



HDC NEWS



Your Environment Waikato Rates Invoice

This year for the first time you will receive a separate rates invoice from your Regional Council. Environment Waikato's Regional rates have previously been collected by the 12 district and city councils around the Region. Changes under the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 mean these councils no longer have to collect Environment Waikato rates. You'll now receive a separate rates invoice from Environment Waikato. This is not a new charge - you'll just receive it directly from Environment Waikato instead of your district council. They will be mailing your assessment notice and invoice in early August. You'll only get one invoice from Environment Waikato - there won't be instalments. There are many payment options available and these are listed on the back of the invoice. Your Environment Waikato rates contribute towards environmental regulation, education, consultation and co-ordination, managing water quality, river control and coastal activities, controlling possums and plant pests, preparing for civil defence emergencies and co-ordination of road transport in the Waikato area.

For more information about Environment Waikato rates invoices:

- call Environment Waikato's Freephone 0800 800 401
- e-mail them at rates@ew.govt.nz
- check their website www.ew.govt.nz/rates
- write to them at Environment Waikato, PO Box 4010, Hamilton East.

District Beautification

As part of the Hauraki District Council's vision for the future it has stated that it should create "an environment which encourages vibrant communities and an enhanced quality of life". Creating and maintaining a beautification scheme throughout the district is a visual method of enhancing the community's quality of life. In 1991 a scheme of planting trees along State Highway Two was initiated at the instigation of the Mayor. As well as providing beautification, the scheme was to provide a unifying feature throughout the district. Farmers were approached and planting commenced in 1992. Initially all trees were supposed to be oaks and planes as it was thought that these were trees with a proven history of doing well in the district, however, later many other trees were added to the scheme.

In a review of the scheme presented to Council at its last meeting, the Community Facilities Manager reported that at present there are 631 trees in the scheme, of which eight need to be replanted. Trees range in size from 1.5 m to 8m with the healthiest and most vigorous specimens being planes and oaks.

After considering the report, Council resolved to reinforce its commitment to the scheme and to re-brand the scheme as "Project Unity". The launch of the revived scheme will take place in the 2004/2005 financial year. Any new trees to be planted are to be planes and oaks on the basis of past performance. The existing areas planted are to be reinforced, replanted where necessary, and landowners contacted to try to get more areas planted. When this has been done the scheme is to be extended to the other State Highways extending out 1 kilometre from urban boundaries into rural areas.

Casting Votes or Not

A matter of confusion with the new Local Government Act has arisen regarding the casting vote of the Chairperson of either Council or Committees. The new Act apparently disposes of casting votes but then says - "unless otherwise provided for in this Act or in any standing orders". While it appears that the intent of parliament was that there should not be a casting vote, legal opinions state that where standing orders allow for it Councils should stick with it. The Crown Law Office is not willing to give an opinion so Council has decided to leave the matter on the table until further clarified by our own solicitors. The matter is not a big issue in Hauraki as the Mayor could only recall one casting vote he had used and that was in relation to support a "nuclear free" zone. More recently there has been a casting vote required in one of the committees on one occasion but in both these cases the Chairperson followed the convention of going for the status quo even though in the case of the committee the chairman's deliberative vote had gone the other way. If the casting vote goes, the new system means that the status quo will be maintained if there is a tie in the voting.

Elected Members' Diary



Meetings for the week: 7th to 13th July 2003
 Monday 7th July: Ward Committee Meetings
 Thursday 10th July: Hearing (if required)

Reduce Your Rubbish

Frequently asked questions

Why aren't land fills a good way of dealing with our rubbish?

If there is no other option for dealing with our rubbish then a modern, well designed land-fill is a reasonable option for managing our rubbish. While land fills effectively contain rubbish did you know that:

- Rubbish does not break down well in a land fill. Plastic steel aluminium and even paper and cardboard take tens or hundreds of years to break down.
- While modern land fills do not tend to cause dust or odour problems, nobody wants to live near one.
- As garden rubbish and kitchen scraps break down in a land fill they produce methane. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas and can reach explosive concentrations in enclosed spaces such as basements.
- Rainwater percolating through the land fill and the break down of garden rubbish and kitchen scraps contribute to a liquid called leachate. In old land fills, leachate can escape and contaminate surface and ground-water. In modern well-managed land-fills it costs a lot of money to collect and treat the leachate. This is one of the reasons that the cost of rubbish disposal has increased so much in recent years as higher environmental standards have been insisted on.

So remember to think about reducing the rubbish you put out to go in the land fill. Another couple of tips for rubbish reduction:

- **Reduce:** Send messages electronically, both at work and at home to reduce the paper you use.
- **Reuse:** Plastic disposable plates and cups are very useful for parties and picnics but even though they are labelled "disposable" they can be washed and used numerous times before finally needing to be put in the rubbish.
- **Recycle:** Keep your aluminium cans separate from the rest of the rubbish, squash them and take them to one of the recycling depots. Many schools have bins to collect aluminium cans for their own fundraising or you may have a depot near you that will give you money for them yourself.

Check out the web site: www.reducerubbish.govt.nz

Rules for Members' Expenses

With the new system of paying elected members, which came into force on the 1st July, comes a new regime for members' expenses. The Remuneration Authority is required to determine the expense rules for each council. The process that the Remuneration Authority wants to follow is that the Council should recommend appropriate rules that should apply and submit these to the authority for approval. Hauraki's draft set of rules was adopted by Council at its last meeting. The general principle was that no member should be out of pocket in the course of performing their duty. Expenses incurred in connection with the following will entitle the member to be reimbursed:

- Attendance at properly constituted meetings of Council.
- Attendance at conferences, courses, seminars and similar events, as authorised by the Council.
- Attendance at other meetings, events and functions when attending as an authorised representative of the Council.

These expenses are likely to be mileage for a private motor vehicle and other reasonable and actual expenses.

The detail of these rules will now be sent to the Remuneration Authority for its approval.

PUBLIC NOTICES



2003-2004 Annual Plan

Pursuant to sections 95 and 281 of the Local Government Act 2002, notice is given to the public that Hauraki District Council's 2003-2004 Annual Plan, Policies and Revenue and Financing Statement have been adopted by Council on 26th June 2003 and 1st July 2003. Complete copies of the document will be available from Tuesday 8th July at the Council offices and libraries at:

- > William St, Paeroa.
- > Seddon St, Waihi.
- > Orchard Rd, Ngatea.

This document can also be viewed on the Council's website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz or by contacting Jolene Corbett, Council's Corporate Planner, on 07 862 8609 or 0800 734 834 (from within the District).

LD Cavers
GENERAL MANAGER

PUBLIC NOTICES



CLOSURE OF ROAD TO ORDINARY VEHICULAR TRAFFIC

Pursuant to Section 11(e) of the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974 notice is hereby given that for the purpose of a Country Fair Day organised by Positive Paeroa Inc., the following road will be closed to ordinary vehicular traffic for the period indicated hereunder.

Period of closure: Friday 11 July 2003, between the hours of 9:00am and 3:00pm,
 Road to be closed: Wharf Street, and southern end of Marshall Street PAEROA.

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

L.D.Cavers
GENERAL MANAGER