

## Notice of a meeting of the

## Assets Committee

in the

Empire Room, Oamaru Opera House, Thames Street, Oamaru

9am, Wednesday 1 February 2017

## **MEMBERSHIP:**

Cr Kingan (Chair) Cr Percival (Deputy chair) Cr Garvan Cr Tavendale Mayor Kircher (ex Officio) Cr Dawson Cr Hopkins Cr Wheeler

In the interests of the environment and to help reduce photocopying costs, please bring your Committee agenda with you to the meeting

# Assets Committee Meeting

## Wednesday 1 February 2017

## Empire Room, Oamaru Opera House Thames Street, Oamaru

- Apologies
- Declarations of Interest

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"That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely items 4, 5 and 6.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded; the reasons for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter - Section 48(1)	
Public Excluded:  Lease of Land  Underfloor Insulation of Council Owned Residential Rental Housing  Harbour Land	To protect the privacy of natural persons. Section 48(1)(a) (The disclosure of the information would cause unnecessary personal embarrassment to the persons concerned).	
	To enable the Council to carry out commercial negotiations without prejudice or disadvantage. Section 48(1)(a) (Premature disclosure of the information would detrimentally affect the Council's position in the negotiations).	

These resolutions are made in reliance on Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of the Act or Section 6 or Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may require, which would be prejudiced by holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as shown above (in brackets) with respect to each item."

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4.	<ul><li>Lease of Land</li><li>Report and recommendation</li></ul>	23-26
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# Assets Committee Report

From Michael Voss Date 1 February 2017

## Harbour Street: Improvements and Trial Closure

#### Recommendations

Assets Committee recommends that Council:

- 1. Adopt the design and installation of the new footpath and retractable bollards.
- 2. Adopt the proposal to construct a raised pedestrian crossing.
- 3. Adopt Back Lane improvements.
- Adopt a trial closure of Harbour Street.

**Objective of the Decision** 

To improve the traffic and pedestrian flow around the Historic Precinct by modifying speed and parking within the general area, regularise traffic along Back Lane, construct a speed cushion, install street bollards and prohibit vehicle access into Harbour Street between 10am and 4pm on weekends, by means of the installation of retractable bollards.

**Summary** 

The trial to close Harbour Street to vehicles is proposed between 10am and 4pm every weekend from 4 February to 1 May 2017 to gauge the effectiveness of the closure with due regard to accessibility, pedestrian and user safety with commercial activities.

This is separate to the revision of local parking restrictions and application of a blanket 30km/hr temporary speed restriction covering the Historic Precinct area. New road marking will be applied to improve traffic management. This includes changes to Back Lane by modifying vehicle directions, kerb and channelling, markings and cul de sac.

The installation of street and retractable bollards will be actioned once Council selects the most appropriate design. The construction of the raised pedestrian crossing or speed cushion is proposed for early this year.

**Summary of Decision Making Criteria** 

	No/Moderate/Key		No/Moderate/Key
Policy/Plan	No	Environmental Considerations	No
Legal	Moderate	Cultural Considerations	Moderate
Significance	No	Social Considerations	M
Financial Criteria	Moderate	Economic Considerations	Key
Community Views	Low	Community Board Views	M
Consultation	Key	Publicity and Communication	Key

Background

This report summarises the outcomes of previous papers and a public meeting held in the Oamaru Opera House on Monday evening, 12 December 2016.

**Material changes** 

Parking: One of the outcomes from the meeting was the agreement to the proposed parking changes - with minor adjustments. It was agreed that some minor tweaks could be made to the new parking layout should it prove necessary after the trial period.

Temporary Speed Limits: Since the meeting the parking signage has been erected following some walkovers and the 30km/hr temporary speed restriction signs also erected. These were reported on in the local media to remind residents of earlier proposals. However it is expected that the speed restriction will take some time to bed in before it becomes accepted.

Road markings: Unfortunately poor weather has delayed the changes to the road markings and feedback on this is not available.

Back Lane Improvements: The key safety feature is the reconfiguring of traffic movements along the Back Lane to ensure access is clearly marked <u>one way</u> off the Itchen/ Tyne Street intersection. The painted cul de sac markings on Back Lane will be completed along with marking the bus drop-off zones and other parking limits. Some kerb and channel work at Tyne Street will help to direct traffic into the lane.

