MINO-704 Wellington City Council request for funding for falling streetlights

19 April 2023

Provide background for and an overview of the Wellington City Councils request for funding for falling streetlights.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's response:

Background

- Wellington City Council's (WCC) *Accelerated Rollout of Street Lighting LEDs and CMS* project received $17.4 million from the National Land Transport Fund at a funding assistance rate (FAR) at 85 percent FAR over the period 2017/18 to 2020/21 (and a further $400,000 at 51 percent FAR in 2021/22).

- Waka Kotahi understands that the faulty component is associated with a design enhancement intended to reduce glare to neighbouring residents.

- From a preliminary review, we have not been able to find any paperwork or analysis of the enhancement/ innovation in Waka Kotahi records; and understand that WCC made the design decision.

Funding Support

- WCC has informed Waka Kotahi that it intends to seek funding support to replace approximately 17,000 to 19,000 streetlights at an approximate total cost of $6.3 million. Waka Kotahi will assess the formal funding application when it is received.

- Before any funding decision can be considered, we will request that WCC confirm:
    - the cause and extent of the issue
    - what compensation has been pursued from the contractor and its vendor
    - full details of the associated costs

- The replacement of existing street lighting components is eligible to be funded under the Local Road Maintenance Activity Class - Work Category 222: *Traffic Services renewals*.

Likely next steps

- We expect WCC's funding request over the coming months. On receipt of the request, it will be assessed in line with normal practice.

- There are infrequent incidences of early failure of assets constructed with funding assistance through the National Land Transport Programme. Waka Kotahi does not want to unnecessarily penalise design innovation; therefore, these requests are assessed on a case-by-case basis.

- In all cases, the underlying cause or circumstance is investigated to minimise the likelihood of recurrence.

Proactively Released