

5. QUESTIONS

5.1 UNFORMED LEGAL ROADS

Board Member S Lowndes put the following question:

“What is the Council’s policy with regard to the formation of unformed legal roads?”

The Chairman reported that he had made enquiries regarding this question and established that Council did not have a policy on the formation of unformed legal roads. He noted that Banks Peninsula District Council had adopted such a policy. That policy had included a formula for determining who would pay for any formation work, based on a cost/benefit ratio. He also noted for members’ information, that an unformed road had exactly the same legal status as a formed road.

Mr Lowndes explained the background to his question, which had arisen as a result of a ratepayer enquiry to him, regarding the forming of an unformed portion of Purple Peak Road. He questioned what had initiated the work and who would pay for it.

The Asset Engineer was present and explained the background to this matter. He said there was a procedure in place for cases such as this, but that he had wanted to get a quote for the necessary work. Due to a set of circumstances some of the work had begun before he had obtained the quote and he was now investigating how that had occurred.

A broader discussion took place on unformed (“paper”) roads. The Board was informed that the Council had inherited some 1,800 kilometres of such roads from the former Banks Peninsula district. Members therefore felt it was important to have an established policy on the formation of any of these roads.

The Board **agreed** that staff be asked to report on the issue of unformed (paper) roads, including the following matters in relation to such roads:

- the forming of unformed roads
- the cost of forming
- future use of unformed roads for recreational purposes (walking/cycling tracks etc.)
- possible development of a policy on unformed legal roads
- ongoing maintenance costs for formed, low-grade roads