Bollards: The selection of the bollards from the options provided was deferred and Council is requested to consider the three steel and the timber options (the latter suggested at the meeting and a design based on existing units is attached for consideration). The Gillies model was the preferred option, however the price differential to the other models is something Council should consider.

The location of the proposed 15 bollards is far enough from those on Itchen/Tees Streets that alternative designs can be selected without looking out of character. The bollards proposed are all demountable for filming purposes and are in keeping with the aesthetics of the area. The timber bollards repeat the nautical theme from those used on the wharf to moor ships.

The costings for the bollards are:

- Gillies at \$1,200 each installed
- City King at \$850 each installed
- Globo at \$650 each installed
- Timber bollards \$150 each installed dependent on extra fittings and availability of recyclable poles. The timber poles adjacent to Scott's Brewery are a good example of the finished unit.

The use of chains being strung between the bollards was mentioned however this isn't part of the proposal at this stage and should the need arise then it is easy to retrofit the bollards to accept chains.

The choice of design for the proposed retractable bollards was queried with alternatives from Europe mentioned; however the model presented is readily available and meets the criteria for installation. The cost for the proposed unit is \$1,300 each installed.

#### **Harbour Street Accessibility**

The proposed trialling of the partial closure of Harbour Street restricted to weekends and public holidays between 10am and 4pm was reasonably well received, though pertinent reservations were voiced.

The proposal is to trial this option for the period between now (following public notification) and Easter/Anzac Day 2017.

#### **Summary of Options Considered**

The options are separated into Part A: trialling of modifications (1-6) and Part B: trial closure (7).

- Option 1 The temporary speed limit trial continues through to Easter when its effectiveness will be evaluated. Should it have proven successful consideration will be given to making it a permanent reduction as part of Council's Speed Limit Bylaw.
- Option 2 The parking restrictions are monitored for effectiveness and discussions held in January/February with local businesses to seek feedback.
- Option 3 The line, lane and direction markings are applied as proposed when weather permits. These will be also monitored for effectiveness. This includes the revisions for Back Lane.
- Option 4 The bollards, once selected, will be supplied and installed.
- Option 5 The retractable bollards purchased, installed and used when appropriate (keys held by the Council's Roading Manager and Whitestone Civic Trust). These bollards can be used for any event and would provide a practical option to reduce ongoing traffic management costs associated with temporary closures to comply with transport regulations. Installation of the retractable bollards should not be seen as a 'done-deal' (Option 7 below) as it has financial advantages over the current temporary road closure management practice.

- Option 6 The raised speed cushion (aka pedestrian crossing) on Tyne Street is to be installed early this year after surveying the effects of the temporary speed restriction. This work will link to the adjustments to the kerb and channelling at the entrance to Back Lane.
- The restricted access to Harbour Street be trialled from now to Easter. This is the most contentious area of the proposed improvements to the Historic Precinct experience. The current 'mixture' is working but with reservations over safety and accessibility. One issue is that the forecasted steep growth of tourist traffic, both coach and self- drive, will add to the congestion. This may not make Harbour Street any less unsafe as the speed of traffic movement will be further reduced through such congestion making for very minor impacts when they occur. However it may equally become a 'put-off' for visitors and will certainly make it a less pleasant experience for everyone by the jostling between vehicles and pedestrians.

## **Assessment of Preferred Options**

Option A – that trialling of the physical works continues as and when able.

Option B – that the proposed trialling of partial closure of Harbour Street is confirmed and it is to be monitored regularly.

Having considered the options summarised above, the following conclusions have been reached:

1. Speed limit Installed.

Parking restrictions Installed.

3. Line markings To be installed.

Street bollards To be installed after selection.

5. Harbour Street bollards To be installed on approval.

6. Raised crossing To be constructed after review.

7. Restricted access Partial restriction to be trialled.

#### Conclusion

That the above modifications to the Historic Precinct are approved for trialling between now and Easter/Anzac 2017 when a detailed evaluation will be undertaken by Council and stakeholders over the effectiveness of the changes and what modifications are required to better improve the traffic and pedestrian flows whilst enhancing accessibility and visitor experience.

Michael Voss
Roading Manager

#### **Attachments**

Additional decision making considerations Map of Temporary Speed Restriction Map of Restricted Parking Areas Map of New Road Markings: Back Lane Drawings of Bollard Design Options Assets Group Manager

## **Additional Decision Making Considerations**

The following matters have been considered in making the decisions.

