractors due to rebuild work after Cyclone Gabrielle, can Council advocate that contractors from South Wairarapa be engaged on Wellington Water projects to ensure that firstly our projects are completed in a timely manner.

Prepared By: Councillor Aidan Ellims – Chairperson, Infrastructure and Community Services