



HDC NEWS



How Climate Change Affects Us

Council's District Plan Committee, along with an occasional other councillor and the Mayor, recently attended a workshop on climate change with speakers from the climate change office of the Ministry for the Environment and Environment Waikato.

Council must take climate change into account in its review of the District Plan as required by the amendments to the Resource Management Act 2004. Climate Change should also be considered in administration of the Building Act and in Civil Defence, although it is clearly better to concentrate on prevention of emergencies rather than leaving the issue for Civil Defence when the emergency has happened.

Whatever our views on global warming and/or the Kyoto Protocol, it cannot be denied that almost all of the climate experts of the world agree that the climate is changing and that the earth is getting warmer. The other irrefutable fact is that any moves to clean up our act in relation to energy conservation and reduction of air emissions will have considerable benefit to the environment of the country regardless of any effect there may or may not be on global warming. In other words, anything we are doing to prevent global warming, we probably should have done anyway for other reasons.

So what are the predicted effects of climate change in our area? Firstly, a sea level rise of between 30 and 50 cm by the year 2100, secondly, a temperature increase of 1 degree Celsius by the 2030s and 2-3 degrees by the 2080s and thirdly, more rain in the west and less in the east with more westerly winds. While these effects may not seem too great the main problem is that there are likely to be more extreme events. A small change in the average can lead to large changes in the extremes with an increase in the frequency and severity of natural hazards (floods, storms and drought), and the costs of these events.

On the positive side a changing climate will mean warmer winters and less energy use. Agricultural and forestry productivity is likely to increase and new crops may be developed that will thrive in the warmer conditions. Communities are also likely to enjoy the health benefits of warmer winters.

On the negative side, climate change increases the risks of more agricultural pests and diseases spreading throughout our communities and the chances of water shortages or flooding are greater. Higher temperatures will affect those crops which need a cold winter to produce well and therefore there will be costs associated with changes of land use. Heavy rainfall could put pressure on drainage and storm water systems and erosion from more frequent flooding is likely to increase road maintenance costs. There is also the risk of biodiversity loss through species not being able to adapt to the new conditions.

Recent amendments to the RMA require consideration of the effects of climate change in decision making. Climate change effects must be considered when land use planning, planning for natural hazards and designing new infrastructural assets with a life time of more than 30 years. Of particular importance are:

- Storm water systems capacity and design
- Water use rights and irrigation scheme placement and design (Environment Waikato)
- Development decisions relating to areas prone to river and sea flooding
- Decisions relating to housing and infrastructure in areas prone to coastal erosion
- Infrastructure and planning decisions that could impact on biodiversity.

Climate change is not a new risk it just means that the risk factors have increased. The Civil Defence Emergency Management Act identifies 44 hazards 27 of which will be made greater by climate change. One of those risks that is particularly important to Hauraki is that of river flood. Government has instigated a two year review of river flood management since the catastrophic floods in the Manawatu and Bay of Plenty. As far as we are concerned our hazard risk is driven by the reliability of our stop bank systems. It is essential therefore that Hauraki works in tandem with Environment Waikato on this issue as the stop banks protect our infrastructure and we have the same set of ratepayers. The difficulty is that we have short to medium term actions to address long term problems. At present the Government is reviewing its policy on climate change. This does not mean that it is reviewing its commitment to the Kyoto Protocol. If you want to find out more about climate change go to www.climatechange.govt.nz

Maori Representation

A decision needs to be made whether at the next election there will be separate Maori representation on Council. At its last meeting Council made the decision not to go with a separate Maori ward on the basis that it felt that move would be divisive and that in talking to a number of Iwi groups there does not appear to be any great ground swell of feeling in the Maori community for such a move. It was felt that a liaison forum or committee would be more appropriate for our district considering the number of different Iwi represented in the district. The decision not to have separate Maori representation is challengeable by a poll if this is demanded by at least 5% of eligible voters in the district.

Citizens Award

Each year Council gives awards to citizens in recognition of outstanding service to the community. Nominations are called for from the public and the final recipients are selected by a subcommittee of Council consisting of the Mayor and the Ward Chairs. This year's recipients were presented with their awards by the Mayor at a ceremony after the last Council Meeting in the presence of the councillors and friends and family of the recipients. The presentations were followed by lunch.

This year's recipients were Audrey Gilbert, Eric Gilbert, Bruce Darvill, Ken Clover, Dick Flint, and Jocelyn Wilson.



Elected Members' Diary



Meetings for the week of the 21st to the 27th November 2005

Thursday 24th November: Full Council Meeting

PUBLIC NOTICE

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 Waitakaruru Primary School 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 27 November 2005 from 11:00am to 3:00pm.

Road to be closed: Coxhead Road Waitakaruru.
Alternative provision for ordinary vehicular traffic: detour via State Highway 2 and State Highway 25

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
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Doggy Bureaucracy

We have already reported the problems with colours of dogs not coinciding with the National Data Base but this is only one of the issues relating to the Dog Control Amendment Act 2003. While we focused on the difficulties of merging our data base with the national one, the issue is really that there is an enormous amount of work to be done in changing these details so that the two systems will merge. Aside from this there is the matter of micro-chipping, which has to be done to all new registrations and to dangerous and menacing dogs by the first of July next year. Budgets for coming years will need to factor in costs for the purchase of equipment required to scan and identify dogs with microchips and the requirement that all dogs unregistered and impounded also be micro-chipped. Also from the first of July Councils are required to fund the National Dog Database and needs to budget for this.

All this will add up to considerable increases in the budget for dog control and by now you will probably have realised that this means that dog fees will need to go up. No, your dog registration fee is not a charge for a little plastic tag, it covers all these other items legally required to keep track of dogs in the District.

TENDER



Grazing Tender Corner State Highway 2 & Town Road Kerepehi

Council invites tenders for the grazing of approximately 14.13 hectares of farmland situated at the Corner of State Highway 2 and Town Road, Kerepehi. The lease is for 1 year from the 18th December 2005. Part of the area currently offered for lease may over time diminish and Council will adjust or review the lease accordingly when land is resumed.

Details of the tender are available from Council's Paeroa Service Centre, Williams Street, Paeroa or by phoning Dennis Lees on (07) 862 8609 or 0800 734 834 within the District.

The last date for receipt of tender is Friday 9th December 2005 by 4.00pm.

Council reserve the right not to accept any or every tender submitted.

PUBLIC NOTICE



Pursuant to Section 46 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, public notice is hereby given that the following meetings will be held during the month of December 2005.

All meetings are to be held in the Council Chambers, Williams Street, Paeroa, *unless otherwise advised.

HEARINGS COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 1 DECEMBER 2005, 9.00 AM
(if required)
THURSDAY 15 DECEMBER 2005, 9.00 AM
(if required)

TUESDAY 6 DECEMBER 2005,
WARD COMMITTEES
PLAINS 9.00 AM
PAEROA 12.30 PM
WAIHI 2.30 PM

COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY 8 DECEMBER 2005, 9.00 AM
THURSDAY 22 DECEMBER 2005, 9.00 AM

EASTERN PLAINS DRAINAGE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 20 DECEMBER 2005, 10.00 AM

WESTERN PLAINS DRAINAGE COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 21 DECEMBER 2005, 10.30 AM

L D Cavers
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