#### **Outcomes**

- We enable opportunities for new and existing businesses
- We provide and enable services and facilities so people want to stay and move here
- We maintain the safest community we can
- We keep our district affordable

## **Policy and Plan Considerations**

The proposed improvements fit within existing policy and plans.

## **Community Views**

The community views have been sought via a meeting in the Opera House that outlines the various options available to Council as a means of canvassing feedback and interactions outside social media.

It is planned to monitor the effects of the modifications and meet with stakeholders in January/February to review changes.

#### **Financial Considerations**

Funding for the alterations will be available from the Oamaru Amenity fund.

Maintenance will come from the general maintenance activities as they sit within the current maintenance contract.

#### **Legal Considerations**

Council, as Road Controlling Authority, and through the Roading Manager's delegations, can enact Section 10 of the Local Government Act 1974 "Conditions as to stopping of roads and the temporary prohibition of traffic on roads". Under Clause 11 council may close any part of a road to all traffic or any specified type of traffic (including pedestrian traffic) (d) when for any reason it is considered desirable that traffic should be temporarily diverted to other roads.

#### **Environmental Considerations**

There are no environmental considerations.

## **Publicity & Communication Considerations**

It is recommended that the effects of the proposed modifications are monitored and evaluated in February 2017 and after Easter to develop further improvements to the trial.

## Map of Temporary 30km/hr Speed Restriction



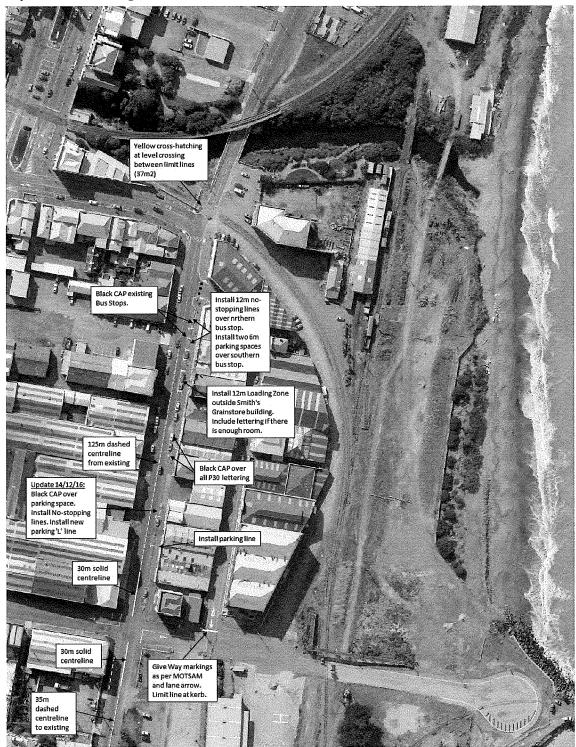
Proposed 30km/h Temporary Speed Limit Trial Historic Precinct Drawn By: RM Date: 16/11/16

## **Map of Restricted Parking**



Proposed Parking Amendments Historic Precinct Drawn By: RM Date: 13/12/16

## Map of Road Markings: General



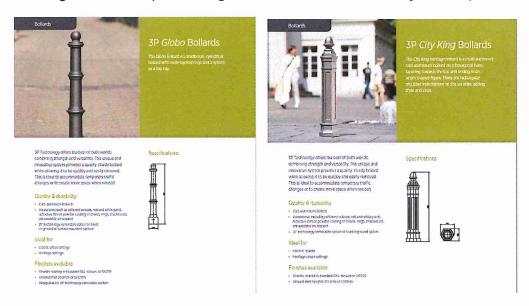
RoadmarkingInstall - Tyne Street Historic Precinct Drawn By: RM Date: 21/12/16

Map of Road Markings: Back Lane



Roadmarking Install Measure-Up Historic Precinct Back Lane Amendments in Red Drawn By: RM Date: 21/12/16

## Drawings of Bollards (no drawing of the Gillies model is held by Council)



## Timber Bollard



## Retractable Bollards



## Gillies Bollard



# Assets Committee Memorandum

From

Assets Group Manager

Date

1 February 2017

## **Assets Group Activity Report**

#### Recommendation

The Assets Committee receives the information.

## **Summary and Purpose**

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform the Assets Committee about the activities of the Assets Group.

#### 1. General

## 1.1. Assets Team Changes

There are no changes to report for this meeting.

