

Review of Logging Truck Surveys, Gisborne City, January 2018

My initial orientation was provided by Owen (Olly) Olsen who has recently been recognised for his 50 years of service driving stock and logging trucks in the Gisborne/East Coast area. As we sat and watched the activity at the Hirini Street intersection, he told me a lot about what I was seeing. He recognised most of their trucks and knew their areas of operation. We later toured the wharf, Dunstan Road and Aerodrome Road.

Later, I went back to the end of Hirini Street and did an East vs West tally. See the numbers below.

Survey No. 1 East vs West Hirini Street Friday, January 12th, 2018, 1:35 – 3:05 pm.

In the 90 minutes, I counted:

From the North and East:

Loaded trucks to the port: 16

Full length logs to Optilog: 4

Empty trucks returning East and North: 10

From the West and South:

Loaded trucks to the port: 25

Empty trucks returning West: 30

Empty trucks with trailers down returning to Dunstan Road: 4*

*[Or going for maintenance check.](#)

A couple of interesting observations for this 90 minute period:

1. More loaded trucks from the West (25) than from the East (16 + 4).

So often we hear that most of the wood comes from the North via SH35. Today (and on other occasions I have scored movements) I see just as many coming from the West).

2. In that 90 minutes, there were 16 +4 loaded trucks travelling through "town" along with the 30 empty trucks making for 50 truck movements in 90 minutes - more than a logging truck every 2 minutes - a rate I have scored on other occasions.

I would like to tally movements in other parts of the day. Olly suggested that 5am would capture the first run. I would also like to quantify mid-morning as well. I should add that Olly fully supports the idea of a rail shuttle from the Dunstan Road area to the port.

All in all, a very interesting day.

**Survey No. 2 East vs West Hirini Street, Monday, January 15th, 2018:
9:05-10:35 am.**

Ex West:

Loaded: 23

Empty returning west: 21 plus 9 shuttles
(shuttle = trailer down)

Ex East:

Loaded to port: 18

Full length to Optilog: 3

Empty to East and North: 14

Empty ex Optilog: 4

Total truck movements: 53 West + 39 East = 92 /90 minutes = ~1/minute at this intersection

**Survey No. 3. North Esplanade and Wainui Road Intersection, Wednesday,
January 17, 2018: 1:55-3:10pm.**

Ex West over Gladstone Rd Bridge:

Loaded to port: 18

Empty from port: 25 (trailer up); 10 shuttles (towing trailer).

Full length logs to Optilog: 2

To and From North Esplanade:

Loaded to Port: 8

Empty to Ormond Road: 2

Total truck movements: 65 trucks in 75 minutes at this intersection.

Q: Very large number of "shuttles". (Major Hikurangi log transfer?)
At this time of the day, where would they be headed? Only 18 heading to port loaded.

.....Only 2 empty came back to Ormond Road

**Survey No. 4 East vs West Hirini Street, Monday, January 22, 2018:
6:00-7:30am**

Ex West:

Loaded: 29

Empty returning west: 28 plus 6 shuttles

(shuttle = trailer down, to Matawhero overflow yard, to Optilog?)

Loaded from port headed west: 2 (Dunstan Road?)

Note: Empties going west make 4 to 5 gear changes getting to the Esplanade Intersection – automatic gear changing apparently

Ex East:

Loaded to port: 21

Empty to East and North: 14

Full length to Optilog: 3

Empty ex west (Optilog?): 2 (distinctive trailer)

Normal empty ex west (off to work?) 5

Total truck movements: 59 West + 35 East

+ 2 loaded Optilog ex East + 2 Optilog empties ex west + 5 empties ex west

= 103/90 minutes = >1/minute at this intersection

January 22 Discussion points with Olly Olsen

1. The large number of “shuttles”, i.e. empty log trucks with their empty trailers down could be:
 - a. Returning to the Matawhero Yard or the Optilog Yard for another load; or
 - b. Going to maintenance facilities in the industrial area or at Aerodrome Rd.
2. Martin Bayly said that logs have an average stay of 7-8 days at the port. It was suggested that logs stored at Dunstan Road stay a lot longer.
3. It is interesting to note that this morning’s survey showed 103 log truck movements in 90 minutes through the Hirini Street/Wainui Road intersection. (>1/minute). With the extra million m³/year coming in from the west primarily in the next decade there has to be some concern as to the future for Gisborne residents, especially on Ormond Road and Awapuni Road.

*John McLean
January 22, 2018*