



HDC NEWS

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Rail Trail named in awards finals

The Hauraki Rail Trail development has earned the Council a spot in the finals of the inaugural Local Government New Zealand Excellence Awards.

The awards give national recognition to outstanding council-led community projects, with Hauraki being shortlisted for the Martin Jenkins Award for Local Economic Contribution.

Our 77km-long cycling and walking trail, built in association with the Matamata Piako and Thames-Coromandel District Councils, has exceeded all predicted benefits to the communities it links.

At the start of the project, the Trail was forecast to generate an income of between about \$2.2million and \$3.5million in its first year. But a recent survey estimated that Trail users spent around \$4.5million in the first

full season from March 2013 to February 2014.

"Cycleways across the country are known to bring valuable economic benefits, and the Hauraki Rail Trail is a prime example," says LGNZ president Lawrence Yule. "The Trail's construction, followed by the hospitality infrastructure needed to host Trail users, has brought in much-needed dollars to an area that's below New Zealand's socio-economic average."

He says the capping of government funding, at less than half of what was needed to build the Trail, could have seen the project founder. "Our judges were impressed that the councils showed great leadership and vision in pushing ahead to find the funding and finish the Trail in stages."

Mayor John Tregidga is "rapt" with the finalist announcement,



which he says is a credit to the team effort led by Council Project Manager Adrian de Laborde. "He has done an exceptionally good job keeping the Trail within budget."

The Mayor is quietly hopeful that there will be more to celebrate when he and Adrian attend the award presentations at the annual LGNZ conference in Nelson on July 21.

The other two Local Economic

Contribution finalists are Selwyn District Council for its electronic building consent initiative, and Wanganui District Council for its *100% Connected* broadband accessibility project.

The LGNZ awards also acknowledge excellence in separate categories of community impact, the infrastructure project of the year, and the community event of the year.

PUBLIC NOTICES

DRAFT CLASS 4 GAMBLING AND NZ RACING BOARD VENUE POLICY

Pursuant to section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002 notice is hereby given that the Hauraki District Council Draft Class 4 Gambling Venue and New Zealand Racing Board Gambling Venue Policy has been reviewed and the Statement of Proposal will be available from Friday 27 June, 2014 for public submissions.

The submission period closes 4.30pm on Monday, 28 July 2014.

The Statement of Proposal can be viewed on the Council's website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz or, to request a copy, please contact Council on 07 862 8609 or 0800 734 834 (freephone from within Hauraki District).

Submissions received will be considered by Council at a Hearing on Wednesday 27 August, 2014 at the Council Chambers, 1 William Street, Paeroa.

If you wish to discuss the proposal, please contact Sara Fisher on 07 862 8609 or email sara-jayne@hauraki-dc.govt.nz

DRAFT LOCAL APPROVED PRODUCTS (LEGAL HIGHS) POLICY

Pursuant to section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002 notice is hereby given that the Hauraki District Council Draft Local Approved Products (Legal Highs) Policy has been developed and the Statement of Proposal will be available from Friday 27 June, 2014 for public submissions.

The submission period closes 4.30pm on Monday 28 July, 2014.

The Statement of Proposal can be viewed on the Council's website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz or, to request a copy, please contact Council on 07 862 8609 or 0800 734 834 (freephone from within Hauraki District).

Submissions received will be considered by Council at a Hearing on Wednesday 27 August, 2014 at the Council Chambers, 1 William Street, Paeroa.

If you wish to discuss the proposal, please contact Charan Mischewski on 07 862 8609 or email charan@hauraki-dc.govt.nz

COUNCIL & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Pursuant to Section 46 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, public notice is hereby given that the **Audit and Risk Committee** meeting that was previously advertised for 28 July has now been rescheduled for **Friday, 4 July - 1.00pm** at the Paeroa Council Chambers, 1 William Street, Paeroa.

LD Covers
Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council

Waterworks in progress

A new water main, which will connect to the Paeroa water supply network, is being constructed in Old Reservoir Road. This will result in better quality water arriving at homes – so when residents turn on the tap, they are likely to notice an improvement in water taste and appearance.

The new plastic pipeline will eliminate problems related to rust which were experienced with the old pipeline; and the new smaller diameter will mean it takes less time to get the water to the houses.

The project is due to be completed by the end of July, after which the present pipe from Ohinemuri will be decommissioned.



