

# UTILITIES & COUNCIL PARTNERING AGREEMENT

*Council, Telecom, TelstraClear, NGC and Unison agreement a first in New Zealand.*

Rotorua District Council has entered into a formal Partnering Agreement with utilities companies Telecom, TelstraClear, NGC and Unison, that is a first of its kind in New Zealand.



Rotorua District Council Chief Executive Peter Guerin signs the agreement as District Engineer Nico Claassen (left) and Works Manager Peter Dine wait their turn with Wendie Harvey from Unison, and Peter Taft from Telecom.

The agreement sets out protocols for coordinated access to Council controlled roads and road reserves (including State Highways) by utilities services providers including Council's sewer, stormwater, water and roading teams. It follows the establishment of a national 'Charter of Understanding' earlier this year by the New Zealand Advisory Group. The Charter was signed in Parliament by all the main operators including all the local Rotorua providers and Transit New Zealand.

We believe that the agreement will reduce unnecessary traffic disruption and additional costs to the general public, road users and transport operators often caused by the uncoordinated activities of utilities carrying out work in the roads.

It aims to minimise the impact on businesses and reduce the number of times roads need to be dug up.

The parties have agreed they will take into account the needs of all road users, including pedestrians, cyclists and people with disabilities, when planning and carrying out works on the road. We also expect significant savings through sharing of costs and more effective coordination of work being undertaken.

We'll all be sharing information on a regular basis and plotting work as far ahead as possible. We already get together at three monthly liaison meetings, with Council playing the lead coordination role. The Partnering Agreement will formalise an already excellent working relationship in Rotorua and signals our joint commitment to continue working together for the benefit of the Rotorua Community, who are the users of the services we provide.

The Partnering Agreement was signed by representatives of all parties on Thursday 9 September 2004 at Rotorua District Council Headquarters.



Representatives of all utilities involved at the liaison meeting, before the signing of the agreement, on Thursday 9 September 2004.



## PARTNERING AGREEMENT

between

Utility Service Providers

and

Rotorua District Council



**WORKING TOGETHER IN OUR ROADS**

