NORTHLAND TRANSPORTATION ALLIANCE
"Moving Northland Forward"

Meeting: **Infrastructure Committee 09 September 2020**

Name of item: **The Water Tabling Activity – Road Maintenance Contracts**

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Date of report: 19 August 2020

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1 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee on the treatment of the Watertabling Activities under the maintenance contract, and the options for capitalisation of the Drainage Renewals Activities.

2 Background

Under the Maintenance Contracts, "Watertable Maintenance" is defined as the requirements for maintaining the functionality of the roadside drainage by way of providing unlined watertable drains and to maintain the drainage channel free from overgrowth, obstruction or to add such drains to the network as deemed necessary by the Engineer.

The Watertabling activity consists of 4 separate jobs:

1. **Light Watertable Maintenance**

   This allows for the removal of the build-up of silt and vegetation growth from the watertable channel to allow stormwater to flow unobstructed into the drain and includes local or in-situ disposal of material. Payment is made per lineal meter completed.

2. **Heavy Watertable Maintenance**

   This allows for the cleaning of existing and construction of new roadside watertables and includes loading, carting and disposal of excavated materials, as directed by the Engineer. Payment is made per lineal meter completed.

3. **Supply & Place Rip Rap**

   This allows for the supply and placement of Rip Rap rock protection to prevent future erosion and maintenance, as directed by the Engineer. Payment is made per cubic meter installed .

4. **Restoration of over deepened Watertables**

   Where water scour has over deepened an existing channel beyond an acceptable depth which has an increased risk to the road user, restoration is required.

   This normally applies to scour measured 750mm or over from the normal channel invert as directed by the Engineer. Payment is made by the appropriate dayworks rates establish under the contract.

3 Discussion

3.1 Drainage Renewals Capitalisation

For Roading valuation purposes, the road pavement is broken up into several separate asset groups. The top surface (seal), the pavement material (metal), and the base formation (the existing ground). The surface, the pavement and the formation each have different useful lives and are valued and depreciated separately.

The valuation of the formation reflects the cost of earthworks in shaping the land to accommodate the road and footpaths structures. It includes:

- Topsoil stripping;
- Earthworks activities, cut and fill operations inclusive of subgrade preparation, and;
- Earth surface water channels

It is common amongst most Councils that the base formation is not depreciated as part of the annual valuation process. This is on the basis that the formation does not generally deteriorate with age once it has been constructed and does not need renewal.

Drainage renewal works undertaken during the year add to the value of the formation but currently as watertable assets are not separately identified these costs are not separately recorded. Again, the formation is not depreciated as part of the annual valuation process.

3.2 Current situation FNDC

The current process records expenditure spent on Heavy Watertabling as maintenance expenditure as all renewals spend requires an asset update in RAMM to capitalise the expenditure. This is similar to the current process in WDC.

3.3 Future Options

As part of the development of the Regional AMP, the NTA has commissioned a Drainage Maintenance Plan to better manage the drainage assets on the network. This will introduce a cyclic nature to watertable and roadside drain maintenance activities rather than the current reactive or firefighting approach.

It is envisaged that this will enable a more asset based approach to the Watertabling Activity and allow Watertabling costs to recorded against road sections in RAMM, possibly allowing for asset valuations and depreciation in the future.

4 Report Approval

Approved by:

Calvin Thomas - NTA Manager
19th August 2020