

**Niall Thomson**

---

**From:** Niall [mailto:ni@fc.govt.nz]  
**Sent:** 27 October 2005 10:34  
**To:** 'Jamie Wright'; [mailto:jw@fc.govt.nz]; [mailto:jamie.wright@fc.govt.nz]  
**Subject:** RE: 7S visit @ Carron 26 10 05

Final draft with corrections sticking the boot in a bit more?

Hi Rena

Obviously my phone didn't stop ringing after yesterdays site visit to Carron so I decided to sleep on it and look at the issue as dispassionately as possible in the morning. As you know, Paul Masson is extremely distressed by this, as are the committee of CVDG.

Firstly, my understanding of the need for Chris Ross to visit Carron was to grade and Risk Assess the trails, and we obviously have no problems with this. As the employer on this contract CVDG will also be subjecting the work to independent assessment when construction on all 4 trail sections has been completed, snagged and practical completion issued.

I dont intend to address the issue of opinions on how those present thought the trails would ride. That is purely subjective, none of them brought a bike and it is the public that decide whether a trail is good or bad. Similarly, emotive comments such as 'I wouldn't open it' are revealing but hardly productive. It seems we're damned if we dont defend ourselves and we're damned if we do, so we might as well get this out in the open: The fact that many of those connected with the 7S would rather Carron was strangled at birth is virtually a matter of record. I will be quite happy to outline why I believe this is so - off air. Aside from the continued support of yourself Andy and Michael we are thoroughly sick of this 'doing it in spite of them' mentality we've had to adopt. For the record I happen to think they are being incredibly short sighted and that they are ultimately biting the hand that will feed them - but that's another story.

It is highly regrettable it has come to this however, it seems these prejudices decided the outcome of yesterdays visit before the gate was even opened. I desperately want to avoid this descending into personalities and politics but that is the long and short of it and I feel the line has been well and truly crossed.

As you know, Jamie Wright is a Civil Engineer, he is both Planning Supervisor & Resident Engineer on this project. Paul Masson runs a business and has a first class commercial reputation to uphold. Nobody is beyond criticism and Paul is on record as saying he will examine any constructive comments carefully. Doing a complete hatchet job on a project in a manner which calls peoples professional integrity into question is quite another matter and we will not allow this to go unchallenged. CVDG are a volunteer group who's achievements should warrant just a little bit more respect from some of your colleagues and we take the strongest objection to the distorted manner in which the message was delivered. I look forward to seeing this report at your earliest convenience and would respectfully suggest that whoever writes it up needs to be very mindful of my comments.

I will try to call you later.

Regards

Niall

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Jamie Wright [mailto:jw@fc.govt.nz]  
**Sent:** 27 October 2005 09:42  
**To:** Niall Thomson; [mailto:ni@fc.govt.nz]; [mailto:jamie.wright@fc.govt.nz]  
**Subject:** Re: 7S visit @ Carron 26 10 05

Niall

Extremely well written.....you have kept out the raw emotion, the text will not inflame, it will put a marker down to balance the argument. I think the email must go to Rena as CVDG have provided the trails with no real funding from the FC i.e. without

the groups contribution the forest would be a poorer place, we hold as much sway at the table as the FC and as such our view has to be recognised.

Jamie

>>> "Niall" <[REDACTED]> 27/10/2005 08:29:55 >>>

Guys

I've just drafted this - does it strike the right chord, or merely inflame the situation? Would it be better to phone first?

N

Hi Rena

Obviously my phone hasn't stopped ringing therefore I preferred to sleep on it rather than call you yesterday. As you know, Paul Masson is extremely distressed by this as are the committee of CVDG.

Firstly, I assume the reason you asked Chris Ross to visit Carron was to grade and Risk Assess the trails, and we obviously have no problems with this. As the employer on this contract CVDG will also be subjecting the work to independent assessment when construction on all 4 trail sections has been completed, snagged and practical completion issued.

I dont intend to address the issue of opinions on how those present thought the trails would ride. That is purely subjective, none of them brought a bike and it is the public that decide whether a trail is good or bad. Similarly, emotive comments such as 'I wouldn't open it' are really not productive. It seems we're damned if we dont defend ourselves and we're damned if we do, so we might as well get this out in the open. The fact that many of those connected with the 7S would rather Carron was strangled at birth is virtually a matter of record and yourself Andy and Michael aside we are thoroughly sick of this 'doing it in spite of them' mentality we've had to adopt. For the record I happen to think they are being incredibly short sighted in adopting a mentality that will ultimately shoot them in the foot but that's another story.

Unfortunately, it seems these prejudices decided the outcome of yesterdays visit before the gate was opened. I desperately want to avoid this descending into personalities and politics but I feel the line has been well and truly crossed.

As you know, Jamie Wright is a Civil Engineer, he is both Planning Supervisor and Resident Engineer on this project. Paul Masson runs a business and has a first class commercial reputation to uphold. Nobody is beyond criticism and Paul is on record as saying he will examine any constructive comments carefully. Doing a complete hatchett job on a project is a completely different matter entirely and I would respectfully suggest that whoever writes up this report needs to be very mindful of this.

I will try to call you leter.

regards

Niall