

Chair's report

Firstly, welcome back to another busy year ahead. While Xmas/New Year has been relatively quiet, there has been one rather too frequent failure, that being the Marton Water Treatment Plant. As you will be aware, there are several parts or issues with this supply. What must happen now is a comprehensive investigation as to what we do with what we have. Do we utilize the new bore? Or do we have a better or more uniform water supply from the B and C Dams? Lastly, what needs to be upgraded in the plant itself?

It was pleasing to attend the Otara Bridge opening last week (even though we had different start times sent to us). In conjunction with Manawatū District Council and staff, Mayor Andy and Mayor Helen Worboys along with Jack Baker (local farmer) cut the ribbon. This project came in on budget.

I must make mention of the work being done on the Mangaweka Bridge. That also cannot come soon enough. With only one way out for heavy vehicles, it is putting a huge strain on Toe Toe Road. I'm still of a mind to retain the old Bridge, if at all possible, as that will be a huge asset for the Mangaweka area. It will be an awesome tourist attraction, let alone incorporating it into a bike trail etc. Awastone along with the Mangaweka camping ground will surely benefit.

Lastly, I see we have data on the future implications throughout the District where forestry will be extracted. It is alarming what the costs are going to be, just to bring the network up to a standard that can handle multiple heavy trucks daily across our roads. I hope Minister Jones is aware of the impact that happens to all infrastructure leading to these forests. While the Government is putting their hands in their pockets giving out money to plant these forests, maybe they should also give a higher percentage in the FAR rates and upgrade these carriage ways.

Dean McManaway

Chair, Assets/Infrastructure Committee

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