

5.2: STATE INITIATIVES PROGRAM – HOMESTEAD ROAD PAVEMENT TREATMENT

Land Description	: Homestead Road, Manypeaks
Proponent	: City of Albany
Owner	: City of Albany
Attachments	: Letter from Hon Troy Buswell, MLA Minister for Transport
Appendices	: Eko-Soil Trial De Brief
Responsible Officer(s)	: Executive Director, Works and Services (S Grimmer)

Maps and Diagrams:

IN BRIEF

- This project trialling a soil stabilization product on Homestead Road is fully funded by the State Government and if successful would provide a cost effective method of re-sheeting gravel roads and reducing the demand on gravel resources within the City of Albany LG area. It also has the potential to reduce maintenance time and expenditure by providing a durable surface to some of the major transport routes on the gravel road network.
- This process also has the potential to reduce maintenance time and expenditure by providing a durable surface to some of the major transport routes on the gravel road network.

RECOMMENDATION

**ITEM 5.2 RESPONSIBLE OFFICER RECOMMENDATION
VOTING REQUIREMENT: ABSOLUTE MAJORITY**

THAT Council APPROVE the offer of funding totalling \$200,000 from the State Initiatives Program for trialling a selection of soil stabilizing treatment to be applied to Homestead Road from the end of the existing seal through to the intersection with Normans Beach Road (SLK 5.00 – 9.06).

BACKGROUND

1. The City's Executive Director of Works & Services earlier this year visited Victoria and met with geo-technical engineers to assess the Eko-Soil enzyme application on gravel roads. During the course of that visit he inspected four roads and paths which were treated with the product – all sites showed favourable results.
2. The Executive Director also discussed the application with two rural shires and a mining company who have invested in the technology. All discussions confirmed its value.
3. The City of Albany then put forward to the Minister of Transport the proposal to trial a soil stabilising project on Homestead Road.
4. The Minister responded in August 2012 with confirmation that Main Roads has agreed to provide \$200,000 to Council from the State Initiatives component of the Local Roads Program for a trial of soil stabilising products on Homestead Road.

DISCUSSION

5. The gravel soil types found in the Albany region vary significantly in properties suitable for road building purposes and are highly dependent on location. The diverse soil stabilising products currently available addresses soil properties differently and thus, research is required to find the most suitable reaction and application of a particular product with the available soil type encountered.
6. The products under consideration and research to be trailed are: a) Eko-Soil, b) PK-4, c) RT20, d) Avenger, e) Claycrete and f) LigPol. Results from products can be modified further by addition of conventional stabiliser such as cement or lime. Not all products being researched will necessarily be trailed, pending the results from site specific laboratory soil tests and resulting cost calculations. Once products have been identified which work successfully with local gravel and weather conditions it will be trialled on Homestead Road with the potential to be used in future gravel road re-sheet programs.
7. Products will be assessed based on their ability to:-
 - Reduce the need for regular grading and maintenance by reducing rutting in the summer months and pot holes in the winter months;
 - Hold up well under adverse water conditions; and
 - Reduce the impact of dust arising from gravel roads.

****REFER DISCLAIMER****

8. Homestead Road was chosen for this project because traffic counts over the last three years have indicated a significant increase in traffic accessing the increasingly popular Betty's Beach, and community groups expressing concerns over the safety risk to holiday makers, residents and livestock.
9. Council approval is required prior to any works being commenced as the notification of the funding offer was received after the 2012/13 budget adoption. Works have been scheduled to commence in 2013.

GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION

10. The City has been in consultation with the Minister for Transport, Hon Troy Buswell, who has offered the funding opportunity. Main Roads WA Great Southern Office has confirmed the funding is available and that the project is listed as a gravel resheet with additive enzyme for a portion of Homestead Road.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION / ENGAGEMENT

11. On 24 August 2012 a trial of the Eko-Soil binding enzyme product was conducted on a section of gravel road off Mercer Road.
12. Local governments in the Great Southern Region and Main Roads representatives were invited to attend a briefing session and to view the section of road during and after treatment.
13. Although the trial was not successful there were lessons learnt and all attendees were emailed a de-brief document outlining the outcomes. At the Regional Road Group meeting on 5 November 2012 the project was discussed. The Executive Director Works and Services indicated to the meeting that further trials would be conducted with different stabilisation products and once a product is found that works successfully with Albany gravel and weather conditions the City will be keen to treat more roads with the product.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

14. Under the *Local Government Act 1995*, Section 6.8, a local government is not to incur expenditure from its municipal fund for an additional purpose except where the expenditure:
 - a. is incurred in a financial year before the adoption of the annual budget by the local government
 - b. is authorised in advance by a resolution (Absolute Majority required) or
 - c. is authorised in advance by the Mayor in an emergency.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

15. This item directly relates to the following elements of the 2011 City of Albany Strategic Plan:

Key Focus Area

Sustainability and Development

Community Priority

Road improvements

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

16. There are no policy implications relating to this matter.

RISK IDENTIFICATION & MITIGATION

17. The risk identification and categorisation relies on the City's Risk Management Framework.

Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Analysis	Mitigation
<i>The City does not find a soil stabilizing product that trials successfully in time to conduct a larger trial on Homestead Road</i>	<i>Possible</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>Council advises the Regional Road Group and the funds are returned to the funding body</i>
<i>The product requires a stabilizing machine and excessive cost or unavailability prevent the project from proceeding</i>	<i>Unlikely</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>The City aborts the project, advises the RRG and funds are returned to the funding body</i>
<i>The full scale trial is completed but results are unsatisfactory</i>	<i>Unlikely</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>The City's reputation may suffer but this is to be offset via comprehensive consultation and a media release identifying the project as a trial</i>

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

18. The City can access funding from the State Initiatives Program totalling \$200,000, without using any of its own source funds.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

19. There are no legal implications relating to this matter.

ALTERNATE OPTIONS

20. The City may elect to not accept the funding in accordance with the State Initiatives Program opportunity, and therefore forfeit the \$200,000 funding.

Consulted References	:	Eko-Soil Trial De-brief
File Number (Name of Ward)	:	GS.PRG.22
Previous Reference	:	Nil



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Cross Ref: EF1153384
Enquiries: Stephen Grimmer

1 June 2012

Honourable Troy Raymond Buswell MLA BEc
Minister for Transport, Housing and Emergency Services
PO Box 516
BUSSELTON WA 6280

Dear Minister,

RE: BUSINESS CASE FOR A PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE EKO-SOIL BINDING ENZYME

Thank you for meeting with me and City officers on 18 May 2012.

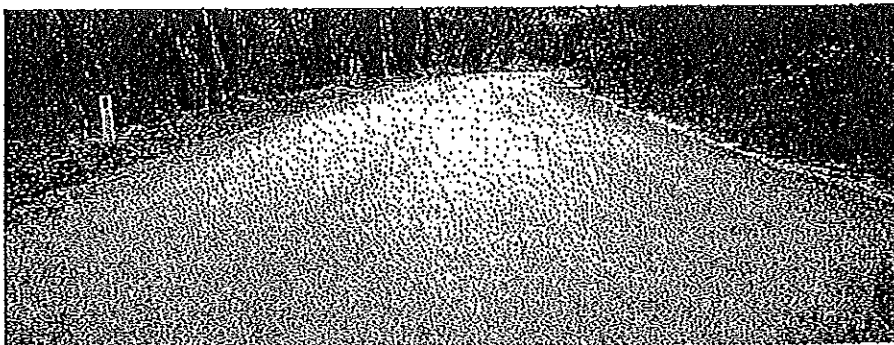
As discussed during that visit the City would very much appreciate your support in funding a pilot program using a soil binding enzyme on two category "A" gravel roads in the City municipality.

