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**REPORT 3**  
*(1215/12/IM)*

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## **TAWA DRIVEWAYS QUESTIONNAIRE**

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### **1. Purpose of Report**

To invite feedback from the Board on the form of a questionnaire to be circulated to Tawa residents who pay a \$100 per annum levy to have Council maintain their driveways. Copy of proposed questionnaire and cover letter attached.

### **2. Executive Summary**

In 1998 the Wellington City Council agreed on a policy to continue maintaining 40 specific driveways in Tawa on the basis of a \$100 rates levy per affected property per annum. Council stated its intention to review this policy in 10 years time. The attached cover letter and questionnaire are proposed for circulation to assist Council staff make a recommendation to the Tawa Community Board and the Council before July 2008.

### **3. Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 1. Receive the information.*
- 2. Agree with the content of the questionnaire*

### **4. Background**

Before the merging of the Tawa Borough with Wellington City on 1 November 1989, the Tawa Borough Council maintained some driveways. Those driveways included both private driveways formed on public road land and private driveways formed on private Right of Way land. This practice of maintaining those driveways was in conflict with The Wellington City Council policy which was, and still is, 'No assistance except where specifically approved by Council on individual merit (unique circumstances must exist)'

In 1998, following consultation with the Property Owners, Community Board and Councillors, Council agreed to continue maintaining 40 specific driveways on the basis that the 256 affected property owners pay an additional \$100 rates levy per annum. It was also agreed at that time that Council would review this policy after a 10 year period.

## **5. Discussion**

Over the 9 year period of this policy Council has resurfaced many of those driveways and maintained them all in a sound condition. The \$100 per annum per property levy has been sufficient to cover maintenance costs but price increases in maintenance are now limiting the amount of renewal work that can be carried out.

Several of the driveways will soon need to be resurfaced and some retaining walls will need to be built to stabilise adjoining banks. This will require the levy to be increased to at least \$150 per property per annum. . The maintenance work cost rates for roads and driveways has increased by 40% over the last 9 years.

This Tawa driveway maintenance policy is not consistent with Council policy for driveways in the remainder of the City. Council will need to decide in the near future how to move forward in this matter.

It is considered that feedback from the questionnaire will help staff make a recommendation to the Board and Council next year which properly considers the interests of the affected Tawa driveway owners.

## **6. Conclusion**

This report is an opportunity to brief Tawa Board members of a Council policy specific to the Tawa community and an opportunity for the Board to have some input into the consultation about the review of that policy.

Contact Officer: Neil D Johnstone, Planning Team Leader, Transport Assets, Infrastructure,

## **Supporting Information**

**1) Strategic Fit / Strategic Outcome**

*This questionnaire and input from the Tawa Board is key to Council's consultation principles*

**2) LTCCP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact**

*The project is contained in the Council Plan # C312..*

**3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations**

*Not applicable*

**4) Decision-Making**

*The decision about the content of this questionnaire is not very significant*

**5) Consultation**

*Not applicable*

**6) Legal Implications**

*Not applicable*

**7) Consistency with existing policy**

*Based on Council decision in 1998 to maintain specific Tawa driveways and review that policy after 10 years.*

< Date >

File ref:

Name of Address  
Title  
Company  
Street Address/P O Box  
Suburb  
City

Dear

## **WCC POLICY - MAINTENANCE OF SPECIFIC DRIVEWAYS IN TAWA**

I am writing to seek your feedback on the maintenance service provided by Council in respect of the driveway to your property.

Before 1998 the Tawa Borough maintained several driveways from public funds particularly where the driveways were used for three or more properties. In 1998 the Wellington City Council agreed to continue this service on the basis of a \$100 rates levy per property per annum. This was intended to fund the full costs of maintaining those driveways. A list of the 40 driveways maintained by the Council is shown at the bottom of this letter. This is a variation from Council's normal policy in respect of maintaining driveways. Normally Council does not assist with the maintenance of driveways even if they provide access for several properties. In 1998 Council stated its intention to review the Tawa driveway policy in 10 years time.

The Tawa driveway maintenance includes nominal cleaning, emptying of sumps, weed spraying on pavement areas, the cutting of overhanging vegetation, handrail repairs, pothole repairs, pavement resurfacing, and some retaining wall work. Council carries out an annual survey of the driveways to identify maintenance needs. Council also responds to telephone calls about maintenance needs. In this respect please call our Call Centre, 499 4444.

