



HDC NEWS



Stopbank Construction

While continuing discussions go on with Environment Waikato in an attempt to reach agreement with DoC on the consent for the Hotsprings to District Boundary stop bank, the Karito Canal to Waitakaruru stop bank is progressing.

The contractor has completed the borrow pit excavation to 300m short of the Indian floodgate. The proximity of the river channel at this point has prevented excavation from the seaward berm. It had been anticipated that this reach would have to be constructed using imported fill and will not be able to be done until the summer season.

Two slumps of the old bank and landward berm at the sites of an old seepage point have required remedial works. Agreement has been reached with the owner to cut off a corner of two pad-docks, re-route the landward drain, and stabilise the area until remedial works can be completed in the summer. It is unlikely that any works will be able to be undertaken until the 2004/2005 season because which time the dumped spoil will be able to be reworked. Completion of the contract reach will be undertaken using trucked fill.



Paeroa Main Drain

Following the February 2003 flood, Environment Waikato has sent a report to Council on the performance of the Main Drain system with recommendations and options for the development of the system. The main drain catchment is bounded by the Coromandel ranges in the east, the Stocks Opukeko catchment in the north and the Ohinemuri River Stopbank in the south and west. This stopbanking protects



Paeroa from flooding from the Ohinemuri River. There is a significant internal catchment that must drain via the main drain to the river. When river levels are low, the internal flood water relies on floodgate action but when levels are high, detention storage and pumping are used to prevent flooding of the urban area.

The report lists the risks to the system as:

- * Service capacity exceedance, i.e. flood events which overwhelm the capacity of the pumps, floodgates and ponding areas.

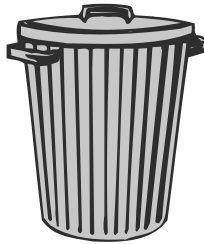
- * In smaller flood events:

- o A loss of mains power or pumps out on load control
- o Mechanical or electrical failure of one or more pumps or existing diesel drive
- o Vandalism
- o Structural failure of pump station sump or pipeline.

To help minimise these risks Environment Waikato has adopted the installation of twin diesel generators as a Waihou Valley Scheme cost. Another suggestion is to increase the pump capacity. Council's Drainage Manager, Ian McLeod, reported to the Works Committee that such an increase would be unlikely to benefit upstream properties but would be a significant benefit to the downstream area, including the prevention of sewerage overflows by limiting storm water ingress to the gully traps in a ten year event. The cost of such a project, based on the HDC paying a three quarter share would be approximately \$400,000. Council continues to assess the project to decide whether it is a sufficiently beneficial and viable option to warrant the cost.

Whiritoa Inorganic Rubbish Collection

A proposal to reduce the inorganic rubbish collection, traditionally held each Labour Weekend at Whiritoa, to once every two years, has to go to further consultation. The proposal was put forward by the residents and ratepayers at their annual meeting with councillors and staff last anniversary weekend. It was seen as unnecessary to have the collection each year as it has a considerable cost attached to it. As this is seen as a significant change to the level of service, under the new Local Government Act it must go into the Long Term Community Plan (LTCCP) and go through the Special Consultative Procedure. This year the collection will take place as normal and next year's LTCCP will reflect the change to a biennial collection. Residents will be able to make submissions to the plan. If the plan is accepted there will be no collection next year.



Environment Waikato Rates

All ratepayers should by now have received their rates bill from the regional council, Environment Waikato. Formerly we collected their rates for them, included with our rates, then passed the money on to them. Now they are collecting their own, they will send out a bill once a year. Since the accounts went out, Hauraki District Council has received many enquiries about them. If you read the back of the bill you will see payment options but in summary the more obvious ones are that you may pay by cheque in the reply paid envelope, or at any Post Shop, or at the EW office in Paeroa at 13 Opatito Rd. You cannot now pay at the Hauraki District Council office.

For most ratepayers, the bill will not be huge, but for farmers, particularly those in flood protection areas, the accounts may be very large. You may spread payments over the year if you make arrangements with Environment Waikato. They may be contacted on 0800 800 401, or e-mail rates@ew.govt.nz. Their website is www.ew.govt.nz



EW Rate Arrears

Council has had an agreement with Environment Waikato to collect its rate arrears but now that EW is collecting its own rates there remain the arrears from last year to be dealt with. This sum amounts to around \$200,000. Our Planning and Finance Committee has recommended to Council that we take over the debt of their rate arrears by paying EW \$100,000 as full settlement. Environment Waikato has signalled an interest in accepting this amount. This arrangement gives a small financial advantage to Hauraki of around \$16,000 according to the calculation of our financial staff.

Mining Issues

Council has received the geotechnical report on the stability of the pump house in Waihi from Waihi Gold. The eight volume document has been sent to Council's expert peer reviewer, John Ashby. When received, the reviewer's findings will be presented to Council.

Council has also received draft technical documents describing a proposed Favona underground gold mine. Considerable review and revision is underway. When a full application is ready the applicants will be invited to make a presentation to Council. Meanwhile, the Planning and Finance Committee has recommended that two councillors and an independent commissioner be appointed to hear the application. The councillors recommended are John Tregidga, Chairman of the Hearings Committee, and Mary Carmine, Deputy Chairman of the Hearings Committee. The independent commissioner is Mr Alan Watson. It is expected that the hearing will also include commissioners from Environment Waikato.

Funding Requests

The Planning and Finance Committee recommended turning down a couple of requests for funding at its last meeting. A request for assistance for the 2003 Trust Waikato Child and Family Awards evening in Hamilton was rejected as, although members could see that it was a very worthwhile cause, it was not really relevant to our district, being based in Hamilton.

A request for funding for a sign for the Kauri 2000 Charitable trust was also rejected for similar reasons. Although the sign is to be in our district, the work done, and therefore the benefit, is centred in the TCDC area.

Another request for support for a display at the Waikato Home and Garden Show, promoting the District, was approved. \$500 was approved from the Economic Development budget to assist the NZ Water Lily Gardens with their promotional display.

Elected Members' Diary

Meetings for the week 25th to 31st August 2003.
Thursday 28th August: Full Council Meeting and Citizenship Ceremony.

