

## Disastrous tour a great success

The Waikato Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) group is a bit like an airsickness bag; we hope we'll never have to use it, but it's good to know it's there.

Made up of all the District Councils in the Waikato Region, the group has a full time Group Controller, who takes a lead role in managing Civil Defence emergencies in the region in co-operation with Local Controllers, appointed from each District. Our Local Controller is Hauraki District Council Community Services Manager, Steve Fabish.

While natural disaster movies might lead us to believe it's possible to battle giant tidal waves, volcanic eruptions, and alien invasions for days on end without eating or sleeping – in reality no one can actually work for 24 hours straight. If a natural disaster or other emergency ever struck, Local Controllers would have to pull together and help each other out. This arrangement is currently in place for the local controllers of Hauraki District, Matamata-Piako and Thames-Coromandel District Councils.

With this in mind, Fabish recently organised a tour of the Hauraki District to familiarise controllers from other districts with the lay of our land and to get an understanding of the Civil Defence arrangements that are in place.

Matamata-Piako Local Controller, Roger Fisher, said visiting the actual places people might be talking to him about one of these days was very useful.

"I don't know the District very well but if I was called over to be Controller I would be managing people in the office and dealing with issues as they arose," he said. "The thing that was particularly worth getting a feeling for was just how low all that (Plains) farmland lies in relation to the sea and all the rivers running through it," he said.

As well as District wide flooding issues and foreshore protection in Kaiaua the tour took in potential mining emergencies in Waihi and the tsunami risk at Whiritoa Beach. Waihi Ward Councillor, Max McLean, who was also on the tour, said interestingly, Whiritoa is quite a safe place to be in a tidal wave.

"It's most likely a tsunami would come from the Kermadec Trench, out East Cape way. It would come into the Bay of Plenty on such an angle that land would have to be below five metres to be affected.



**GETTING FAMILIAR WITH HAURAKI'S HOTSPOTS:** Team members of the Civil Defence group visit areas of the District that could potentially become a serious issue during an emergency.

Most houses in Whiritoa are above that," he said.

The group also looked at potential places to house people quickly if they had to be evacuated. In the event of a natural disaster, however, people should be prepared to look after themselves for at least three days. According to a recent Council survey less than half of Hauraki residents are prepared for an emergency. This is a number Councillor McLean would love to see increase.

"In the event of an emergency cell phones quite possibly won't work and even if they do, everyone would try to contact their family at once which would clog the lines. Having a pre-determined plan so everyone knows what to do and where to meet is vital," he says.

Waikato Group Controller, Lee Hazlewood, said hearing from people who are "boots on the ground" in the District was very valuable to him.

"As Group Controller it's critical that I can visualise what's happening on the ground," he said. "It adds context to the technical data. It's one thing to hear there are so many millimetres of water on the ground in this area – it's another to be shown around by a local engineer familiar with all the stop banks and be told the last time he was here, the water was up to the windowsill on that building over there. It has really helped me get a better understanding. So when a Local Controller says this is happening in this area I can visualise what he's actually talking about."

## What is Council doing about the use of legal highs in the community?

### We have a brand new Local Approved Products (Legal Highs) Policy

The selling of psychoactive substances (legal highs), such as party pills and synthetic cannabis, is currently banned in New Zealand, but it won't stay that way forever. Substances that pass Central Government's new testing regime and are proven to be low risk could be on the shelves of licensed retailers as early as the middle of next year.

We can't legally prohibit the sale of these approved substances in our District. We don't have the power to approve or decline licences either (the Ministry of Health is responsible for this), but thanks to our newly adopted Local Approved Products (Legal Highs) Policy we do have control over the location of licenced retailers able to sell these substances.

### What's a Local Approved Products (Legal Highs) Policy?

Basically it's a set of rules developed by the Council in consultation with the community, relating to where approved legal highs can and can't be sold within our District. Our draft Policy went out for public feedback (submissions) in June 2014.

In a nutshell we proposed:

- There should be a maximum of one licenced legal high retailer in Waihi and one licenced legal high retailer in Paeroa. Legal High retailers should not be permitted elsewhere in the District.
- In Paeroa, this retailer must operate from premises with building frontage onto either Belmont or Normanby Road.
- In Waihi, this retailer must operate from premises with building frontage onto (the commercial part of) Seddon Street or Rosemont Road.

- Both these retailers should be at least 50 metres from 'sensitive sites' which includes any school, early childhood centre, plunket centre, Council playground, place of worship, and the Paeroa Care House and Toy Library. Any land parcel within the residential zone of the District Plan is also classified as a sensitive site.

