

STRATFORD Press

Central
Taranaki's
Community Paper

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Light at the end of Huinga Tunnel?

The cost of lowering the floor of the Huinga tunnel in Eastern Taranaki, to allow big stock trucks through, has seesawed back to an affordable level.

The tunnel is 103 metres long and four metres wide, of Gothic arch shape.

Originally the Stratford District Council allowed \$20,000 in this year's annual plan to lower the floor of the tunnel, which was causing problems for farmers wanting to shift their stock numbers. This was based on an estimate from Landcorp Property Ltd in 1993, of \$22,000.

Last month a report from Gay and Scott, civil engineers, estimated the cost of lowering the floor at \$133,000, plus a possible further cost of \$115,000 to reinforce the tunnel later on.

The policy and services committee decided to suggest deferring the project and spent the money on road sealing instead.

Council staff have since re-measured the tunnel and

estimated that less material needs to be removed from the floor - an average cut of .32 metre rather than .84 metre.

This has caused the consultants to review the work that need to be done and the estimate for the work is now down to \$24,000.

At yesterday's final meeting of the year, the council agreed to call for tenders for the work and review the means of funding when the cost of the work is known.

General Manager Kemp Broughton told the meeting that there are no guarantees of secure estimates when it comes to tunnel work.

Street lamps debated

To light the grounds of the Stratford Information Centre with Victorian 'gaslight'

style lamps would be going against the Elizabethan theme of the town, Anne Marie Rocard told the meeting.

She was opposing the suggestion that the Victorian lamps be used to save money.

"I am astounded. We are trying to establish an authentic theme in Stratford to promote the town. It would be a shame to now introduce a Victorian style in the town," she said.

The council has a Taranaki Electricity Trust grant of \$2500 to light the area and this would cover the cost of Elizabethan style lights.

Council voted for the cheaper Victorian lamps at \$400 each and a number of councillors said people would not know the difference.



annual Stratford Christmas parade. procession of floats down Broadway. Creativity - Kids Vids, Originality - Salvation Army. After the parade the ht for children at King Edward Park.

"the heat is on!"

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