

Officer responsible City Streets Manager	Author Lindsay Eagle, Area Engineer
Corporate Plan Output: Roading System Maintenance 9.5.19	

The purpose of this report is to provide information for the Board concerning frost problems experienced along Kainga Road during winter.

Over the last few winters, problems have been experienced with ice on the road to the east of Kainga. In this area the road is bounded by land generally owned by the City Council but which the Selwyn Plantation Board administers and uses for forestry. During the winter months the maturing trees in the forest on the northern side shade the road for most of the day. With prolonged cold periods, frost builds up and the surface of the road becomes slippery.

Last year the City Streets Unit approached the Selwyn Plantation Board and arranged for the removal of three rows of the plantation trees so that there is about thirty metres clearance from the north side of the roadway. This did not prevent shading and ice on the roadway during the worst of winter conditions, but it did improve light and air circulation along the roadway to a standard acceptable for a rural road.

The Transit New Zealand Act empowers *responsible authorities to require occupiers of land adjoining a road to cut down or trim any tree that overshadows a road to such an extent that it endangers the lawful use of the road*. The occupier may however apply to the District Court for an order setting aside the notice. In this situation, removing trees to the extent that they do not shade the road or the properties across the road would leave a large area of the land unutilized and would impose impractical restrictions on the legitimate use of this rural land. Other parts of this road outside of the forested section also ice up.

Additional large warning signs with the slippery surface symbol and **ICE, 1.5 km**, are in place during the winter months. The road maintenance contractors inspect the road early in the morning on potentially icy days. We are generally reluctant to have them spread grit in this location as the grit can also present a danger especially through the environment of the open road speed limit. **Grit** warning signs must also be erected and the grit has to be swept off when the ice has gone. A recent coroner's report on a crash in the Lewis Pass highlighted the danger presented by grit on the road surface.

During the road sealing season City Streets pavement engineers will be assessing the tractive quality of the surface of this section of roadway with a view to improving tyre friction in icy conditions.

The motorists using this road at the most dangerous times are all residents from the surrounding area. Many other roads in the district have similar ice problems. Motorists must be well aware of the prevailing conditions and should expect to drive at an appropriately safe speed.

Recommendation: That the information be received.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the officer's recommendation be adopted and the Residents Association be advised of the action taken.