

WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE HEARING AND DELIBERATIONS OF THE SEALING OF RIVERSIDE ROAD AND INGLIS ROAD SUBMISSIONS HELD IN THE RAKAHURI ROOM, RANGIORA SERVICE CENTRE, 215 HIGH STREET, RANGIORA ON FRIDAY 11 OCTOBER 2024 COMMENCING AT 9AM

PRESENT

Councillors B Cairns (Chairperson), J Goldsworthy and J Ward.

IN ATTENDANCE

G Cleary (General Manager Utilities and Roothing), J McBride (Roothing and Transport Manager) and K Rabe (Governance Advisor).

1. APPOINTMENT OF A HEARING PANEL CHAIRPERSON

K Rabe opened the meeting and called for nominations for a Chairperson for the Hearing Panel.

Moved: Councillor Ward

Seconded: Councillor Goldsworthy

THAT Councillor Cairns be appointed as Chairperson of the Sealing of Riverside Road and Inglis Road Hearing Panel.

CARRIED

At this time, Councillor Cairns assumed the Chair for the duration of the hearing and deliberations.

2. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

3. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were recorded.

4. HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS

Donna Sparks spoke to her submission noting that they had bought their property nine years ago. At the time they were told that a development contribution had been paid and the road would be sealed in the near future. However, she was told later that the 30% threshold criteria had not been met which would trigger the resealing of River Road.

D Sparks stated that they had bought the property for the outside lifestyle which was impossible to achieve due to the continual dust generated from the gravel road. The prevailing wind/breeze was from the east which blew dust directly over their property and significantly affected day to day life for the family. D Sparks told the Hearing that she was a keen gardener, and her vegetable garden fed her family throughout the year. The dust impacted not only working the garden but also smothered the plants. She could not hang washing out on the line and her daughter could not play outside especially during the summer months when hay was being harvested and heavy vehicles used the road constantly. One of the attractions of the lifestyle was to be able to entertain outside, however

the dust made that impossible, as even with a light breeze there was significant dust movement. D Sparks also noted that when her horses and cows were in the roadside paddock the dust made them cough.

D Sparks also related an incident when her daughter was dropped off by the school bus, the bus generated a dust cloud that obscured an oncoming speeding vehicle and could have ended in tragedy if she had not happened to be on the side of the road to stop her daughter crossing.

She noted that some of her neighbours were concerned about the cost of sealing the road however she felt that the approximately \$20 per month targeted rate over the next twenty years was worth the improved living conditions, mitigated road safety and improved health benefits.

Councillor Goldsworthy asked what the key concerns were of the residents who were in opposition to the proposal. D Sparks noted that there had been a stated concern regarding an increase in crime if the road was sealed, however she was not convinced that this would be an outcome and if it was, there were actions that could be taken to mitigate the threat. Councillor Ward noted that crime did not rely on road conditions.

Councillor Cairns asked if D Sparks was concerned that vehicle speeds may increase if the road was sealed. D Sparks stated that there were some vehicles who still sped even on gravel roads and she believed that there would always be people who drove fast no matter the condition of the road. She related that the current road had significant potholes and the noise generated by people traveling at speed over potholes could be significant. She believed the road being sealed would generate more positive than negative outcomes for the neighbourhood. If the road was sealed she would not consider selling up as they liked the area and their community however her neighbours had recently sold due to the dust problems and she could understand their decision. If the road was not sealed they would consider selling up as currently they were unable to enjoy the lifestyle they sought when they bought the property.

The Chairperson thanked D Sparks for her submission and for coming to speak to the Panel as it was always helpful to hear first hand the challenges the community were dealing with.

J McBride read out Submission 13 from a resident of River Road as requested given they could not attend the Hearing due to work commitments. The submission also supported the proposal and noted that the dust situation was increasing and had worsened significant health issues.

5. DELIBERATIONS

All submissions received had been included in the staff report Trim 241001168468. Fourteen submissions supported the proposal, 11 for a targeted rate and three for a lump sum payment. Two submitters had not support the proposal while six residents had not respond to the request for feedback.

The Hearing considered the information supplied by all the submitters noting that the majority of residents were in favour of the road being sealed. Councillor Cairns noted that the Council had agreed, in principle, to the sealing of River and Inglis Roads subject to the results of the consultation. Councillor Cairns asked if any attempt had been made to re-engage with the residents who had not responded. J McBride replied that all residents had been contacted with a hardcopy of the proposal and a week prior to the consultation closing those residents who had not responded were sent reminders. The consultation was also available online. She was confident that staff had made a serious effort to engage with all the residents, however the Council could not force people to respond if they chose not to.

