



HDC NEWS



Hauraki Leads The Way In Cleaning Up Sewerage Effluent

With the opening of the Waitakaruru sewerage treatment scheme and the Waihi Sewerage Treatment upgrade' Hauraki is at the forefront of improving environmental outcomes where sewerage is concerned.

The Waitakaruru Plant, although there are similar plants in other parts of the country, is a great example of an affordable sewerage treatment system for small communities and is one of the first in the country to have taken advantage of the Government subsidy scheme for small sewerage schemes. Its importance environmentally cannot be overemphasised as the old scheme failed to give an acceptable level of treatment before discharge and the difficult soil conditions and the low lying nature of the area also meant that individual septic tank type disposal was at worst ineffective and polluting or at best highly expensive.

The Waihi plant is the first of its type in the country and deals with a long term problem of phosphates in the final effluent so efficiently that the water flowing out of the plant and into the river contains only 0.03 parts per million of phosphates. Phosphates are particularly high in sewerage effluent normally because of the concentrations found in washing powders, soap and detergents. They add to the nutrient balance of the river water and contribute to weed growth, both in the river and eventually in the Firth of Thames where the water ends up. The end result of increased plant growth in waterways is known as eutrophication and in its extreme form can result in the death of the waterway. In Waihi, because it is high in the catchment and the water is relatively clean, higher standards of effluent are required than in towns such as Paeroa which discharges into the already degraded water of the Waihou. The aim is not to put anything into the river that will make it worse than it is at the point of discharge. As it is, the effluent from the Waihi sewerage is now many times cleaner than the river it is entering.



Strengthening And Moving The Pumphouse (As It Affects Council)

Newmont Waihi Gold is in the process of strengthening the old Cornish Pumphouse in Waihi. Their mining licence requires that they protect the Pumphouse and those agencies involved with the icon, such as LINZ (landowner) and the Historic Places Trust, together with Council's expert on pit slope stability all agreed that something had to be done to keep the structure from falling over. Council's only involvement in the process of strengthening will be as a building consent authority.

When the strengthening process has been completed a decision will be made as to whether it should be moved and, if so, where it should be moved to. The Company will make this decision in consultation with all the agencies involved, including the Council. Consideration will have to be given as to the ground stability of the proposed removal route as well as its final resting place. A resource consent is likely to be needed if the structure is to be moved outside the mining licence area. It has been recommended at Council that Hearings Committee members take no part in any discussions on potential Pumphouse relocation as this would compromise their ability to consider any consent application.

Abandoned Vehicles

The disposal of old cars that are of no longer any use to their owners or anyone else can be a problem. Unfortunately some owners see fit to leave these vehicles on roadsides or empty sections to the detriment of the general neighbourhood.

Council removes these vehicles if they find them on Council roadsides. This removal is a cost to the ratepayer. Similarly, Transit removes abandoned vehicles from State Highways. This cost is met by the taxpayer but in essence comes off what would otherwise be spent on maintenance of the State Highway network. In both cases, attempts will be made to identify the owner who has abandoned the vehicle. Council has found this to be highly necessary after (some time ago) inadvertently crushing an abandoned vehicle that was not really an abandoned vehicle - oops.

We would like to emphasise that all this is unnecessary, as the disposal of unwanted vehicles has become relatively simple. Hauraki District Council transfer stations accept unwanted vehicles at no cost provided you have drained the fuel, oil, remove the battery and tyres from the vehicle. Previously the vehicles had to be fully stripped with the upholstery removed but this is no longer the case so all you have to do is to remove the fluids and tyres and have the vehicle towed to the transfer station. The body of the car will be crushed and used for scrap steel.

More Details On The Rubbish Bylaw

Last week we told you about the bylaw as it related to collection of your rubbish. In the same section of the bylaw are some rules about rubbish on your property.

- Every occupier of any premises shall ensure that there is no accumulation of refuse on, about or on any portion of such premises except as provided for in this bylaw.
- Every refuse container, unless it is being emptied, cleansed, repaired or used for depositing refuse, shall be kept closed or covered at all times for the protection of the interior of the container from rain, flies or vermin.
- Refuse shall not be packed tightly in rigid walled refuse containers but shall be stored in such a manner that the whole of the contents shall fall out easily and cleanly when the container is upended.
- No person shall dispose of household refuse by burning in such a manner as to cause a nuisance or in breach of any statutory requirement.
- No person shall bury any household refuse in such a manner as to cause a nuisance.
- No person shall dispose of household refuse on any other property than the property on which the refuse was generated, except if the other property is a Refuse Disposal Site.

In other words you must keep you property clean and tidy and not create a nuisance to your neighbours.

PUBLIC NOTICES

HAURAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL

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 September 2005.

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

KOMATA NORTH, OPUKEKO, TIROHIA-ROKOHU
DRAINAGE DISTRICT COMMITTEES
COMBINED MEETING
WEDNESDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2005, 2.00PM

L D Cavers
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Elected Members' Diary



Meetings for the week of the 19th to the 25th September 2005:

Monday 19th September - Hearing

TENDERS



TENDER FOR REMOVAL OF TWO HOUSES

Council is offering for sale by way of public tender two houses. One is situated in Paeroa and the second is at Maramarua.

The Paeroa House is approximately 136 square metres in area with timber and fibroplank exterior cladding, aluminium windows and iron roof. The Maramarua house is approximately 93 square metres in area with timber weatherboard exterior cladding, wooden windows and concrete tile roof.

Conditions of the tender are available from Council's Service Centre, Orchard Road, Ngatea or Williams Street, Paeroa during normal business hours or by telephoning Dennis Lees on 07 862 8609 or 0800 734 834 within the district

Council may not necessarily accept any or every tender submitted. Tenders close Friday 23rd September 2005 4.00pm.

L D Cavers
CHIEF EXECUTIVE