



TRANSPORTATION - Summary of Community Feedback

Issues

- The economic and social importance of Southland's roading network was emphasised in comments, particularly in terms of its importance for the transportation of primary produce.
- Economic and social costs arising from centralisation of services for residents of smaller townships were raised as concerns.
- A number of comments outlined concerns about the quality and standard of the existing roading network, while one comment noted the importance of minimising regulatory costs for essential upgrading of the roading network.
- High interest and support for alternative forms of transport including walking, cycling, public transport, rail and coastal shipping was shown. The health advantages of walking and cycling were noted in comments.
- There was a significant amount of comment on approaches to rating, particularly on how different sectors are rated for use of the roading network. There was also comment and concern about the Central Government funding system for Southland's roading network and a lack of sufficient funding.
- A number of people and groups outlined concerns related to the potential environmental effects of new transportation links in the region, particularly those proposed in areas with high conservation values. However, a number of other comments emphasised the potential economic benefits from these new transportation links.

Options

- Support for a regulatory approach to collect appropriate contributions from new developments and expansion projects that have an effect on the transportation network, and ensuring different land uses make appropriate financial contributions towards roading infrastructure.
- The councils should work more with the private sector to determine how transportation systems should be developed in the region, especially when private sector groups are enhancing the regional network through major infrastructure projects.
- Support for a policy that continues to direct transportation management through the Regional Land Transport Strategy.

Councils' Commentary

Environment Southland and the Southland District Council are supportive of incorporating and encouraging walking, cycling and public transport options into their respective policy frameworks.

It is intended to incorporate transport options into land use planning at a district level and to include objectives in the plans so that regard has to be given to transport options when processing new development proposals.

Southland District Council will continue to seek an appropriate level of financial contributions from road users where maintenance or upgrade costs arise from land use activities. This will be done through the District Plan or the Long Term Council Community Plan.

Both Councils are supportive of working where possible with private industry groups to enhance the roading network.

