



Government reinforces intention to spend its way out of recession



Hon Steven Joyce
Assoc. Min. Infrastructure

The associate minister for infrastructure has reaffirmed government's intention to accelerate infrastructure spending as New Zealand remains in recession. Steven Joyce told a business forum this week that good infrastructure is vital to the economy. He says this Government's committed to building better infrastructure to ensure New Zealand can achieve higher economic growth in the years ahead. The minister says government's approach will concentrate on easing regulations and providing an investment plan that gives greater certainty. Later this year, the government will produce a national infrastructure plan to span 20 years and set a direction for infrastructure investment. It's intended to develop it in consultation with local government and industry sectors. Of interest to Crane Association members will be a promised \$8.6 billion spend-up over the next six years in new capital projects. Some of these projects have already been announced, such as a new prison, a broadband network, new transport facilities and a school building programme. The government wants the spending programme to give certainty to industry to encourage it to invest in plant and staff and undertake the work. The accompanying review of regulations is designed to cut through red tape and speed up the consent processes required for all infrastructure projects.

From the Chief Executive

At times I think I should have trained as a juggler because of the number of things that pop up during the day. The pressure has come off the scaffolding and rigging requirements and I have planned to visit to Marlborough, Blenheim and the West Coast next week to talk to members. This complete the visits to the South Island As Malcolm mentioned, we've finalised the programme for July. You'll learn details next week, and receive the latest registration form. Please note that the last date for booking and paying for the dinner at Dracula's is 30 April as they need numbers in early May. The first council meeting for the year was held on 24 February and I repeat Malcolm's invitation for any member thinking of standing for council and who wants to know what happens at one of the meetings to contact our office. The next meeting is 26 May.

From the President

Already we are 2 months through the year and for many there has been no let-up as far as work is concerned - for everyone's sake let us hope that this continues. But don't relax for a moment. We will be fooling ourselves if we think that the economic meltdown won't affect us. The Government's intention to begin infrastructure projects earlier than first forecast can only be of benefit.

Enough of the doom and gloom. I was really pleased to see that already we have expressions of interest for 5 entries in the Crane Project of the Year award. This shows these members have confidence in their ability and a willingness to undergo the critical gaze of their peers.

The programme for the July conference has been finalised and will be sent to you in the next week or so.

Malcolm McWhannell,
President

Newsletter of the

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Of interest to
Crane Association
members will be
a promised \$8.6
billion spend-up...



No room to swing a cat - or a crane.



Due to the cluttered and restrictive work area, the operator of this gantry crane is putting himself at risk by standing under the suspended load. It is essential that sufficiently clear space is maintained so that the operator can stand outside the operating envelope of the crane.

Safety can also be improved for the operator by his wearing a safety helmet and protective eye wear. Employers should ensure standard operating procedures are in place that:

- Prevent people from travelling or working under suspended loads
- Ensure that the suspended load is within the Working Load Limit of the crane
- Checks that the load is properly secured

Aussies plan 09 conference

The Crane Industry Council of Australia (CICA) holds its annual conference and crane display in Canberra from 30 Sep. - 2 Oct.



A programme hasn't been published yet. To keep an eye out for the programme, bookmark CICA's website: www.cica.com.au

Crane Code of Practice

The final review meeting for the Code of Practice for Cranes will take place on 6 March after which time the Department of Labour will complete their deliberations and then forward it to the Minister for signing off. It started life under a previous government and your Association's views have been put to officials to ensure it contains regulations that support and enhance, rather than hinder the industry.



70 tonnes of Kato muscle - blow the recession!



Kato's latest offering boasts a lifting capacity of 70 tonnes on a 10 metre boom and a price tag to match. Dealers are offering the crane for a cool 77.7 million Japanese Yen. At a recent exchange rate that converts to \$1,602,530 New Zealand Dollars. As an example of how currency fluctuations hurt importers (and reward exporters), the price this time last year, before our dollar dived, was a mere half the current cost at about \$897,000, still far from small change.