



HDC NEWS



New Building Act Implementation

Council is still working through the changes the new Building Act has caused for builders. As impacts and issues arise Council is well advanced in the preparation of a draft Procedures and Quality Control Manual.

One significant impact on existing Council resources is where the new Act has caused the most difficulty in its implementation has been the requirement for consent specifications and/or plans to specifically demonstrate how the requirements of the building code are to be met and, once approved, construction needs to take place as per the approved plans and specifications.

This was a major change in approach as consents could previously be issued with the inspectors approving some specifics on site without the need to vary the consent formally, although amended plans and specifications were required.

It is taking some time for builders to understand the new Act and change their approach with some continuing to submit plans and specifications that do not allow the inspectors to determine how all the requirements of the Building Code will be met. If this happens Council has no other option but to return the application or ask for further information. This causes much disturbance, frustration and delay.

Council is dealing with the issue by taking a number of steps, including sending a set of plans that have been considered inadequate to the Department of Building and Housing for peer review. We have asked the Department to assess the adequacy of the documents and the appropriateness of Council's response. Assistance is also being sought from other sources such as BRANZ and a Wellington based Building Act Specialist Company.

Council is also looking at an education programme for builders and architects to assist them to come to grips with the requirements of the new Act. Council staff will soon be setting these programmes in place as well as pre-vet all consents, other than straightforward matters such as fireplaces.

More on Microchipping

Most dog owners should be aware of the new requirements of the Dog Control Act. As of July 1, 2006, most dogs being registered in New Zealand for the first time are required to be microchipped, unless the dog is a working dog. Working dogs are exempt if the owner can prove, through a dog trial, that the dog is kept solely or principally for herding or driving stock. Council staff are available to visit dog owners to carry out a dog trial. If a dog is exempt from microchipping it is still required to wear a tag stating that fact. These tags are available from the Hauraki District Council.

The intent of microchipping is to provide dogs with a unique number to assist in the tracking of lost dogs, dogs classified as dangerous and menacing and to reduce the number of dogs being destroyed. Every year thousands of dogs are euthanized and the main reason has been because an owner can not be located. When a dog is microchipped its owner can easily be located.

A microchip is a Radio Frequency Identification System and functions in a similar way to a supermarket barcode. A microchip responds to a scanner but it is not a transmitter and has no power source. It is about the same size as a grain of rice and is a very common form of identification used in animals in many other countries. The chip is inserted just below the skin, above the animal's shoulders. It contains a number that belongs only to the dog being chipped, providing a secure and reliable way of identification for the rest of the animal's life. As with other injections, microchipping is a simple procedure.

Microchipping a dog is a one-off cost and is a relatively inexpensive. Once the dog has been microchipped, the dog owner will be required to show Council a copy of the micro-chipping certificate. If additional information is required contact Murray Sexton, Dog and Noise Control Officer at the Hauraki District Council on 07 8628609 or 0800 734 834 (from within the district) or view website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz.

Elected Members' Diary

Meetings for the week of the 24th to the 30th July 2006

Thursday 27th July Full Council Meeting



Educating Our Councillors

Several councillors and the Mayor have just returned from the Local Government Conference, which was held this year in Wellington. It is Council's policy to send three councillors and the Mayor to the annual Local Government Conference including one of the newly elected councillors. This year Councillors Gray, Baker and Challis attended and are expected to report back to the full Council at its next meeting. These conferences are generally extremely informative with good knowledgeable speakers and opportunities to network with other elected members from other districts.

We note that we have been taken to task over our definition of 'heuristic' from a previous rather tongue in cheek article about councillor education. Our definitions were dictionary ones but the suggestion that making an educated guess then trying it out to see if it worked could be interpreted as trial and error was the writer's judgement. It depends on the type of problem whether a heuristic or an algorithmic approach is to be most successful. Engineering problems are generally solved using an algorithmic approach but much of Council's work deals with people where answers are not always black and white and here a heuristic approach is often favoured.

The article referred to was meant to be light hearted and the gist of it was intended to indicate that our staff respect our councillors and work with them to achieve results. This, it appears, is not always the case in all councils. Machinery works better when well lubricated to reduce friction. While a small amount of friction can be healthy (try walking without it), continued friction inevitably wears away the component surfaces, slows things down, uses more energy and can eventually start fires.

Reminder to Dog Owners

This reminder gives you an opportunity to register your dog(s) before July 31st 2006. Dogs remaining unregistered after July 31st 2006 will incur substantial penalty fees.

New Trees

The Paeroa Ward has chosen the variety of tree that will replace those Melia trees that need to be removed in the Streetscape project. After much discussion it has been decided to use a variety of magnolia that does not grow too large but is not the miniature variety either. The tree was chosen because it grows to the right size, is not frost tender and is evergreen. It will provide good shade and has attractive flowers.

Budget Exceedances

Councillors were told at their last meeting that there were quite large cost over-runs in the network services department over the last few months. The main cause for this is the storm damage that occurred in April. The expenditure on Emergency Works has exceeded the budget provision by \$570,000 but the total expenditure by the end of the financial year is likely to be around \$750,000. Much of this will be received back in government subsidies so Council's final cost is likely to be around \$245,000.

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOMINATIONS FOR 2006 CITIZEN AWARDS

The Hauraki District Council invites nominations for deserving nominees to be considered for Council's 2006 Citizen Awards. To be eligible, nominees must satisfy the specified criteria. Further information on eligibility and nomination forms can be obtained from Council's Service Centres in Paeroa, Waihi or Ngatea, or by telephoning Customer Services at 07 862 8609 (or 0800 734 834 within district).

Nominations should be addressed to the PA to the Mayor, Hauraki District Council, P O Box 17, Paeroa, to be received no later than 4.00pm on 31 August 2006.

NOMINATIONS FOR 2006 YOUNG ACHIEVERS AWARDS

The Hauraki District Council invites nominations for deserving nominees to be considered for Council's 2006 Young Achievers Awards. To be eligible, nominees must satisfy the specified criteria. Further information on eligibility and nomination forms are available from the Mayor's Office by contacting Erin Wood at 07 862 8609 (or 0800 734 834 within district).

Nominations should be addressed to the PA to the Mayor, Hauraki District Council, P O Box 17, Paeroa, to be received no later than 4.00pm on 31 August 2006.

SITUATIONS VACANT

QUARRY ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT TETLEY'S QUARRY

We are looking for an office administrator at Tetley's Quarry which is a Business Unit operated by Hauraki District Council and is situated on Steen Road, Waitakaruru.

We need someone to take care of the office administration duties and provide a reception service. You will be required to monitor weighbridge activity and ensure the office runs smoothly.

If you have the ability to respond to all types of enquiries while keeping a smile in your voice and good computer skills we would like to hear from you.

Phone HR Advisors Sue (07) 862 5024 or Chris (07) 862 5023

For a full Job Description and Application Forms Alternatively e-mail jobs@hauraki-dc.govt.nz or visit our website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz

Please send us your application by 4th August 2006.

LD Covers
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

