

23. FOOTPATH BATTENS

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Corporate Plan Output: Capital Works – Footpath Resurfacing	

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the use of timber battens in footpath resurfacing as requested by the Committee at the Annual Plan meeting and information on potential savings from a recycled plastic equivalent.

BACKGROUND

At present 98.5 km of footpaths are scheduled for resurfacing each year to meet the asset management plan requirements to maintain an 18 year cycle of resurfacing work.

In June 1999 the City Services Committee passed a resolution to enable the more extensive use of wooden battens in conjunction with this work.

The new policy stated that wooden battens be installed in conjunction with footpath resurfacing in the following situations:

1.
 - (i) where the footpath or vehicle crossings are reconstructed.
 - (ii) where battens are required to give support to the footpath overlay.
2. In streets where there is currently kerb and flat channel which is not scheduled for renewal for at least 20 years, additional battening be installed as follows:
 - (i) where intermittent repairs are carried out along a residential frontage, the entire frontage be battened.
 - (ii) where the edge of the existing footpath is cracked significantly and it is deemed that battens would lengthen the life of the ensuing overlay.
 - (iii) that existing rotten battens be replaced.
 - (iv) that a 15 mm wooden strip be nailed to existing battens where practicable to retain the footpath flush with top of battens after resurfacing.
 - (v) that any unmaintained service strip be sealed if battens are required to retain the edge where this is the most cost effective option.
3. In all other circumstances the resident may request and pay for footpath battens and/or sealing of the service strip.

The effect of this policy has increased the length of battens used in the total programme from 30 km to approximately 45 km. The total cost of battens is \$230,000.00 (\$5.10/m). The material cost of battens and pegs is approximately \$108,000 (\$2.40/m).

The use of the 15 mm batten strip nailed to existing battens has not been used as extensively as anticipated. This method has proved to be susceptible to damage over the construction period and attachment to the underlying batten an awkward process. To date only 1 km of battening has been done by this method.

ALTERNATIVE MATERIAL

The Recovered Materials Foundation has instigated an investigation into the use of recycled mixed plastic for batten work. This project is still 6 to 12 months from its conclusion. Their aim is to produce a product which is approximately 10% cheaper than wooden battens. This would equate to a \$10,000 per annum saving or 0.5% on the whole footpath programme. The long term advantage may be the longer life of plastic battens compared with the wooden ones.

Recommendation: That the information be received.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the Recovered Materials Foundation be advised:

- (i) The Council will favourably consider the use of the mixed plastic battens when a design is available.
- (ii) This should be at a cost no greater than the use of wooden battens.