This enzyme product was developed in the United States and is based on the binding properties of termites. The product binds road base materials into a hard durable surface significantly improving the road/path surface and life.

Once applied the product:-

- Significantly reduces the need for regular grading and maintenance, reducing rutting in the summer months and pot holes in the winter months;
- Holds up well under adverse water conditions (see photo below); and
- Significantly reduces the impact of dust arising from gravel roads.

Photo taken during Mornington Peninsula Visit, Victoria -- note road has not been graded for four years.



Honourable Troy Raymond Buswell MLA BEc

Investment Required

1. Homestead Road, Manypeaks

5kms (@\$40K per kilometre) \$200,000.00

2. Palmdale Road, Manypeaks

13kms (@\$40K per kilometre) \$520,000.00

Total **\$720,000.00**

Allowed for in the CoA 2012/13 budget
For grading which could be applied to this project \$150,000.00

Funding support **\$570,000.00**

The city proposes the State, it and the Australian distributor work in partnership to pilot this product within the Great Southern region, with the view to publishing a report in relevant journals. The two proposed rural roads which we would test and benefit the most from this pilot programme are:-

1. Homestead Road

Traffic counts over the last three years indicated a significant increase in the use of this road with traffic accessing the increasingly popular Betty's Beach and community groups expressing concerns over the safety risk to holiday makers, residents and livestock.

2. Palmdale Road

is regarded as the busiest timber road in the Great Southern based on production figures provided by the Timber Industry Road Evaluation Strategy Group (TIRES).

The road upgrade would be welcomed by both the timber (a strong employer in the Great Southern) and local residents.

The City's Executive Director of Works & Services recently visited Victoria and met with the geo-technical engineers to assess the enzyme application on gravel roads. During the course of that visit he inspected four roads and paths which were treated with the product – all sites showed favourable results.

Our Executive Director also discussed the application with two rural shires and a mining company who have invested in the technology. All discussions confirm its value.

The \$40K cost estimate per kilometre includes usual geo-technical analysis, road preparation and application costs.

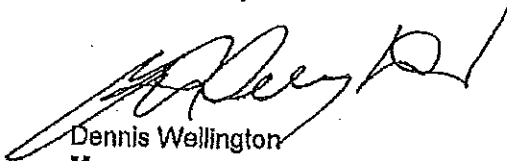
The costs compares favourably with the \$30K per kilometre cost of a traditional gravel resheet which continues to require grading 6 times per year. Even after

Honourable Troy Raymond Buswell MLA BEc

re-sheeting, gravel roads deteriorate over time with rutting and potholes appearing between grades decreasing the safety of the road and causing complaints from ratepayers and haulage contractors.

We value your interest in this opportunity and look forward to discussing this project with you and to determine funding from the State Government. Should you have any further queries or questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact our Chief Executive Officer, Faileen James on 98419301.

Yours sincerely



Dennis Wellington
Mayor



COPY

Treasurer; Minister for Transport; Emergency Services

Our Ref: 30-29568
Your Ref: D8, CU.PRS.16 / CS1154236

His Worship
Mayor Dennis Wellington
City of Albany
PO Box 484
ALBANY WA 6331

Dear Mayor ~~Wellington~~ *Dennis*,

Thank you for your letter of 1 June 2012 seeking the provision of State funding for a trial program of a Eko-soil binding enzyme on two gravel roads in the City of Albany, specifically Palmdale Road and Homestead Road.

As you will be aware, the State Government assists Local Governments with funding for local roads via the annual Local Roads Program.

I am pleased to confirm that Main Roads has agreed to provide \$200,000 to Council from the State Initiatives component of the Local Roads Program as a goodwill gesture for a trial of the Eko-soil binding enzyme on Homestead Road.

In regard to Palmdale Road, Council is advised to seek Regional Road Group funding to undertake a trial on this road.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Troy Buswell'.

Hon Troy Buswell, MLA
MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT

17 AUG 2012