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Report to Policy and Finance Committee
from Cr Mike Gibson

Regional Land Transport

1. Purpose of Report

To table extracts from legislation relevant to the functions of Regional Land Transport Committees, and to provide certain comments thereon.

2. Land Transport Act, 1998

Section 178(3) states that:

“The functions of each regional land transport committee are to prepare for approval by the relevant regional council the regional land transport strategy prepared under section 175 and the regional programme prepared under section 42F of the Transit New Zealand Act 1989 for its region.”

3. Transit New Zealand Act, 1989

Section 42F states that:

“42F. Regional programmes –

(1) Each financial year, a regional council or a territorial authority that has the functions, duties, and powers of a regional council under this Act may prepare a regional programme for the next year in relation to its region or district and in respect of outputs for which the regional council or territorial authority is responsible.

(2) Every regional programme shall -

(a) List each approved output included in any earlier approved regional programme for which payments due from the Board or the Land Transport Safety Authority are outstanding and the amount outstanding, and, if it is proposed that the approved output be suspended or abandoned, give an explanation of the proposed suspension or abandonment; and

- (b) *List all outputs for which financial assistance is sought from the Board or the Land Transport Safety Authority in order of the priority that the regional council or territorial authority, as the case may be, considers should be given to those outputs and, for each output, indicate its total cost, its proposed starting date, and its duration; and*
 - (c) *State the objective or objectives to be achieved by each output, the options considered as being available to achieve that objective or those objectives, and such evaluation of each output and each option as the Board or the Land Transport Safety Authority may from time to time require; and*
 - (d) *State how each output assists with the relevant regional land transport strategy; and*
 - (e) *State how each output assists the implementation of any national land transport strategy that is in force at the time of the preparation of the programme; and*
 - (f) *Be in such form, and contain such other details, as may from time to time be prescribed by the Board and the Land Transport Safety Authority.*
- (3) *Every regional programme shall include any outputs for the relevant region that the regional council or territorial authority considers should be recommended to the Land Transport Safety Authority for inclusion in the safety (administration) programme.*
- (4) *Every regional programme shall include the outputs for the relevant region that the regional council or territorial authority considers should be recommended to the Board for inclusion in the national roading programme.*
- (5) *A regional programme may include bids for one or more of the following:*
- (a) *Outputs referred to in section 3D of this Act:*
 - (b) *Outputs relating to administration:*
 - (c) *Outputs relating to any aspect of safety (administration) that are outputs agreed by all the territorial authorities affected by that regional programme.*
- (6) *No regional programme shall include provision for any output for roading.”*

4. Annual Report on Regional Land Transport Strategy

As further context it is worth stating that Section 182 of the Land Transport Act, 1998 stipulates that:

- “(1) Every regional council that is required to prepare a regional land transport strategy must prepare an annual report as to the progress in implementing its regional land transport strategy.*
- (2) A copy of every such report must be forwarded to –*
- (a) The Authority; and*
 - (b) The Board; and*
 - (c) Transit New Zealand; and*
 - (d) The Commissioner; and*
 - (e) The Secretary –*
- Within 8 months after the close of the financial year to which it relates, and be made available to the public.*

(3) The Authority, the Board, Transit New Zealand, the Commissioner, and the Secretary must supply to the regional council such information within its or his or her possession or control as may be requested by the regional council for the purposes of complying with its obligations under this section.”

5. Regional Programmes

In view of the fact that the Regional Land Transport Committee is a statutory Committee (established by the Land Transport Act, 1998) and that one of its statutory functions is “to prepare for approval by theregional council.... the regional programme” the derogation of that function should, at least, be reviewed, occasionally, by the Regional Land Transport Committee.

6. Annual Report

Coherence could also be given to the work of the Regional Land Transport Committee if provision were made in its meeting schedule for the tabling of the “annual report as to the progress in implementing its regional land transport strategy” within the “8 months after the close of the financial year to which it relates” which is mentioned in the Land Transport Act, 1998.

7. Review of Committee Objectives and Committee Membership

Some Councillors will recall that my approach to the Regional Land Transport Committee has been one of inclusiveness, i.e. having as many Committee members as practicable involved in the Committee’s activities such as its Hearings on the Regional Land Transport Strategy.

This approach has been successful.

Such an approach is worth considering when a Review of the Committee’s functions and objectives is further considered.

MIKE GIBSON
Councillor