



# HDC NEWS



## Rural Issues - Dogs, LTCCPs and Transit

Local Government New Zealand is the organisation that represents a combined voice of all the Councils in New Zealand. The structure of the organisation is that the country is divided up into zones and in each zone the councils meet regularly to discuss matters of importance to them and to bring issues of importance to the national body so that it can lobby the government on behalf of the members. Hauraki District Council belongs to Zone 2 which covers the Waikato - Bay of Plenty - Gisborne area. Alongside the zones, councils also have a loose association of sector groups, representing the various types of council. Hauraki belongs to the rural sector which gets together a couple of times a year to discuss matters of particular interest to rural authorities.

The rural sector had a meeting in Wellington recently to discuss the relevant issues to country districts. One of the issues that is considered important to many South Island rural Councils is that of dog chipping. Because of the large number of working dogs on many high country and larger sheep stations, the inclusion of working dogs in the mix when it comes to the microchipping of dogs for identification is unpopular among farmers. The issue is not considered serious by other rural Councils and some elected members from the North Island expressed views that they were in favour of including working dogs in the microchipping regime. The difficulty of determining which are working dogs is sighted as good reason to chip all dogs. The expense that is being predicted in the media is considered unrealistic and it is expected that the cost will be between \$10 and \$20 per dog. While there are difficulties in the practicalities of getting the microchipping regime in place, the concept of easy identification of dogs finds favour with councils like Hauraki where dangerous and menacing dogs are a perennial problem.

Of the other issues to surface at the rural sector meeting, most time was spent on the difficulties councils are having putting together their LTCCPs to the satisfaction of Audit and representatives from the office of the auditor general discussed the issues with representatives and pointed out that most of those that have put their draft plans have had them accepted without qualification.

Representatives from Transit were also at the meeting and explained the reasons for their objections to subdivisions near state highways. The gist of this was that they feel that the state highway network needs to be considered before unrestricted development causes problems in overloading roads as it has in Auckland. They indicated that they would prefer to talk with councils as soon as development is planned so that the effect on the state high way network can be considered. In areas near Tauranga subdividers have paid development contributions to Transit for upgrading the network to accommodate the extra population generated by subdivision. This is an interesting concept as the separation of the State Highway network from local roads is because they are seen as being used by all citizens not just those living nearby and are therefore paid for by the road user charges and petrol tax rather than the local residents. We await with interest the submissions of Transit at the hearing on the Waihi rezoning application.

## Flood Risk and Floor Levels

In our incredibly risk averse society, Council is finding itself in a situation where it frequently has to assess risks, not only to itself but to the general public. Not only do we have to take the likelihood of global warming and climate change into account, but we have to factor in the risks posed by these and other possible disasters into our planning processes. These things have been brought about by legislative changes in the Resource Management Act, which requires us to consider Climate

Change and by the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act, which requires us to consider other hazards such as flooding, and earthquake as well.

Our Plan Change application to rezone land at Ngatea residential has alerted us to the matter of climate change as it affects the people of the Hauraki Plains in relation to the risk of flooding. It is apparent that little hard data is available on the risk to properties in Ngatea, for example, and in conjunction with Environment Waikato an undertaking has been made to make a study of what is there at present in terms of floor levels so the consequences of flooding risk can be defined.

In order to carry out this study Council has identified some buildings in Ngatea with particular floor construction and will visit them to establish the lowest level (not counting garages). If your house has been selected for the study you will receive a letter shortly. It really does not affect you except that some council engineers will visit you to measure floor levels. The data will assist in future planning to minimise risks of flooding in habitable dwellings.

## Portfolio Review

Councillors met recently to review the portfolio system of governance that was introduced at the beginning of this electoral term. In dispensing with the two main Standing Committees that we had previously and moving to two Council meetings per month, Council introduced the system where each aspect of Council work had a councillor who was responsible for that area. It was decided when it was instituted that the system would be reviewed at the end of a year. Although the review was slightly longer than a year the consensus was that the system needed longer to prove its worth as it had taken longer for councillors to grow into their roles than anticipated. It was therefore decided to continue the system for the rest of this electoral term with a few minor adjustments which we will bring to you next week.

## Elected Members' Diary

Meetings for the week of the 13th to the 19th March 2006  
Tuesday 14th March: Ward Committees  
Thursday 16th March: Full Council Meeting.

## Council Organisations

In its review of portfolios and appointments held recently, Council looked at the situation regarding Council Organisations. A Council Organisation is one to which Council has an appointed member. Many Incorporated Societies and trusts have, as part of their constitution, the requirement to have a representative appointed by Council. This does not have to be a councillor but in most cases a councillor fills the role. Council is now going to consider whether it wants to appoint a representative to each of these organisations. Where large amounts of ratepayer money is involved as in Positive Paeroa and Go Waihi it is important for Council to have such a representative but in some cases where there is really no involvement in the organisation it is probably unnecessary. The reason for the appointment may have been historic and may be no longer relevant.

Having a Council representative appointed to an organisation bestows certain obligations on the organisation. The organisation is required to send in full audited accounts to Council annually and Council is obliged to check to see that these accounts are not only in order but that the organisation is not running at a loss.

Council may recommend to some organisations that they amend their constitution to remove the requirement for a Council representative on their committees or list of trustees.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### WATER SUPPLY SHUT DOWN

Council wishes to advise you that the Kerepehi Water Treatment Plant will be turned off to allow contractors to connect into a new water supply pipeline. This will affect water pressures on the Hauraki Plains on the night of:

Wed 15th March 06 - 11:00pm to 3:00am

Council's best efforts will be used to ensure that minimal inconvenience occurs. If you require further information please phone 0800 734 834.

TONY PRICE  
Project Manager

## SITUATIONS VACANT

### ENGINEERING OPPORTUNITIES

We currently have 3 positions available within our small and versatile technical services team;

ASSISTANT ENGINEER

CONSENTS ENGINEER

ENGINEERING ASSISTANT

This team is responsible for providing engineering design and related professional services to internal departments within the Hauraki District Council. These diverse and critical roles can include investigation work, survey and design for projects, and provide assistance in relation to customer service enquiries such as consent applications, roading issues, infrastructure assets.

As the ASSISTANT ENGINEER you will preferably be tertiary qualified with a BE, and have had previous experience in hydraulic modelling. Your primary responsibilities will involve engineering design, investigations, survey and design for council assets. You will have responsibilities with internal and external customers, so fantastic communication skills is a must.

As the CONSENTS ENGINEER you will need to be tertiary qualified with at least an NZCE or preferably a BE, have a working knowledge of the RMA, Building Code and have experience in general civil engineering design and construction. You will provide professional engineering services; design and planning, to our Planning and Environmental Services Department and other internal and external customers. Again, great professional and communication skills is essential. As the ENGINEERING ASSISTANT you will preferably have experience in survey and site work. This role represents an excellent opportunity to move towards a professional career in engineering. You will therefore need to be enthusiastic, fast on your feet, quick of mind, be keen to learn and be prepared to turn your hand to any job that needs to be attended to for your team. At HDC we provide great prospects to further develop your career, an opportunity to be involved with engineering projects of significance and have a direct input into the future of your community.

**For Application forms and Job Descriptions please contact HR Advisors**

**Sue Greenville or Christine Laurenson**  
**07 862 8609, E-mail jobs@hauraki-dc.govt.nz**  
**or visit our website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz**  
**Applications close Thursday, 30 March 2006**

L D Cavers  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE