

ANNUAL REPORT TO STAKEHOLDERS 2006/2007

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the New Zealand Utilities Advisory Group for 2006/2007.

Introduction

The New Zealand Utilities Advisory Group (NZUAG) is a joint consultative group of network utility service providers (water and waste, telecommunications, electricity and gas), territorial local authorities, Transit New Zealand and industry bodies. It was formed in late 2001 to look at issues relating to utilities working in the road corridor.

NZUAG is highly conscious of the need to ensure issues are not only identified and solutions are agreed, but that practical "on the ground" changes occur which achieve smooth and efficient delivery of all utilities in the roading corridor. NZUAG works collaboratively on issues.

Meetings are held 3 – 4 times a year in Wellington, with Wellington based representatives hosting the meetings as in-kind payment equivalent to the airfares paid by out of Wellington representatives.

Summary of Activities

The NZUAG has met in full on four occasions during 2006/2007 and there have also been meetings of subgroups as required.

A concerted effort has been made to improve our administration processes, communication with constituents and raise the profile of the group in general, including

- **First Annual Report.** NZUAG released its first formal report to constituent members, covering its activities for the previous five years.
- **Regular Updates.** As well as regular updates to the RCA Forum, presentations have been made to various stakeholder meetings, and a summary of issues covered at each NZUAG meeting is circulated to stakeholders within a few days of the meeting taking place.
- **Sponsorship of the Utilities and Networks Award** at the 2006 Engineering Excellence Awards. NZUAG sponsored this award for the second year.
- **Seminars and workshops.** NZUAG arranged two significant events in 2006/2007:
 - A workshop on Third Party Interference in November 2006
 - Co-hosted with Local Government NZ, a workshop on utilities' access to transportation corridors in February 2007.
- **Development of a new national code on utilities' access to the land transport corridor,** consistent with the proposed new legislative regime.

NZUAG continues to contribute to topical debate and policy development on a range of relevant issues, and provides assistance resolving concerns between utility operators and RCAs, presents at various meetings and conferences, as well as utility operator training sessions.

Have you visited our website yet?
www.nzuag.org.nz

Third Party Interference

Held on 21 November 2007, the workshop, attended by over 60 delegates, highlighted a number of issues for the various sectors represented at the workshop.

Key issues included:

- ensuring road opening notices are obtained prior to all works,
- all utility operators having plans with accurate locations of their utilities,
- monitoring and audit of all works essential,
- training and competence issues leading to pre-tender requirements,
- maintaining excellent personal relationships

Engineering Excellence Award

The Kate Valley Landfill was the winner of the 2006 Utilities and Networks Award. The landfill is a public/private joint venture between six Canterbury local authorities and two local waste companies. It is a modern landfill facility developed and built to the highest international standards by a consortium including Transwaste Canterbury, Canterbury Waste Services, Fulton Hogan and Tonkin & Taylor.

Pictured below is Gareth James of Canterbury Waste Services Ltd receiving the award from NZUAG Chairman, David Fraser.



Reform of utilities' access to the land transport corridor

Since 2005, the NZUAG has been actively participating with the Ministry of Economic Development (MED) in the reform of the legislation relating to utilities access to the road corridor.

On 19 February NZUAG and Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) jointly sponsored a one-day workshop in Wellington, attended by some 150 delegates. Delegates attended from across all utility sectors; local body politicians, senior managers and asset management staff; Transit New Zealand; consultants; and representatives from industry associations.

Following presentations from the utilities sector and road controlling authorities, MED presented its latest thinking on possible legislative regimes. Delegates then discussed the issues relating to the current legislative regime, and how these could best be resolved. The three break-out sessions were chaired by Basil Morrison, President of LGNZ, Mike Underhill, then of WEL Networks, and Michael Gross, former chairman of Transfund NZ.

As a result of the workshop, MED asked for further submissions, and are currently finalising their Cabinet paper, which is due with the government by 30 September 2007.

National Code of Practice

Following the February workshop, NZUAG agreed to sponsor a new project to develop a new national code of practice, consistent with the proposed new legislative regime, to be outlined in the Utilities Access Amendment Bill. The new Code will also deliver on the Government's stated public policy objectives,

The team established to undertake the work on behalf of NZUAG comprises two representatives each

from utilities and local government, and one each from Transit NZ and ONTRACK as follows:

Ewan Gebbie (Vector),
Mark Larsen (Telecom),
Phil Consedine (North Shore City),
Phillip Eyles (LGNZ),
Ian Cox (Transit NZ) and
Michael Curran (OnTrack).

The project sponsor from NZUAG is Stephen Parker, and the Project Manager is Peter Winefield of MWH NZ Ltd.

The key agencies and industry associations have signed a Statement of Intent, establishing that the parties will work together in a spirit of goodwill and cooperation to achieve consensus where that can be achieved.

Full details of the project, including membership of working groups, are available on the NZUAG website www.nzuag.org.nz



Forward work programme

The work programme for 2007/2008 follows this Annual Report.

In conclusion, I would like to acknowledge the support I receive from our Executive Officer, Fiona Knight, who manages to keep our momentum rolling in spite of all NZUAG Members being extremely busy in their respective sectors.

David Fraser
Chairman, NZUAG

Contact us

This Annual Report is produced by the NZUAG, comprising representatives of Utility Network Operators and Road Controlling Authorities (including Transit NZ, Local Government NZ, Ingenium.

Current NZUAG members are:

Chairman

David Fraser, Hastings District Council, representing INGENIUM

Utility network operators

Peter Berry, Electricity Engineers' Ass
Alan Jenkins, Electricity Networks Ass
Stephen Parker, Gas Association
Peter Whitehouse, NZ Water and Wastes Association
Mark Larsen, Telecom
Chris Abbott, TelstraClear

Road Controlling Authorities

Des Hughes, Auckland councils
David Fraser, Ingenium and HDC
Geoff Swainson, Local Govt NZ
Andrew Dixon, Timaru DC and the RCA Forum
Ian Cox, Transit NZ
Weng Kei Chen, Christchurch City

Government Agencies

Mike Sim, Economic Development
Fiona Illingsworth, Internal Affairs
Kerry Wood, Transport
Lyndon Hammond, Land Transport New Zealand

For further information:

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2007/2008 Business Plan

Background to Vision and Goals

Vision: A self-sustaining co-operative framework for the delivery of all utilities in the land transportation corridor

The vision will be achieved through delivery of the following goals:

A. Industry Co-operation –

The industry uses NZUAG as the clearing house for agreeing common issues and how they will be resolved.

It is critical that the industry bring issues to a central point for resolution. NZUAG will take a more deliberate role in sourcing issues by NZUAG members and industry while formalising the selection criteria for commissioning of terms of reference. Performance reporting to members and constituents will be improved to provide assurance that issues are being progressed.

B. Industry Wide Tools –

The framework of NZUAG tools is accepted as the industry norm.

Producing tools of good quality is important if end-users are to have sufficient confidence in the product to use it. Quality will be maintained through development of formal product review criteria to be applied within an ongoing review process. All products will be developed with end-user input and peer-reviewed before final release.

C. End-user Acceptance –

Greater understanding of, and attention to, the issues around corridor management would benefit customers and the community.

A programme of seminars, conferences, publications and web updates, along with engagement of individual constituents will increase end-user awareness of NZUAG best practice guidelines and tools. It is intended that if end-users are aware that the recommended practice is widely used, accepted as good practice, and transportable, then the percentage uptake by end-users will increase.

The group established five values to assist it in its work:

- responsiveness,
- integrity,
- partnering,
- efficiency
- excellence.

Achievements would be measured against both the action plans and adherence to the values.

Linkages to the Charter

- We will facilitate mutual understanding and respect between utility network operators, local government and RCAs
- We will work together in a spirit of co-operation and collaboration to attain an efficient and well managed roading corridor
- We will embrace the adoption of best practice standards in all aspects of road corridor management
- We will respond to the needs of our customers and communities

Membership

In 2007/2008, NZUAG's membership has enlarged, with the addition of the Auckland Utility operators' Group (AUOG) and Land Transport New Zealand. This increases NZUAG's ability to meet its goals.

Activities for 2007/2008

The principal activity for NZUAG in 2007/2008 is the development of the new National code, including the consultation process, and its promotion throughout New Zealand. This means that some other important activities have been carried over into future years.



NZUAG Chairman, David Fraser

A. Industry co-operation

A1: Law reform

- work with Government on utilities issues
- submit on the Utilities Access Amendment Bill.

A2: Other NZUAG activities and submissions

- as required.

A3: NZUAG Administration

- management of meetings
- secretarial services
- review of NZUAG structure.

B. Industry-wide tools

B1: New national code

- manage the development of the Code
- consideration as a NZ Standard

B2: Other industry tools

- deferred until 2008/2008

B3: Training and competence

- working with the sector/ training providers as required

B4: Handbook for workers in the road corridor

- deferred until 2008/9 when Code is finalised

B5: Review NZUAG documents (Planning Guidelines, DVR Guidelines, Partnering Agreement)

- deferred until 2008/2009

C. End-user acceptance

C1: Manage communications – branding, website, planning and reporting.

- maintain website
- strategic planning and business reporting
- manage the branding of all NZUAG activities under the RoadShare brand

C2: Seminars/workshops to consult on and promote new Code

- series of six seminars around New Zealand programmed for November 2007

C3: Partnering

- promote and facilitate partnering agreements