



# HDC NEWS



## Contracts Awarded

The following contracts have been awarded under power delegated to the District Engineer as reported to the recent Council meeting:

- Seddon St pedestrian crossing: This was retendered as the previous price had come in at around \$60,000, which was considered too high. The new price is \$49,505, still 40% higher than the estimate. The engineer explained that there were some difficult aspects of the job involving coordination with services such as power that were difficult to estimate.
- Seal Extension of Bulltown and Heard Rd Waihi: \$141,766 which is 95% of the estimate.
- Seal Extension Waikumete Rd (Plains) and Kaimanawa Rd (Paeroa): \$237,274 was just over the engineers estimate for the job and was the lowest price submitted for the job out of five tenders received.
- Miranda Foreshore stopbank reconstruction: the work for this contract involves the excavation of 33,000 cubic metres of borrow material from the seaward side of the existing stopbank and placing it over the existing stopbank. The material will be allowed to dry over a period of two years and then will be reshaped. The lower price of the two submitted was accepted at \$52,058.
- Gabion wall construction Corbett Rd flood damage: the contract was awarded to Works Infrastructure at a price of \$120,010. This work attracted a 57% subsidy from Transfund.

## Turners Hill Water Main

The raw water trunk main to Paeroa that was exposed by a slip near Turners Hill has prompted a detailed investigation into this section of main and has revealed another section that is at risk. It is considered that the best solution to the problem is to move the main from the road reserve. Permission will be needed from property owners and the cost of the work is estimated at \$80,000. The work is considered urgent as a failure of the main would result in Paeroa being without water.

## Termination of Lease

Council is to invite the Waihi Rugby Union (Inc) to terminate its lease on the practise field off Brickfield Road following its cordoning off after the ground slump nearby in December. The land, which has been identified as lying over the suspect old Royal mine workings, is owned by Council and leased by the club as a practise field. Council is obliged to reduce exposure to risk by excluding occupation of the land. The club has already expressed an interest in moving the lights from the field to the main field, which is largely out of the hazard zone.

## Caustic Storage Safety

A three yearly audit of the caustic soda storage facility at Waitakaruru has found the storage facility needs improvements to address safety requirements. A list of deficiencies was presented to the last Works Committee meeting. The report also suggested changing from the current 50% caustic soda solution to a 45% solution. This will drop the freezing point from 13o C to 9oC, avoiding the need to heat wrap the tanks. The cost of the required works is estimated at \$35,000. While necessary to undertake the works soon, it is proposed to include an item in the 2002-2003 estimates to undertake this work.

## Sewerage Treatment Issues

An issues and options paper regarding Turua sewerage treatment was presented to the last Water and Waste Consultative Committee meeting. The Turua sewerage treatment plant discharge consent is up for renewal and while the existing plant does not treat the sewerage to a high standard before discharge, the sheer volume of the Waihou at the point of discharge actually means the effluent has little effect on the river. It is not expected, however, that Environment Waikato will accept the "dilution is the solution to pollution" theory and improvements are expected to be necessary before a new consent is issued.

Councillors were concerned with the possibility of future improvements being needed every time a consent is required and suggested another look be given to the possibility of piping the sewerage to Paeroa. When this was looked at before, it was considered too expensive. While the new Paeroa treatment plant is said to have the capacity to provide treatment for sewerage from a population of 12,000, it must be remembered that much of this capacity is necessary for times of heavy rain when large quantities of stormwater are added to the sewerage system.

Further investigations into the economics of piping the Turua and Ngatea sewerage to Paeroa is being undertaken taking into account the long term financial ramifications of continuing to improve the environmental effects of sewerage discharge every time the consents come up for renewal.

Council has allocated \$200,000 in the 2004/2005 financial year for upgrading the Turua plant and has also purchased adjacent land for this. Other options which would come within this budget include the use of wetlands, overland flow or sand beds. Research into land disposal of sewerage effluent, however, indicates that the soil types of the Hauraki Plains are unsuitable for land disposal and wetlands are also going out of favour as where they have been used they appear to present numerous problems in the long term.

At Ngatea, expansion of the treatment plant, which the new consent requires, is estimated to cost \$680,000 and this has been programmed in to next year's estimates. The Works Committee passed a resolution to commission the design and preparation of tender documents for the Ngatea sewage treatment plant expansion, unless a re-look at the figures changes the situation.

## Report on Old Mine Workings

The long awaited report on Waihi's underground mine workings from times past was presented to Council at its last meeting by the researchers from the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences. The most important point that was made was that the main danger of collapse from underground workings comes from unfilled shrink stopes rather than shafts and tunnels. It was stated that there is little danger from individual drives, which are relatively small and, in most cases, very deep. Many of these are likely to have collapsed already but because of their small size, nothing becomes apparent at the surface when this happens.

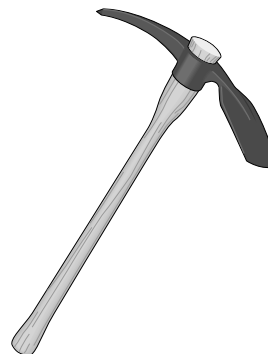
The extent of shrink stoping is known but how much of the stopes have been back filled is not known. Records from the mining before the First World War are good and these indicate the amount of fill that was replaced in the workings as well as the amount that was taken out. The ratio of these two indicates that the workings of that time were backfilled but the ratio changed as time went on. The records of the twenties indicate little back filling. After that, records are sparse, and if the trend was followed it is likely that little back filling occurred from the twenties to the closure of the mine in 1952. All the collapses that have occurred are in the Royal stope but several other stopes are known, which could present a risk.