## 2. Roading General

The roading activity has undertaken a rigorous review of the outcomes as part of the construction of the new maintenance tender. This will further improve our service delivery to the community. We have also started preparation for the next triennium of Financial Years (2018-21) through the Regional Land Transport Plan via the Regional Transport Committee. There will be a workshop in March with Council to outline the process and issues for Waitaki District and the Southern Road Controlling Authorities.

NZTA have now commenced a project to improve safety at the Moeraki intersections, with the likely installation of rural speed warning signage and road marking (more will be advised once known).

Likewise there has been some progress towards making the operation of the pedestrian signals in North Oamaru more effective following a number of complaints over their operations.

Following a public meeting with local stakeholders a number of changes were introduced around the Harbour Street part of the Historic Precinct – mainly around managing traffic speed, parking and new markings. The matter over accessing Harbour Street is the subject of a separate report.

A traction seal extension programme has been developed with Councillors to improve selected intersections. Work has been completed at thirteen sites costing \$156,000. We are programming another eight now that the NZTA subsidy is available. This will bring the project cost to \$263,000.

We have increased the sealing of failed sealed sections rather than digging out or stabilising the failed area. This is determined by whether the surface is deformed or not. We successfully negotiated a rate of \$6.50 per m2 (a saving of \$4.00 per m2) with Fulton Hogan and the sites were completed when they were in the area doing the road reseal contract works. The sealing of the sections helps to waterproof and extend the life of the surface.

A cattle stop on Lake Ohau Road was removed as it has become redundant. This action allowed us to widen the road to the same width as existing.

Discussions are being held between Council and NZTA over responsibilities and to determine future costings for kerb and channel and accesses along the State Highway.

#### 2.1. Customer Service – CRM Process

A total of 114 requests were received by the roading team in November and December:

- 16 for grading or metal on roads
- 5 for unsealed potholes
- 9 for culverts
- 12 for signs/damage
- 16 for vegetation (mowing and visibility-though mostly Parks related)
- 6 for bridge damage reporting
- 23 seal failures a mix of potholes, under runners and slumping
- 17 Roading General (inclusive of permission to use roads and structures by other parties – services provided and service levels)
- 10 side drains blocked
- 10 footpath repair requests
- 2 litter

#### 2.2. Operations

Despite a very wet spring the maintenance works have progressed very well. We have had to face some delays with metalling as access to sites near Waihemo have been delayed with resource consent issues (not Council). Negotiations with the landowner of the quarry resource at Smileys Peak in Palmerston by Downer have stalled. This is seriously affecting our ability to supply the roads around Palmerston (Goodwood to Dunback and North to Fleming Road) with aggregate that was programmed for roads in this area (3000m3). We are awaiting information on the cost of carting beyond the preferred 25km distance at which point we will re-evaluate priorities of the roads based on their average daily traffic (ADT).

Re-metalling of roads was continued throughout the Christmas period along with maintenance grading and new or renewal of signs as staff were available to carry out these works.

Callouts over the Christmas period were mainly for sign vandalism (which has a habit of increasing at this time of year).

We have identified four sites that will benefit from the additional Council funding announced recently (\$350,000). At a Council workshop the criteria was established for choosing sites: **Traffic Counts – Safety – Accessibility – Priority**.

We completed our annual township tidy-up for the festive season.

Our regular attendance to the road surface failures at Haven Street, Moeraki, has continued, including resurfacing. We have had a complaint over dust as we have had to place fresh metal on the road every six or so weeks which makes remedial actions impractical.

## 2.3. Communications

Date	Customer/Client	Outcomes
December	NZTA-Wellington traffic services –Downer-Jacqui Dean and Secretary for Transport NZ Government	Traffic signals at North End
November - December	Oceana Gold	Road repairs required for holiday break and to meet consent conditions at Macraes

