



HDC NEWS



State Highway Programme

Councillors received a presentation at the last Council meeting from Transit New Zealand at which the programme of state highway construction for the next ten years was outlined. This is the first time Transit has come up with a ten-year programme. Elected members and staff were told that a list of projects for the next ten years had been prepared and prioritised according to a set of priorities set by the Government. At the conclusion of this process the cost of the projects was then compared with the likely money available and it was found that there was not enough money to do the jobs, in fact there was a \$1.2 billion shortfall. Many projects therefore had to be pushed further into the future.

One of the projects that had been pushed forward five years was that of the Kopu Bridge, something which councillors found disappointing. High on the priority list were stretches of State Highway one between Pokeno and Hamilton that are renowned for accidents and congestion. These are on the list because the national priorities put relieving congestion and safety high on the list. These priorities reflect the need to get Auckland's traffic problems sorted out for the benefit of the economy.

The Mayor and councillors were, however, surprised to see that the Karangahake Gorge and Whiritoa Hill did not feature on the list at all. It was pointed out that the traffic counts for these areas have been increasing, particularly in heavy traffic in the Karangahake Gorge and logging trucks on the Whiritoa Road. Whether there are any changes in this trend if further improvements are made on the Hamilton/Tauranga Rd it is hard to predict, but elected members felt that submissions should be made to Transit asking for these projects to be given urgent consideration.

Submissions on the programme are due by the 31st March and Council will be putting in a submission.

Suggestions Please!

The Paeroa Ward Committee in February discussed the need for a name for the new park development by the Criterion Bridge. The park or reserve (depending on your view) has become a spot of greater interest to locals and travelling public. The new setting for the L&P bottle, off-highway parking, more extensive landscaping and walkway has expanded the level of enjoyment people can make of the area but it doesn't have an official name.

A number of suggestions have come forward already and they along with any other names that may likewise be sent in to Council will be considered by the Ward Committee. We really do want feedback on this but it is not a poll, so the suggestion with the most "votes" will not necessarily be the accepted one.

So, if you have an interest in what the name of the new development should be, please send in your suggestion and any background information that maybe required to explain why you have chosen that name. Council's address is PO Box 17, Paeroa or you can drop it off at our office in William Street.

Paeroa Flooding February 2003

The near-stationary front and low pressure system across the Coromandel Peninsula dropped over 320mm of rain on Paeroa in the four and a half days from midnight on Tuesday 24th to 8am on Saturday 1st March. The Racecourse automatic weather station recorded 32mm on Tuesday, 76mm on Wednesday, 200mm on Thursday, and 13mm from Friday to Saturday morning.

Environment Waikato's gauges in the ranges recorded up to 700mm in the same period, while 74mm was recorded in Ngatea, and 31mm at Patetonga. 165mm was recorded in Waihi.

The Paeroa figures are relatively severe intensities, occurring on average once in 20 years for the peak 12 and 24 hour falls, and once in 50 years for the two day total.

The rainfall caused local flooding of a number of roads and intersections later in the afternoon on Thursday, although no roads were closed to traffic. The town stormwater system does not have the capacity to deal with the flows arising from such intense rainfall and a degree of flooding in low lying areas of the town resulted.

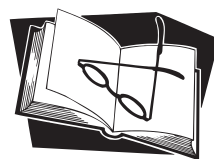
The Main Drain system was full to approximately design standard by late Thursday, with three houses having to be evacuated due to water levels above floor levels. Many more sections and garages were inundated. Some waste water overflow which occurred has been cleaned up and disinfected by maintenance crews.

The main pump system serving Paeroa has four pumps, three electric and one diesel powered. One of the electric pumps, representing about a quarter of the pumping capacity, failed to operate at all. The pump has since been taken out of the station and the fault was found to be a motor wiring burnout. A power supply failure occurred between 4 and 6 am on Friday, as a result of a vehicle hitting a power pole. Prompt action by the line company minimised the supply interruption period.

The Junction Road pumps ran through Thursday and Friday to Saturday morning. The diesel pump at the Criterion bridge ran from 3pm Thursday until 7am Friday.

The pumps had cleared the Main Drain ponding by mid morning on Saturday.

Elected Members' Diary



Week of the 10th to the 16th March 2003:
Monday 10th March: Ward Committee Meetings.

Thursday 13th March: Morning - Works Committee Afternoon - Planning and Finance Committee.

