

Business Case – Tinui Fire Depot

Background:

The Tinui Volunteer Rural Fire Force (Tinui VRFF) is one of eight Fire Forces in the Wairarapa Rural Fire District (WRFD). The Tinui VRFF is a community focused group of local volunteers who actively and regularly practise to ensure they are prepared to support both their community and the wider Wairarapa district in the time of emergency. All members are committed to gaining appropriate unit standard qualifications and skills for their roles.

The Tinui VRFF currently occupies part of an old wooden building owned by Masterton District Council located on Manawa Road within the Tinui Village.

This building is old, in very poor condition, and in urgent need of replacement. Problems with vermin, an out of date electrical system, partial dirt floor and lack of space have caused concern for the health and safety of members of the Tinui VRFF. In addition, the building is no longer fit for purpose as a fire depot. (See photos appendix 1)

Refurbishment of the depot was investigated, but following the floods through the Tinui district in 2004, when water over a metre deep flowed through the depot, the Wellington Regional Council flood plan was revised and the location of the current depot confirmed as being in a flood prone area (appendix 2). The cost to rebuild the depot on the current site to allow for flooding of the surrounding area would be cost prohibitive.

The proposed new depot at Tinui will be built on land that belongs to the Masterton District Council, at number 11 Blackhill Road Tinui, with Wairarapa Rural Fire District taking ownership of the new building.

Benefit Analysis with key assumptions:

- Create a suitable garaging facility and training space for Tinui VRFF and their volunteers.
- Provide garaging for additional fire appliance, scheduled for acquisition in 2016. The current garage cannot accommodate a second vehicle.
- Protect appliances and turnout gear from theft and damage from vandalism, vermin and weather.
- Allow volunteers to maintain appliances without needing to take them outside.
- Create an asset that will contribute to the safety and well-being of the Tinui community and wider area, and also protect business investment from forestry operations.
- Ensure continuity of emergency response capability in a large-scale emergency event.
- Support and recognize the growing role of the Tinui volunteers within the wider Wairarapa area.

Funding:

When first investigated, costs to replace the current depot were put at \$80,000. An application to the National Rural Fire Authority was made as well as to the Masterton District Council. \$40,000 was pledged from each organisation and is currently in holding accounts.

Revised cost updates now put the project costs at \$135,000 leaving a shortfall of \$55,000.

WRFD is now seeking grants to fund the \$55,000 shortfall.

Costs:

Tinui Fire Depot

Building to IL4	57,700
Phone connect	400
Remote siren activation	7,000
Geotech assessment	1,500
Fire report	2,800
Sewage connection	10,400
Water connection	3,700
Frontage and road access	9,200
Fit Out	18,200
Building consent	2,500
Building consent	1,100
Plumbing	
Drainage	15,000
Contingency	5,000
Total	134,500
NRFA Contribution	40,000
MDC Contribution	40,000
Shortfall	-\$54,500

Appendix 1 – Photos of current depot



Figure 1 Current Tinui depot



Figure 2 Vermin damage



Dirt floor



Depot interior with saggy roof lining



Figure 3 Aged electrical switch board

Tinui Flood Zone

