



Media Release

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## Canterbury Councils Sign Roding Agreement

An agreement has been signed between four Canterbury Councils to share skills and resources to improve the efficiency of roading asset management.

“Roading is one of local government’s biggest expenditure areas,” says Murray Washington, Assets Manager at Selwyn District Council, who is the coordinator of the working group established under the agreement.

“The agreement aims to allow the Councils involved to share their skills and expertise with each other, and look at our asset management systems to see if we can make these more efficient by sharing information and resources.”

Hurunui, Kaikoura, Selwyn and Waimakariri District Councils have signed the agreement. The four Councils manage a total of more than 2,900 kilometres of sealed roads and over 2,600 kilometres of unsealed roads.

Mr Washington says there are two aspects to managing a roading network.

“The first is undertaking timely and appropriate physical works on roads to ensure they are maintained to a good standard. The second aspect of managing the network supports these physical works and is focused on good asset management. This includes assessing the condition of roads, developing measures which can monitor the performance of the roading network, forecasting when maintenance work is needed and planning future work programmes.”

Mr Washington says that because roading is a major expenditure area for Councils, good asset management of the roading network is extremely important for communities.

“For example if road maintenance work is regularly carried out earlier than is needed this will increase costs to ratepayers unnecessarily. But if maintenance work is left too late, then the costs of fixing roads can work out to be much higher than if preventative repairs were completed earlier.”

Under the new agreement the Councils will be working together to look at whether they can complete asset management work in a more efficient way.

“Some examples of this could include looking at whether we could share roading data management systems to improve our data collection and management or jointly commission technical asset management work in the future, which may be more cost effective for Councils,” Mr Washington says.

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*Photo attached (from left): Jim Palmer, Chief Executive – Waimakariri District Council, David Ward, Chief Executive - Selwyn District Council, Hamish Dobbie, Chief Executive – Hurunui District Council, and Stuart Grant, Chief Executive – Kaikoura District Council at the signing of the recent roading agreement.*

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