Councillor Goldsworthy enquired if the Council had sufficient funds in its budget for this work to be completed. J McBride replied that if all projects for the year were completed the budget would be approximately \$1 million over budget, however for the past five years the budget had been underspent therefore on average there would be sufficient funds to cover this project. In response to a question by Councillor Goldsworthy regarding road maintenance J McBride stated that maintenance for sealed roads was more costly than for gravel roads.

Councillor Cairns asked if service requests had been received requesting wetting down of gravel roads during the drier months. J McBride stated that the Council had over 600km of gravel roads, and it would be cost prohibitive to wet gravel roads down. She acknowledged that there were service requests and complaints regarding dust during the summer months, just as there were complaints regarding potholes during the winter months.

Councillor Ward sympathised with D Sparks and her neighbours regarding the problems that dust caused and was greatly concerned with the health aspect. She asked how long it would take for the road to be sealed if there was a positive outcome from the Hearing. J McBride replied that the contractor had already been tendered and if the Council approved the sealing at its November 2024 meeting the sealing could happen prior to Christmas or shortly after.

In response to Councillor Goldsworthy's query, J McBride confirmed that all the submissions had been from the River and Inglis Road area.

6. STAFF REPORT

6.1. Request for Sealing of Riverside Road and Inglis Road and Establishment of a Targeted Rate for the area – Joanne McBride (Roading and Transport Manager)

J McBride presented the report which outlined the proposal to put in place a targeted rate on affected properties to enable the property owners to pay through their rates, for their share of the cost of sealing the sections of Riverside Road and Inglis Road, adjacent to their properties.

J McBride noted that staff had been approached by two residents about 18 months ago in relation to sealing this portion of the road. A report had gone to the Council who had agreed in principle to the resealing of the road subject to the results of a consultation with affected residents. She also noted that if the option to delay the sealing until after the 2025 Annual Plan process it would mean that a new tender would need to be carried out for the work which could increase the cost of the project.

Moved: Councillor Ward

Seconded: Councillor Goldsworthy

THAT the Road Reserve Management Policy Hearing Panel:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 241001168468.
- (b) **Receives and considers** all submissions.
- (c) **Notes** that a total of 16 submissions were received on the proposal of sealing Riverside Road and Inglis Road and putting in place a targeted rate to allow for this work to occur, with the following summary of responses:
 - i. 14 submitters support the proposal (11 for the targeted rate and three for the lump sum payment).
 - ii. Two submitters were opposed to the sealing being undertaken.

- (d) **Notes** that letters were sent to 22 property owners in total and as such no response has been received from six.
- (e) **Notes** that the Hearings Panel will consider these submissions and make a recommendation to the Council.
- (f) **Notes** that the Hearing Panel will make a recommendation on whether or not to consider for approval of the targeted rate in the Draft Annual Plan 2025/26.
- (g) **Notes** the targeted rate will be set on the final construction costs for the sealing work. A contingency has been included to allow for minor variations.
- (h) **Recommends** that the Council:

Option One:

1. **Approves** the inclusion of the targeted rate for the sealing of Riverside Road and Inglis Road in the Draft Annual Plan 2025/26, as detailed in the Statement of Proposal (Trim no. 240818138178).
2. **Notes** that property owners have the option of paying by lump sum or by a targeted rate.

CARRIED

Councillor Ward reiterated her concerns regarding the health of residents and was encouraged by the fact that this project could get underway quickly. She thanked D Sparks for her submission and for coming in to talk to the Panel and hoped that she and her family would soon be able to enjoy the lifestyle they had been waiting for. Councillor Ward stated that she was a lifelong asthma sufferer and understood the effects dust had on people's health and wellbeing.

Councillor Goldsworthy stated that he would support the motion and that his concern regarding rural amenity and affordability had largely been eased. He also noted that there was a clear majority in favour of the proposal.

Councillor Cairns thanked D Sparks for coming in to tell the Panel of her experience as it was good to get a first-hand explanation of challenges faced. He also thanked staff for the work done to ensure that all residents had the opportunity to submit and to share their views.

There being no further business the Hearing closed at 9.34am.

CONFIRMED



B Cairns
Chairperson

11 October 2024

Date