It's time for you to 'have your say'

The Council is now seeking submissions (written feedback) supporting or opposing any elements of the **draft Local Approved Products (Legal Highs) Policy** and the **draft Class 4 Gambling Venue and New Zealand Racing Board Venue Policy**. These documents can be viewed on our website - www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz or are available from our offices. Submissions can be made until July 28, on the forms provided with the proposed policies or simply by writing a letter to the Council.

The submissions will be reviewed by Councillors and formally considered at a Council hearing on August 27 (extending to August 28 if necessary). Submitters can speak in support of their submissions and the public can attend. Following the hearings, the Council will make any changes it considers appropriate and the amended final policies will be placed before the Council for adoption by the end of September.

Gambling venues – what do you think?

Three, two, one... It's time to review our District policy on pokie machines and TAB venues, which Government legislation requires us to have and to review every three years.

The Gambling Act 2003 states that our Class 4 Gambling Venue and New Zealand Racing Board Venue Policy must take into account the social impact of gambling in the District. So in March this year, Council held a forum where stakeholders such as venue operators and social service agency representatives were invited to speak on the local effects of gambling. A social impact assessment was then completed to guide the Council during its review.

One benefit of pokies is that some of the net proceeds provide important funding for community organisations. Gambling can also offer employment opportunities and a form of entertainment.

Council needs to balance these factors against the negatives. According to Ministry of Health research, gambling venues are often located in low-income areas; and there's a strong correlation between increased numbers of electronic gaming machines and the growth of problem gambling. The Ministry's findings indicate that Council policies which "restrict or reduce the density of pokies are likely to play a significant role in reducing gambling related harm".

The options Council has available are to limit the number of gaming machines in the District, limit the number of venues and decide whether to allow licensed venues to relocate to another site within the District.

Our present policy adopted in 2011 set a 'cap' of 79 pokie machines, in line with the national average proportionate to population. The Council can not legally take away any of the 119 machines already operating, but we have continued with a 'sinking lid' approach which has stopped new machines or venues being introduced.

There are 119 pokies in Hauraki – one for every 149 residents. However the national average is now one machine for every 259 people, which means to retain the same per capita policy approach, Council needs to reduce the cap from 79 to 69. This reduction has been included in our proposed policy recently adopted by the Council as a basis for consultation.

Another change from the 2011 policy is that the Council has decided not to include provision for venues to relocate pokie machines to other sites within the District, because the present number of machines in the District continues to significantly exceed the national average per head of population.

Although there are currently no stand-alone TAB venues operating in Hauraki, Councils cannot prohibit pubs from running TAB betting. So our draft policy retains a clause advising that Council would approve licences for New Zealand Racing Board venues, if they're in the appropriate zones and won't introduce additional gaming machines in to the District.

Have your say on the Draft Legal Highs Policy

Last month, a Parliamentary bill, passed under urgency, banned the limited range of 'legal highs' that were still on the market in New Zealand. It became illegal to sell, supply or possess the psychoactive substances which had previously been granted interim approval for sale, due to concerns about their adverse effects.

So - what happens now? and what say does the Council have?

The ban is not permanent. It applies until the manufacturer of each product has had it tested in New Zealand, and the substance is proven to be low risk. They can then apply to the Government to be allowed to sell that product. If approved, that product may be sold by licensed retailers as early as mid next year.

A Council working party of three Councillors (one from each ward) has continued to lead the development of a Local Approved Products Policy. This is a set of criteria provided for under the Psychoactive Substances Act 2013. It means that a Council, in consultation with its community, can restrict the location of retail premises in the District that are licensed to sell psychoactive products.

We cannot prohibit the sale of such products and we don't have power to approve or decline any licences. Rather, our policy framework will help guide the Psychoactive Substances Regulatory Authority to make locally appropriate decisions on licence applications. We particularly want to minimise harm that could result from legal high retail outlets in residential and industrial areas, close to the Hauraki Rail Trail, or near sensitive sites such as schools, early childhood centres, playgrounds and other family venues.

Our draft policy, which was adopted by the Council this week, would restrict the locations of approved psychoactive product retailers to town centre zones – fronting onto the main streets of Belmont Road or Normandy Road in Paeroa, and Seddon Street or Rosemont Road in Waihi. Such shops would not be permitted within 50 metres of any sensitive sites existing when the licence application is made, or within 750 metres of another licensed retailer.