The most important of these are the Edward, which stretches down towards and across Haszard St and the Empire, which crosses Grey St and extends under some residential property there. The risk associated with these stopes is unknown and the next stage of the investigation is to attempt to evaluate this risk and to recommend to Council what should be done.

While it was previously thought that a thick layer of welded ignimbrite (hard rock) would act as a bridge to prevent collapse at the surface from these deep underground stopes, the collapse in December 2001 proved this not to be the case. This type of rock has vertical weaknesses or faults which may allow it to collapse with the lack of support underneath and the downward pressure from above.

It is interesting to note that, apart from a single drive, and as we said before drives do not present a risk on the surface, there are no mine workings under the main business areas of Seddon St and Rosemont Rd. It may also be of interest that, contrary to a recent newspaper report, there are no workings under the Council owned section next to the Salvation Army at the top end of Seddon St.

The risk assessment that is now to be undertaken will probably be presented to Council around June of this year.



## Elected Members' Diary

Week 11th March to 17th March 2002:

Monday 11th March: special meeting to consider the estimates (budget) – all elected members  
 Tuesday 12th March: special meeting to consider the estimates – all elected members  
 Thursday 14th March: Morning, Works Committee – Don Challis, Ian Troughton, Basil Morrison, Sel Baker, Bryan Dunn, Des Johansen, Bronwyn Wightman.  
 Afternoon, Planning and Finance Committee – Mary Carmine, John Tregidga, Basil Morrison, Bruce Gordon, Mike Hayden, Valda Laurich, Gil Munro.

## New Water Main for Dean Crescent

A new water main connecting Lawrence Rd and Dean Crescent is to be constructed. This will serve the development in Lawrence Rd and give a dual supply to Dean Crescent, which will increase the Dean Crescent hydrant flows from 15 litres / second to a predicted 25 litres / second. While this still does not meet the recommended firefighting code for an industrial area, it will be a significant improvement on the existing situation. The cost of the new main will be around \$9,000.

## PUBLIC NOTICES



YOU ARE INVITED TO COMMENT ON THE DRAFT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY THAT HAS BEEN DEVELOPED BY HAURAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL.

CONSULTATION MEETINGS WILL BE HELD IN  
 • WAIHI – 5.30PM 25 MARCH – MEMORIAL HALL  
 • PAEROA – 5.30PM 26 MARCH – MEMORIAL HALL  
 • NGATEA – 5.30PM 27 MARCH – MEMORIAL HALL  
 Note that this differs from previously advised times.

A COPY OF THE DRAFT DOCUMENT IS AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING AT YOUR LOCAL PUBLIC LIBRARY OR COUNCIL OFFICE AND ON OUR WEB SITE [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz)

QUESTIONNAIRE FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO HELP YOU RECORD YOUR COMMENTS.

The document is open for consultation until 29 March 2002

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## CLOSURE OF ROAD TO ORDINARY VEHICULAR TRAFFIC

Pursuant to the Transport (Vehicular Traffic Road Closure) Regulations 1965, notice is hereby given that for the purpose of an event organised by Thames Valley Car Club Inc. the following road will be closed to ordinary vehicular traffic for the period indicated hereunder. During the period of closure the following provision will be made for ordinary vehicular traffic, which would otherwise use the road.

Period of closure: Saturday 16 March 2001 from 10:00am to 5:00pm.

Road to be closed: Pukewera Road, Waihi (from Murphy's Bridge to the Taieri Road junction)

Alternative provision for ordinary vehicular traffic: No traffic shall be held up for more than 30 minutes.

It will be an offence under the above regulations for any person otherwise than under authority of an authorised permit to use the road for ordinary vehicular traffic during the period of closure.

## LIQUOR BANS 2002

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 709A Local Government Act 1974 that the consumption of alcoholic liquor, the bringing of liquor or of empty liquor containers and the possessions of liquor or empty liquor containers in the public places identified below is hereby prohibited during the periods identified below.

### LIQUOR BANS

#### Whiritoa

All Beach and Reserve areas.  
 The roads – Fishermans Bend, Kon Tiki Road, Tuna Place and Moray Place.

#### Dates and Times

#### EASTER WEEKEND 2002.

During the Easter weekend public holiday period being Thursday 28th March 2002 to Tuesday 2nd April 2002 inclusive, and the hours of 4.00pm to 4.00am daily.

**PENALTIES:** ANY PERSON WHO COMITS AN OFFENCE AGAINST THE PROHIBITION MAY BE CONVICTED AND FINED UP TO \$500.00.

**POWERS OF POLICE:** ANY CONSTABLE MAY ARREST ANY PERSON ACTING OF ABOUT TO ACT CONTRARY TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS PROHIBITION.

ANY CONSTABLE MAY SEARCH ANY PARCEL, PACKAGE, BAG, CASE OR OTHER CONTAINER IN POSSESSION OF ANY PERSON INTENDING OR ABOUT TO ENTER ANY PLACE DESCRIBED IN THIS PROHIBITION.

LD Cavers  
 General Manager