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MEDIA RELEASE

Rural addressing trial underway

Following extensive community consultation and discussion, the Chairman of the Road Safety Committee, Ron Nobbs, said this week that the Committee had decided to trial the Rural Addressing system on a specific road to gauge its effectiveness. Middlegate Road was chosen as it had many suitable attributes for such a trial – reasonably short length, centrally located, minimal number of terminating roads and readily visible access points.

Administration staff used a Global Positioning System to measure distances from the start of the road to each access, which is the basis of the Rural Addressing system.

All the building owners in Middlegate Road were contacted about the proposed trial, to give them the opportunity to participate or not. All parties agreed to take part in the appraisal. Accordingly, the reflectorised digits were ordered, and attached to small aluminium plates, which were in turn screwed to 27 gateposts on Middlegate Road.

“Rural addressing is a method of identifying and locating driveways to houses and work sheds, based on their distance measured along a rural road”, Mr Nobbs said. “It is used in many parts of rural New Zealand, USA and Australia, and is very effective in similar situations to ours”.

Mr Nobbs said that the visible aspects of the system comprised reflectorised numbers on a post at each residential driveway, similar to a regular house numbering system in many towns overseas. Rural addressing depended on the use of a uniform measurement system, commencing at zero at the start of a named road. The distance (from the start of the road to the access) was measured and then divided by 10 to arrive at the whole number to be allocated. By convention, odd numbers were on the left and even numbers on the right. For example, number 38 would be about 380m along a road from its start and would be on the right hand side, because 38 is an even number.

“Beneficiaries of the system potentially include emergency services, utility companies, tradespeople, visitors and of course all community members, but especially young, old, frail or disabled residents”, Mr Nobbs said. “The system is simple to use and understand, because it is logical, accurate, visible and uniform. The increased ability to rapidly find a location could also save a life”.

Details of the owners’ names and their rural addressing numbers in Middlegate Road have been forwarded to the Emergency Services for their use.

Mr Nobbs invited members of the community to express their views on the Rural Addressing trial and its effectiveness. Comments may be addressed to the Road Safety Committee through Allen Bataille on 22001 or email at ikey@admin.gov.nf

Ron Nobbs

Minister for Finance and Chairman, Road Safety Committee

16th March 2006