



HDC NEWS

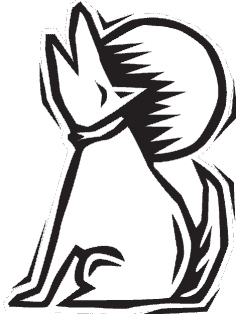


Dogs

The Hearing Committee recently had to deliberate on two appeals against dangerous dog orders. While the two cases were quite different, one involving a bite to a meter reader and the other an attack on a passing dog, both involved dogs that were on or adjacent to their own property. In the first instance the dog was fenced in but the meter reader had to gain access to the property to read the meter. Although this dog was not aggressive normally it bit the meter reader so that she spent three days in hospital, had three weeks off work and eight months rehabilitation. In the other case, the dog had just been let out from confinement and it ran out on to the footpath and severely bit a passing dog that was being walked by its owner.

The law, as it now stands, does not make it mandatory for dogs to be fenced in but it is implied that people should be allowed to get to a door of your house without being attacked by a dog. If a dog does attack it will be declared dangerous and then the law is that you must keep it fenced in (not tied up) in a manner that allows one door of your house to be accessible to members of the public. This is the part of having a dangerous dog that many owners find difficult complying with, particularly those in rental properties.

It is interesting to note that if the proposed changes to the Dog Control Act go through parliament in their present state, this provision will become mandatory for all dog owners in an urban area. The consequences of this provision, should it become law, will be major for council enforcement officers as well as dog owners. It is likely that Hauraki, for example would have to employ a new staff member just to enforce this provision of the Act. The interesting question would then be, who pays the increased costs? Council would need to ask itself who benefited from the service. There is an argument that would say that it is the general public that benefit as they are then safer in going about their legitimate business, walking the streets, delivering mail etc. In that case the increased cost should go on to the ratepayer. On the other hand, another argument could say that the service would not be required if people did not own dogs and that the people who created the problem should pay - that is the dog owners. Council's funding policy already deals with similar issues of stock and dog control (and presumably this is an extension of dog control) by splitting the benefit between the ratepayer and the animal owner. However it is handled, the increase in costs will be major. Submissions on the Bill have closed so we simply have to wait and see what parliament will do with the matter.



Drainage Issues

Issues that surfaced in the Drainage Manager's report at the last Works Committee Meeting

- * The relocation of the Ngatea town drain near the Copper Kettle has been completed.
- * Survey and design for the Pipiroa roadside drain piping is being undertaken. Provision for a sewerage connection to proposed development sites at the northern end of Pipiroa Road, Ngatea, is being incorporated into the design.
- * Council is to go ahead with another trial of grass carp for keeping drains clean. This time it is in the Maukoro Outlet Drain. The last trial failed because the water quality was unsuitable and the fish died. The fish are provided by a supplier who breeds them under controlled conditions (sort of rent-a-fish). They do not breed under the conditions they are kept in in the drains but need an area that they cannot escape from. The water of the Maukoro outlet drain has been tested as being suitable for the survival of the fish. Grass carp are not to be confused with koi carp, which are a pest and undermine river banks.
- * In Paeroa preparation of the contract for renewal of stormwater pipes is progressing. This work will have to precede any Freshlook works. Consultation has taken place with Grey Power on issues relating to stormwater in Paeroa. A number of concerns were discussed including the safety of open drains and the desirability of piping sections of the Main Drain.
- * The Works Committee recommended to Council that 105m of piped drain be constructed in Waihi to serve the low properties in Mangatoeote St at an estimated cost of \$18,780. This is to alleviate a problem that exists in that area of ponding of water on sections.

Ohinemuri Dams

In the renewal of the resource consent for the Ohinemuri water supply, Council is proposing to decommission one of the dams which is used in that supply. The Ohinemuri water supply consists of two dams on the Tarariki stream. At present the supply takes 70% of the five-year low flow, which is unacceptable to Environment Waikato in the normal course of events. Frequently Councils can get away with a high rate of water take if there is a trade-off with some other improvement in the environment undertaken by the Council. For example, in Waihi riparian planting of the stream banks compensated for a higher water take.

In the case of the Ohinemuri supply, it is proposed to abandon the number one dam and take water directly from the stream. This has two environmental advantages. It takes away the silt retention problem dams create and it opens the catchment up to native fish. It is hoped that this proposal will support the permitting of a greater percentage of the low flow to be extracted.

Hotspots to District Boundary Stopbank

The ongoing saga of the consenting of this stopbank has continued with the consent application being notified by Environment Waikato. This means that it was open for anyone who considered they would be affected by the work to make a submission on the matter. Submissions have now closed and three were received. Two of the submissions were from local landowners in support and the other was from the Department of Conservation against the project. Environment Waikato is trying to work out conditions for the consent that will satisfy DoC so that they can avoid a hearing and its associated costs. It is considered unlikely that there will be agreement with DoC on the original proposed alignment and so other options are being reopened so that the most cost-effective proposal can be adopted.

Elected Members' Diary



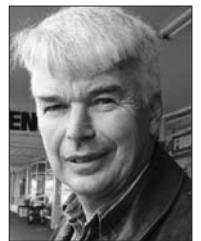
Meetings for the week: 4th to 10th August 2003
Monday 4th August - Ward Committees
Tuesday 5th August - Water and Waste Consultative Committee
Thursday 7th August - Hearing

More Elected Member Education

With the large number of new provisions contained within the new Local Government Act, the Rating Act and changes to the Resource Management Act it is difficult for both elected members and staff to keep up with the law relating to local bodies. There have been a number of seminars organised by Local Government New Zealand that many elected members and staff have attended, but to draw it all together, the law firm Brookfields held a seminar at the Paeroa Racecourse recently to summarise the important changes that affect our Council. Most of the elected members and a large number of staff attended the informative sessions either in the morning or the afternoon.

The Local Government Conference, held this year in Queenstown, is also regarded as a useful addition to elected member education. There are informative keynote addresses given by people, prominent in the field of local body affairs either here or from overseas, and workshops where participants can get more closely to grips with problems that beset all local bodies. Members usually find it very helpful to discover that things they are struggling with are also being a problem elsewhere and it is always useful to find out what other councils have done over issues, which, while they may not be identical, may have similar elements.

This year three councillors - Keith Trembath, Gil Munro and Mary Carmine went to the conference along with the General Manager and the Mayor, who was there also as President of Local Government New Zealand. We will have more about the conference next week.



Keith Trembath



Gil Munro



Mary Carmine

Public Notices



Freshlook 2010

Pursuant to section 83 of the Local Government Act, notice is given to the public that the Hauraki District Council draft statement of proposal For Freshlook 2010 has been prepared. Public submissions and comments are invited. A summary of the draft document will be mailed to all those ratepayers and businesses in the Paeroa ward. Complete copies of the draft statement of proposal will be available from Thursday 7th August at Hauraki District Councils principal office, William Street, Paeroa.

The document can also be viewed on Councils website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz

Submissions close at 4.00pm on Monday 8th September. Submitters will have the opportunity to present submissions at a Special Council Meeting to be held in Paeroa at the Council Chambers 10am on Tuesday 23rd September 2003.

Council staff are available to discuss the content of the document during the submission period. Clinics with interested groups or people can be arranged by contacting Jolene Corbett on 07 862 8609 or 0800 734 834 (from within the district.)

LD Cavers
 GENERAL MANAGER