REMINDER OF A CHANGE IN PRIMARY LIABILITY FOR RATES

From 1 July 2003 the Council will be rating under the new Local Government (Rating) Act 2002. Among the changes in the new act is a new rule about who is ultimately responsible for paying rates.

From 1 July 2003 the person who will generally be liable for rates will be the Owner, rather than the Occupier of a rating unit.

However there are some exceptions to the general principle that the owner is the ratepayer.

The main exception relates to certain categories of leases. The first category are leases where:

- * The lease is registered under section 115 of the Land Transfer Act 1952 **and**
- * The lease is for ten years or more (including renewals) **and**
- * The lease provides for the lessee to be entered as the ratepayer of the rating unit.

The second exception is more of a transitional provision to recognise that leases and the like are contracts, and generally can only be renegotiated as they come up for renewal. This condition applies where a lessee is:

- * Entered on the current District Valuation Roll as an "occupier" of the separately rateable property that substantially corresponds to the rating information database; **and**
- * Party to a lease or licence that was signed before 8 August 2001 and remains in force; **and**
- * Party to a lease that either precludes the renegotiation of rent that would allow the owner be reimbursed for rates if they were liable **or** is a lease registered under section 115 of the Land Transfer Act 1951.

This act does not prevent owners and tenants from contracting between themselves as to who actually **pays** the rates. However the council is obligated to send the rates assessment and rates invoice to the person who is identified as the ratepayer. In most cases this will be the owner unless one of the two exemptions above apply.

Council's stance is to record the owner as the ratepayer. We will send the rates assessment and rates invoice to the owner unless they have satisfied Council that they qualify for one of the exemptions above.

Should any owner or occupier of leased land or buildings have any queries please do not hesitate to contact our Rates office on 0800 734 834, 07 862 8609 or email rates@hauraki-dc.govt.nz. Further detailed information is available on Council's web site on www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz.

PUBLIC NOTICES



KERBSIDE NEWSPAPER AND CARDBOARD COLLECTION

Expressions of interest are invited from news paper and cardboard collectors to undertake a Council promoted collection from 4,550 properties within the Waihi, Paeroa and Ngatea urban areas. Currently this service is not provided and a regular service is desired. Collections details and frequency will be dependant on offers received and subsequent negotiations. Council's involvement will be limited to promotion of this service through flyers, and advertising in Council's weekly Newspaper page. Interested parties should provide written details of their organization and possible collection frequency to the Utilities Manager, Hauraki District Council, PO Box 17, Paeroa, by Friday 22 March 2003.

Barry Somers
UTILITIES MANAGER

SITUATIONS VACANT



The Hauraki District Council is a progressive local government organisation serving the Waihi, Paeroa and Plains areas.

The Council is currently seeking to appoint to two full time positions.

Asset Management Systems Officer

This position based in the Paeroa office is part of the Corporate Services Department.

The core duties of the role involve assisting in the development of Council's Asset Management System (AMS), maintaining Council's AMS and Geographical Information System (GIS) datasets, and providing assistance to users of Council's AMS and GIS. A proven ability in the use of databases and spreadsheets is essential and a general knowledge in local authority fields of water, stormwater, sewer reticulations, solid waste, roading and community assets would be an advantage.

The successful candidate will be able to employ judgement and analytical thinking to solve problems together with possessing effective communication skills and the ability to understand and empathise with the users needs.

Parks and General Overseer

This position is based at the Paeroa Depot and is part of the Construction and Maintenance Department.

The successful candidate will be responsible for overseeing construction and maintenance work on the Council's parks and general assets. This includes street cleaning, mowing verges, pavement works, cemeteries and public conveniences. The position is a supervisory position to ensure works are carried out efficiently and requires liaison with the Utilities and Drainage overseer to ensure the best allocation of resources.

The successful candidate will be flexible, able to work under pressure and to meet deadlines. Familiarity with computer systems and a current drivers licence are essential.

Prospective applicants for either of these positions should obtain the job description and application form from the Council's offices in Paeroa, Ngatea or Waihi, from the Council's website or phone Penny Cutler on (07) 862 8609.

Applications for both positions should be at the Council by 4pm Friday 28 March 2003.

Hauraki District Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer

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 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: Sunday 16 March 2003 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.

L.D. Cavers
GENERAL MANAGER