### What did you think?

We received 30 submissions from you on our draft Policy. As a result 'places of worship' has been added to our list of sensitive sites. Other than that, it seems you agree with us and the draft Policy (with that one small addition) has now been adopted.

You can view the full policy on Council's website [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz), or call into one of our offices or phone 0800 734 834 (within the District) or 07 862 8609 to request a copy.

## No changes to the draft Gambling Venue Policy

Government research shows a strong link between an increase in pokie machines and the growth of problem gambling. On the other hand, gambling can offer employment, entertainment and funding for community organisations.

We did our best to balance these factors in our draft Class 4 Gambling Venue and NZ Racing Board Venue Policy, released for community feedback (submissions) in June 2014.

### What we proposed:

- To continue with our 'sinking lid' approach to pokie machines. In other words, although we can't legally take away any of the 119 machines or nine venues already operating in our District; we can stop any new machines or venues being introduced.
- To reduce our cap (ideal maximum number of machines) from 79 to 69 in line with the national average of machines

per head of population. We currently have 119 machines, which is one machine for every 149 people. The national average is now one machine for every 259 people.

- Not to allow current venues to relocate existing pokie machines to new venues within the District. This is because the current number of machines in the District significantly exceeds the national average.

### What did you think?

We received ten submissions on our draft Class 4 Gambling Venue and NZ Racing Board Venue Policy. We've since adopted the draft Policy with no changes.

You can view the full policy on Council's website [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz), or call into one of our offices or phone 0800 734 834 (within the District) or 07 862 8609 and request a copy.

## Public Notices

### Class 4 Gambling Venue and NZ Racing Board Gambling Venue Policy

Pursuant to section 102 of the Gambling Act, 2003, and section 65E of the Racing Act, 2003, notice is hereby given that the Hauraki District Council Class 4 Gambling Venue and NZ Racing Board Gambling Venue Policy 2014 has been reviewed via the Special Consultative Procedure and was adopted at a meeting of Council on 24 September 2014 and will become effective from Friday, 3 October 2014.

### Local Approved Products (Legal Highs) Policy

Pursuant to section 69 of the Psychoactive Substances Act, 2013, notice is hereby given that the Hauraki District Council Local Approved Products (Legal Highs) Policy was adopted at the Council meeting of 24 September 2014 and will become operative on Friday, 3 October 2014.

The above policies can be viewed on Council's website [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz), or a copy can be requested at the libraries and Council offices in Ngatea, Paeroa and Waihi. Alternatively a copy can be obtained by calling 0800 734 834 (from within the District) or 07 862 8609.

## Council and Committee Meetings

Pursuant to Section 46 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, public notice is hereby given that the following meetings will be held at the Paeroa Council Chambers, William Street, Paeroa during the month of October 2014.

**Audit & Risk Committee**  
Wednesday, 8 October 2014 - 9.00am

**Ward Committees - Tuesday, 14 October 2014**  
Plains Ward - 9.00am  
Paeroa Ward - 12.30pm  
Waihi Ward - 2.30pm

**Operations Committee**  
Wednesday, 15 October 2014 - 9.00am

**Judicial Committee (if required)**  
Monday, 20 October 2014 - 9.00am

**Western Plains District Drainage Committee**  
Tuesday, 28 October 2014 - 10.30am

**Eastern Plains District Drainage Committee**  
Tuesday, 28 October 2014, 1.30pm

**Ordinary Meeting of Council**  
Wednesday, 29 October 2014 - 9.00am

## Situation Vacant

### Building Control Officer

If you have a positive can-do attitude and attributes that reflect our values of respect, communication and commitment, then we would love to hear from you.

As the Building Control Officer your main role will be processing and monitoring of building consents, and the monitoring of resource consents. Key components of the job include providing information to the public in line with statutory requirements relating to the Resource Management Act, the Building Act, and other relevant legislation.

Applicants will have, or be working towards, a qualification in a related field, preferably with prior experience in a similar role. A working knowledge and practical experience in the building, plumbing and drainage industry with a sound knowledge of building legislation is a requirement.

Add to the mix your superb communication skills, consistent personal commitment, and a customer focus that develops and sustains productive customer relationships and this could be your job. Site inspections are part of the role so a full NZ Drivers' Licence is a must.

To take this opportunity of enhancing your career apply electronically online at [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz), or contact:

Sue Greenwell on 07 862 5024, or  
Julie Sweetney on 07 862 5023

**Applications close on 16 October 2014**

LD Cavers  
Chief Executive  
Hauraki District Council