



REPORT

SUBJECT: **Roading Contract Performance**

TO: Assets/Infrastructure Committee

FROM: Reuben Pokiha, Roothing Operations Manager

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Tabled at Assets/Infrastructure

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Higgins is now in the eighth month of the contract and for them they have been faced with a number of challenges. The engagement of an experienced workforce, the June 2015 storm event, setting up of a new depot, problems with the mowing of the network etc.

The employment of the ex Downers crew for the northern part of the network based out of Taihape has proven to be of a real advantage to Higgins. This experienced crew are performing very well and it is showing.

The June event really stretched the resources of the contractor and in fact they performed relatively well with the initial tidy up and the opening up of the network being achieved in a reason period of time.

The contractor has had a number of management changes at a senior level which did affect progress marginally at times but this aspect has now settled down with a level of stability.

Of a major concern to Council was in regards to the mowing of the network. The contractor for a variety of reasons commenced the work too late and coupled with a number of plant/resource issues the state of the network became way out of tolerance. A concerted effort has been made to get the network back on track and the third mowing round has almost been completed. Some time has been lost due to the long fine hot weather posing a fire risk. A fire caused by the mowing activity on Spooner's Hill Taihape in February necessitated a stoppage to the mowing operations for a week.

There are still some issues that need to be addressed pertaining to drainage especially in the central area of the Network and a concern has been expressed to the contractor and a programme has been implemented to address this area of concern.

Higgins is making a concerted effort to improve performance and have added an additional Inspector to the team thus giving an enhanced coverage of the network which has improved the quality and identification of faults thus enabling a more robust programming of work.

There is currently a fairly extensive grading programme taking place on the network, especially in the northern area. There have been a number of complaints pertaining to the condition of the road, but to be fair this is due to the long hot weather that has been

experienced over the past two months, grading has not been that successful as moisture is required to bind and hold the aggregate together, but the contractor is making a concerted effort to mitigate.

Overall there is an improvement with the contractor's performance and the relationship between the Council and Contractor's staff at all levels indicates a working relationship that appears to be working.

The contractor has in place a very robust health and safety plan and this aspect is number one at the operational meetings for discussion. For Council staff entering workplaces under the auspices of Higgins clear instructions have been given on the gear etc. that must be worn when on the site.

I am sure that we acknowledge that it is the people in any contractual relationship that makes it work successfully.

Reuben Pokiha
Roading Operations Manager