## 2.4. Projects

Well underway		Comment		
Reseal Programme		Reseal programme has been completed though weather delayed the Ahuriri ward.		
Re-metalling Programme		Some roads have been re-metalled for road reshape and crowning purposes to assist resilience. The general programme is continuous.		
Bridge Renewal Programme		Dunback Swing Bridge repairs nearly completed with the bridge opened for pedestrians before Christmas. Galbraith and Teschmakers bridges designs are being confirmed.		
Footpa	th Renewal Programme	Works by Whitestone Contracting Ltd are nearing completion with more sites to be allocated (brought forward) to complete budget allocation spend.		
Minor I	mprovements Programme	Works underway.		
Rehabi	litation Programme	Half way through the programme.		
Rural Resilience Project		98 metres of side drains renewed. 100 metres of culvert renewals completed.		
Bridge Maintenance		Bridge maintenance works identified 95% complete and to estimates.		
Seal Widening Programme		Some preliminary works started but with the major focus next month.		
Remark	ring Contract	Progress has been delayed by weather which is not an issue.		
Tractio	n Seals	Initial sites completed and new ones being planned to maximise NZTA subsidy.		
Larger	Projects (Prioritised)			
1	Maintenance Contract Renewal	Document has been reviewed and will be released for public tender in February. The tender evaluation team and observers have been agreed.		
2	Oamaru Coastal Protection	The tender was delayed following the addition of an option to include rock toe protection. Matters concerning resource consent for this change will be addressed through the project if it proves viable. This has delayed our completion until approximately May 2017.		
3	Penguin Underpass Culvert	This work has been completed and is proving very successful, even with international recognition.		

**Tenders recently let** 

Title	Tenders Received	Awarded to	Tender Value	Start Date	Expected completion date
Pavement Rehabilitation 2016-17	4	Roading Company	\$668,000	21/10/16	31/03/17
Seal Widening Livingstone- Duntroon Road	4	Roading Company	\$257,000	25/10/16	31/03/17
Seal Widening Island Cliff- Duntroon Road	4	Roading Company	\$140,000	25/10/16	31/03/17
Street Lighting LED Upgrade (supply)	5	OrangeTek International and Ibex Lighting Ltd	\$465,000	19/12/16	31/06/17
Essex Street East, Road Widening	4	Whitestone Contracting Ltd	\$28,699.44	28/11/16	31/03/17

#### 3. Water Services and Solid Waste

#### 3.1. Customer Service

Since commencement of the 2016/17 financial year, over 1,200 CRMs have been resolved by the water services reticulation contractor and officers with 90% completed within the required timeframes.

## 3.2. Operations

The reticulation networks are continuing to be operated and maintained in an efficient manner by SouthRoads. Their understanding of the various networks has grown considerably with the significant volume of reactive works, such as leaks, attended to. Officers are assessing renewal and improvement works in a number of areas to reduce the volume of reactive maintenance.

The majority of networks performed well over the Christmas and New Year period. The Moeraki water supply however suffered a reservoir failure on Boxing Day and was unable to recover storage due to high demand. This limited the supply of water to elevated consumers resulting in multiple loads of water needing to be tankered to various properties.

## 3.3. Communications

Date	Customer/Client	Outcomes
Multiple occasions	Otago Regional Council	Various correspondence relating to general resource consent compliance and renewal of water permits for Herbert-Waianakarua and Hampden-Moeraki water supplies.
Multiple occasions	ECan	Various correspondence relating to general resource consent compliance and water quality via the Canterbury Drinking Water Reference Group.
Multiple occasions	Waitaki Resource Recovery Trust	Feedback sought on draft communication documents relating to the Oamaru Landfill Closure. On-site visit during the Councillors tour.
Multiple occasions	Waste Management	Feedback sought on draft communication documents relating to the Oamaru Landfill closure. Visit to the new transfer station site by the Solid Waste Working Group.
Multiple occasions	HamNak Properties owners	Negotiations with landowners regarding pipeline access agreements.
November	All Water Supply Consumer Sub Committees	Discussions relating to the future of the committees, the subsequent Council resolution not to re-appoint members and

Date	Customer/Client	Outcomes
		roles and responsibilities of the remaining Operational Liaison Groups.
November	Oamaru Menzshed	Various correspondence relating to seeking access to the Oamaru Landfill site and use of on-site buildings.
November	Otago Lifelines	Involvement at workshops relating to earthquake preparedness.
November/ December	Kai Tahu ki Otago	Various correspondence relating to renewal of the Moeraki wastewater discharge permit and the Hampden-Moeraki water supply water permit.
November/ December	Corriedale Water Management Ltd	Assistance in advertising a Boil Water Notice for the Windsor water supply and training provided in carrying out chlorine sampling.
November/ December	Omarama Airfield	Various correspondence relating to construction of the future Omarama Wastewater Treatment Plant disposal trenches in Airfield land.
November/ December	Waitaki Developers	Various correspondence relating to general development, subdivision and service connection matters in particular Hospital Hill and Weston Road developments.
November/ December	LAPP	Various correspondence relating to insurance of water services assets.
December	HamNak residents	Newsletter issued to residents providing an update on the project.
December	Oamaru South Hill residents	Newsletter issued to residents providing information relating to the upcoming water reticulation upgrades.
December	Various contractors	Various correspondence relating to the tendering of the South Hill water reticulation upgrade contract.

