

The first full council meeting since the 2012 conference was held on 7 August in Tauranga. The council has set a fairly ambitious business plan for the next 12 months and the following are the main points to have come out of the meeting:

- The best "feedback" to the Council in years came from its analysis of the ratings forms completed at the conference. We have listed all comments relating to the strengths, in the members-only area of the website. We are analysing the perceived weaknesses and how to correct them. Many contributors listed their expectations and council will prioritise these and act where necessary.
- With "feedback" as an example, much of the information we report will be in the members-only section of the website, requiring registration to gain access. If you have any problems contact web@cranes.org.nz.
- Road User charges continue to dominate the thinking of most councillors, who have toiled to try to get some sense out of the authorities. We accept that it will be slow but we feel let down that some agencies have made contradictory statements to various members of the executive.
- The technical committee of the executive meets later this month to start to rewrite the Crane Safety Manual. Members may forward suggestions for changes (either technical or formatting) in writing so that they may be considered.
- Mobile Crane Weight Certificates may be reintroduced. Their use ended in 2001 when the Vehicle Dimension and Mass Rule began. We welcome comments from members on this possibility and we have sought the opinion of the Commercial Vehicle Investigations Unit (CVIU) of the NZ Police on the certificates and what their policy would be.
- Some companies are having problems with Bridge Engineering Self Supervision (BESS) regarding issuing of ID cards, replacing cards, CVIU view on offences (and what their criteria are) and details of appeals, and now renewal of cards already issued. We have pursued the matter for resolution with both the CVIU and the New Zealand Transport Agency.
- The council may hold a "Meet the Members" evening in Hamilton on Tuesday 13th November at the Hamilton Airport Inn. Any member company and their staff who would like to attend should notify our office. We plan to follow the format that worked well in Christchurch, Auckland and Tauranga, in which there is an informal meeting to discuss topical issues followed by a dinner for those who want to stay. We will release details and the cost of the dinner shortly.
- The New Zealand Transport Agency says that in a number of districts companies are not abiding by their overweight permits. Please ensure that when you receive your Agency permits you check to ensure that you are aware of special conditions or bridge changes etc.
- The dates for the 2013 conference have been set: 18th and 19th July at the Napier War Memorial Conference Centre with accommodation at Te Pania Scenic Circle Hotel (straight across the road). We are preparing a varied and interesting programme for all.
- Finally a reminder that the Crane Industry Council of Australia 2012 conference will be held in Adelaide from 5th to 7th of September and details are at www.cica.com.au.

Newsletter of the

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