

Name: Councillor Ann Court

Date: June 2024

GPS: Government Policy Statement on Land Transport

At the time of writing this report the final GPS has landed in my inbox.

Northland Road Safety Forum

We were advised:

“We did have a road safety forum meeting scheduled for Friday 21st of June, but with a lot of changes that are happening in this space currently we have decided to postpone. We may pull the next meeting forward once we know what is going on.”

For context the funding for delivering road safety in New Zealand has not been supported by the ‘Indicative Allocations for Continuous Programmes’ by NZTA.

We wont know for certain until September if Road Safety will continue to be a fundable activity via the National Land Transport Plan.

Electric Buses

I read in the minutes of the Otago Automobile Associations May meeting “Electric buses are very heavy on the road and are creating an issue with under road pipes breaking. Roads are needing to be dug up and reinforced.”

SADD

Students Against Dangerous Driving (SADD) at their recent conference said “only 2 out of 80 (97%) students had not broken any conditions of their restricted licence rules. They found there is a lot of peer pressure around driving and breaking licence conditions.”

Northland Freight Group

No meetings this period.

Disability Action Group

The Te Tai Tokerau Regional Accessibility Strategy is due to be adopted in July/August. This will hopefully become a living document that has at its heart inclusionary principles that will be captured across our organization.

A disability workshop was discussed. We are hoping to be able to run a facilitated and inclusive event for elected members and staff.

Business Association

This months meeting was held 13 June. I tendered my apologies due to a clash with our formal council meeting. The committee ran an incredibly successful promotional event in association with More FM. Huge shout out to these incredible volunteers.

Civil Defence

Last month I reported that Caroline Wells (Northland Inc) called a meeting to discuss the lack of a plan and team for Kerikeri's Civil Defence. A second meeting was held on the evening of 18 June. Unfortunately, I could not attend due to a diary clash with the Automobile Association meeting in Whangarei.

I reported that Mita Harris was calling for volunteers to become involved in manning the Unimog which has proved invaluable during flood events. An open evening event was held 6 June. Sadly, despite widely advertising via social media only one new potential candidate turned up. I circulated all the relevant material by email to elected members for sharing on your networks. Huge than you to those who did.

Te Puawaitanga

I updated my colleagues verbally via our fortnightly Teams meeting. Handover from the contractor to Council is the last week of June. There are some funding challenges looming as the facility is not yet complete and not yet useable. Some are significant like health and safety compliance in regard to the vandalized house, large bonfire piles, open storm water drains, access to the balance of the land and its associated hazards and some minor RC compliance matters not yet addressed. Then we have some small but incredibly important things like goal posts and , line painting, storage for nets and flags etc. Work in progress

Draft Regional Land Transport Plan

Extraordinary meeting set down for 4 July for the committee to approve the content of the plan and approve that it be released to the Regional Council for adoption. The process is set out in the Land Transport Management Act and it's a nonsense really. The NRC has no skin in the game in terms of owning or paying for any assets but has the final say.

I circulated the agenda 27 June for your purview.

New Zealand Automobile Association

The March meeting was held 18 June in Whangarei. Policy and advocacy representatives were present to talk to us about upcoming policy work.

- A new clean car standard is expected. It was acknowledged that the previous standard was too high. The industry has forecast a new standard which whilst still a stretch is considered achievable.
- A replacement Road Safety Strategy is a work in progress.
- Graduated drivers licensing system does not appear to be delivering better drivers. Looking overseas it appears NZ is one of (if not) the easiest place in the world to obtain a licence. Should we be looking at mandatory defensive driving courses or other more rigorous approaches?
- Work is underway on scoping Low Cost Low Risk Intersection capital works to see if there is a better and cheaper way to achieve equal or better outcomes. A lot of what is current required seems OTT.

Emergency Works Investment Policy

Excellent submission prepared by our NTA team. Huge shout out to Dawn for the work she put into this.

District Liquor Licensing

I attended a hearing 10 June for an opposed application. Followed by some bespoke 'training' and discussion around changes to the legislative framework with Commissioner Clearwater.

Did You Know

46 infringements for parking in a disability spot have been issued by our parking warden. Most common excuse 'I'm only going to be 5 minutes.'

Reminds me of a story I heard re getting a speeding ticket for doing 51 in a 50. The officer (considered to be the fairest in Northland at the time because everyone got a ticket) said "it don't say 51". Whether the story is true or not – who knows. But the same mentality seems to apply to able bodied drivers who have this entitlement attitude that they can use a disability spot because they won't be long! As long as we have drivers who consider themselves above the needs of our disabled community all power to the parking warden.

Outside of the formal meeting calendar

- Te Hiku Sports Hub Opening
- Puketiti Meeting at Te Rito Marae
- Vision Kerikeri AGM
- Power and Infrastructure Meeting hosted by North Chamber on the recent Transmission Line failure
- Relationships Roadshow Kahukuraariki Trust Board

Leave

Apologies for my absence from Council today. I am currently abroad on leave. See you all next month.