3.4. Projects

Large	Larger Projects (Prioritised)				
1	Oamaru Waste Transfer Station (including greenwaste/special waste treatment)	Construction of the new transfer station progressing well. Printing underway of communication documents to advise key stakeholders and the public of the impending landfill closure in April.			
2	H2OurHealth (HamNak pipeline) project	Landowner agreement, design and contract documents nearing completion. Documents expected to be issued to public tender in late January.			
3	Oamaru South Hill Water Reticulation Upgrades	Contract documents issued for public tender in December closing 17 January. Construction to commence in early February.			
4	Moeraki wastewater consent	Design and contract documents complete. Wastewater design and consultation expert engaged to liaise with Kai Tahu Ki Otago regarding concerns with the proposed discharge permit conditions.			
5	Holmes Wharf Deck Replacement	Review of draft contract documents in progress.			

Large	Larger Projects (Prioritised)				
6	Corriedale Water - determine management structure	Options report to be developed prior to 1 July 2017 as per Council resolution.			
7	Ahuriri Waste Review	On-going discussions with the Ahuriri Community Board regarding potential future options for solid waste management in Ahuriri, following expiry of Transfer Station contract in November. A report will go to the Assets Committee for consideration in due course.			
8	Otematata water upgrade	Flushing of the Otematata water reticulation was completed in November allowing the permanent boil water notice to be lifted prior to the Christmas break. Review of draft Water Safety Plan in progress.			
9	Omarama water upgrade	Drilling of the third bore complete. Design of the treatment plant building and associated pipework underway.			
10	Sewer laterals from private to public	Assessment complete and a report detailing the findings is expected to be presented to officers within the next month. A workshop and report to the Assets Committee will follow in due course.			
11	Ohau water upgrade	Review of draft Water Safety Plan in progress. Communication workshop to be held with Ahuriri Community Board within the next few months.			
12	Wastewater Overflow Mitigation, Oamaru	Reports received on recommended actions. Officer assessment underway.			
13	Retirement Village Services	Construction of the Stoke Street water main upgrade complete.			
15	Hampden On-Site Wastewater Management	Budget confirmed and option analysis underway. Advice received from wastewater design expert on most appropriate contract timeframe.			
16	Otematata Wastewater Treatment Plant Digester	Digester recommissioned in December and successfully treating and transferring sludge from the plant to drying beds.			

#### 3.5. Financials

There has been a significant increase in reactive maintenance on a few supplies over the last four to five months, with water theft, third party damage, water main bursts and sewer blockages occurring more frequently. Oamaru water and sewer networks have had the largest increases in work load and subsequent costs incurred. Their separate rate accounts have reserves to cope with these fluctuations and the situation will continue to be monitored closely.

## 4. Property

#### 4.1. Customer Service

Since the commencement of the 2016/17 financial year, Property achieved a 94% response rate to CRMs and a 100% resolution rate.

## 4.2. Operations

## Property sales update

There has been a flurry of sale activity in Omarama. All Cirrus Place sections have now been sold.

There is one 15ha site at Omarama-Otematata Road near Prohibition Road still for sale by negotiation.

A number of renewal projects are underway:

- Three Community Housing units: College Street; Reed Street; Usk Street
- Library lighting and ventilation
- Headquarters Assets floor refurbishment

## 4.3. Projects

Larger I	_arger Projects (Prioritised)				
1.	Court House	Ownership transferred on 1 July 2016. Planning underway to get the Court House ready for occupation.			
2.	North Otago RSA	Planning is underway to get the RSA building ready for occupation.			
3.	Reserve land swaps	Titles have been registered with LINZ. Stage two is underway.			
4.	Land development and sales	Various sales and projects are underway and workshops/reports will be prepared to present to Council as required.			
5.	Penguin Colony Stage 2	Construction underway, no issues to date.			
6.	Property Debt Project	Report to be developed for Council approval.			
7.	Airport development plan and district plan review	Work is underway to plan for future development at the airport. Report being developed for Council consideration.			
8.	Options for Freezer Building	Report to be prepared for Council consideration.			
9.	Forrester Heights	This project is not being progressed until other priorities are completed.			
10.	Harbour Development Strategy	The Harbour Portfolio is working on a draft layout. This will be presented to the Assets Committee in due course.			
11.	Community Housing Review	It is intended to review Community Housing once other priorities are completed.			
12.	Halls Review	Awaiting other priorities to be completed.			