Over the last 9 years the cost of road maintenance has increased by over 40%. It is anticipated that the \$100 levy will also have to increase to approximately \$150 per property per annum to match projected maintenance needs.

Property owners on a driveway have the option to withdraw from paying the levy should they collectively agree with the other affected property owners to maintain that driveway independent of Council.

Council wishes to review this policy on whether to continue providing this driveway maintenance service for the specified Tawa Driveways. Council's preference would be to have a consistent policy across all of Wellington. Council's normal policy in respect of driveways in Wellington is that 'No assistance be provided by Council'. Council also has Bylaws and Permit requirements and procedures to complement this policy.

It is considered there are four options the Council has for the future of these Tawa driveways:

1. Continue with the current maintenance service but acknowledge there will likely be increases in the levy.
2. Implement a new driveway maintenance service that applies to all of Wellington.
3. Terminate the service from 1 July 2008 to align the policy with the remainder of Wellington City.
4. Implement a hand back strategy to terminate the service over a period of time on the basis of Council resurfacing a driveway and carrying out such other maintenance works to a standard where the driveway is in a very good condition in the opinion of the Council Road Assets Manager.

Before I make any recommendation in this matter I would be interested in your views about the present service and the future of the service.

Can you please complete the response form below and send it to me. Alternatively you may email your comments to me at [neil.johnstone@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:neil.johnstone@wcc.govt.nz)

Can you please provide your feedback before Friday 15 February 2008.

Yours sincerely,

Neil D Johnstone,  
Planning Team Leader, Transport Assets,  
Infrastructure,  
Wellington City Council  
DDI (04) 803 8397  
email: [neil.johnstone@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:neil.johnstone@wcc.govt.nz)

Tawa Driveways maintained by WCC:

House Nos.	Streetname	House Nos.	Streetname
1 - 7A	Achilles Close	270 - 280	Main Road
3 - 5 & 105	Achilles Close & Oriel Ave	306 - 320	Main Road
4 - 14	Bell Street	355 - 369	Main Road
4 - 12	Brasenose Place	16 - 18	Mascot Street
9 - 17	Brasenose Place	2 - 6	Mayfair Place
62 - 70	Collins Ave	3 - 15	Ngatitua Street
15 - 17	Duncan St	33 - 35	Oriel Ave
18 - 21	Duncan St	76 - 80A	Oriel Ave
24-26	Duncan St	4 - 12 & 14	Oriel Place & Sunrise Bvd
29 - 34	Duncan St	10 - 15	Peckam Grove
14 - 18	Florio Terrace	12 - 18	Ranui Tce
20 - 24	Fyvie Ave	35 - 37	Ranui Tce
1 - 6	Julia Place	16 - 16C	Redwood Ave
1 - 5	Kiwi Place	31 - 42	Rembrandt Ave
84 - 90	Larsen Cres	46 - 63	Sunrise Bvd
21 - 35	Lincoln Ave	8 - 14A	Tawa Terrace
1 / 332 - 354	Linden Ave/Main Rd	13 - 19	The Drive
11-17	Lyndhurst St	3 - 11	The Drive
19 - 19G	Mahoe	2 - 12	Thomas Hook Street
235 - 245	Main Road	27 - 56	Westhaven Drive

Please complete and return to:

Neil Johnstone, Team Leader,  
Transport Assets Planning  
Infrastructure  
Wellington City Council,  
PO Box 2199  
WELLINGTON

**REVIEW OF TAWA DRIVEWAYS POLICY – QUESTIONNAIRE**

**MAINTENANCE OF SHARED DRIVEWAYS BY THE WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL**

Are you happy with the present driveway maintenance service provided by the Wellington City Council ?

Yes / No (Please circle)

Comment:

(Please make comment especially if you have indicated 'No')

Are you happy for the driveway maintenance service to continue (With the understanding the costs are likely to increase to \$150 per property per annum with further adjustments in future) ?

Yes / No (Please circle)

Comment:

Further Comment:

Response from: . . . . . Address: . . . . . Date . . / . . / . .