Neil Jorgensen **Assets Group Manager** 

Attachment CRM Report

WDC CRM Statistics for YTD 2016/17 as at: Mon - 16 Jan 2017 - 12:30 PM

Control	Respond										
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NJ.1 February 2017. Assets Group Activity Report

## Assets Committee Memorandum

From: Road Safety Co-ordinator

Date 1 February 2017

## Moeraki Boulders SH1 Safety Improvements Update

#### Recommendation

The Assets Committee receives the information.

**Summary** 

This memorandum gives an update of progress by NZTA to improvements to the intersection at Moeraki Boulders, State Highway 1.

**Purpose** 

The purpose of this memorandum is to present information on work being undertaken by NZTA (New Zealand Transport Agency) to address safety concerns on State Highway One at the Moeraki Boulders turn-off.

**Background** 

Due to a number of fatalities on State Highway One between Oamaru and Palmerston, concerns have been raised in the community regarding the condition and layout of the highway. Of particular note is the intersection which includes the entrance to the Moeraki Boulders Café and the DoC reserve. The latest fatality at the intersection triggered a level of public concern to evaluate the intersection and arrive at some solutions that can put quickly be put in place.

Following Mayoral, Ministerial and other interests in progressing a solution NZTA have engaged the Safe Roads Alliance to undertake an independent review and provide solutions.

The signage, road markings and installing a Rural Intersection Advanced Warning Signs (RIAWS) are relatively straight forward before more in-depth investigations of road widening, lowering and other tweaks can be implemented should they prove to be of value.

A non-scientific observation was taken by NZTA and Council staff on 18 January 2017 to get a better understanding of traffic behaviour and volume. This visit proved extremely useful as it confirmed the high number of visitors (foreign and NZ) using the Boulders as a prime tourist destination on the South Island journey. A number of observations revealed that the general behaviours of those using the intersection were reasonably good with hesitations being the main fault (which can be traced back to signage). Also the ratio between those vehicles going to the café outweighed those heading down to the DoC parking area would be 20:1. The railway's proximity to the intersection clearly creates some discomfort for drivers stacking but there is plenty of escape room should a train appear.

A visual traffic count was made (subject to some error but certainly indicative of usage).

	Traffic Count – Thursday 19 January 2017 – 1.15pm to 2.30pm					
Time	Vehicles Passing the Boulders Turnoff	Vehicles Turning Into or leaving the Boulders Complex	Percentage turning off the State Highway	Total vehicles on SH1		
1.15 to 1.30pm	66	41	62%	107		
1.30 to 1.45pm	87	32	35.6%	119		
1.45 to 2.00pm	100	41	41%	141		
2.00 to 2.15pm	83	33	37.5%	116		

Traffic Count – Thursday 19 January 2017 – 1.15pm to 2.30pm						
Time	Vehicles Passing the Boulders Turnoff	Vehicles Turning Into or leaving the Boulders Complex	Percentage turning off the State Highway	Total vehicles on SH1		
2.15 to 2.30pm	93	43	49.6%	136		
TOTAL	429	190	44.3%	619		

#### Comment

The Safe Roads Alliance has been established by NZTA to implement safety improvement works on sections of highway that have existing and predicted high crash rates. As part of this work NZTA will be engaging with interested parties, including Waitaki District Council.

#### **Summary**

The following actions are planned as part of the works in progress:

- 1. The Safe Roads team have committed to investigate other short term early win options to help mitigate the safety issues in the area. Waitaki District Council has been contacted by John Hannah who is the project manager for the Safe Roads Alliance. John is putting together a plan to present to NZTA Dunedin in the 2nd week in February. After that point, the plans will be discussed with the Waitaki District Council and the police with a view to implementing them later this year.
- 2. There is a workshop in preparation to be held in Palmerston in February with selected stakeholders to better understand the dynamics of engineering and driver behaviours - details to
- 3. The Oamaru to Dunedin Safe Roads project will undertake research and investigation into longer term opportunities like road widening. This would be about 18 – 24 months before implementation.

Neil Jorgensen

**Assets Group Manager** 

Elton Crane **Road Safety Co-ordinator**