



HDC NEWS

Tuesday, January
8th, 2008



Understanding Council - Lesson 4 Water and Waste Water)

Council spends \$2 million annually on maintaining and operating the water supplies with a further \$1.2 million being required for depreciation. This, of course, is only paid for by the users of the supply, so if you are in an area that does not have a reticulated water supply you will not pay for this. Consumers of water pay a uniform charge of \$60 per year and then pay a charge up to 85 cents per cubic metre of the water they use as measured by a water metre at the gate.

Council has numerous water supplies, some of which are small with only minimum treatment. Some of the issues relating to water that will face the council over the next few years are related to these small supplies. There are issues relating to resource consents and the big issue is the new law on drinking water standards which mean we will have to upgrade all our supplies in one way or another to comply fully with the Act even though consumers may be largely satisfied with the quality of the water now and there are no issues with health. Because of these matters we have \$4 million to \$6 million per annum to spend on capital items over the next few years – doesn't sound much if you say it quickly. Council plans to incorporate a number of the smaller scheme areas into larger supplies – for example, the current Waikino supply source will eventually be closed and Waikino will be supplied from Waihi.

We spend \$2 million per year on operating and maintaining sewerage treatment plants with a further \$900,000 allowed for depreciation. Capital expenditure is at present at only \$1 million because this is where Council's focus has been for the last few years and most of the plants have been upgraded and are now working well. The one area where there are continuing needs for expansion of the reticulation is in Waihi, where residential growth has necessitated an expansion of the network.

Solid waste – rubbish in other words – costs Council \$1.2 million per annum for operating and annual capital expenditure of \$300,000. The collection of rubbish is contracted out but Council owns and maintains two transfer stations. Over the next year kerbside recycling is due to start in the main towns and waste minimisation strategies will be worked on. Some of the costs included above are for the compliance costs associated with the closure of our old rubbish tips.

Our Mayor to Chair Forum

At the first meeting of the Hauraki Gulf Forum since the Local Body Elections HDC Mayor, John Tregidga, was elected Chairman of the Forum. This is a considerable honour to the Hauraki District and to Mayor Tregidga as the Forum consists of members of all councils surrounding the Gulf together with Tangata Whenua representatives of the region.

The former Chair, Laly Haddon, who is a Tangata Whenua representative, had stepped down from the chair due to ill health and Mayor Tregidga won the position from another nominee, Michael Lee, who is Chairman of the Auckland Regional Council.

The Gulf Forum meets every two months in Auckland and deals with environmental issues affecting the Gulf with the objective of getting all those Councils who have an effect on the Gulf to work together and adopt a coordinated approach.

Rates Rebate

Many people have applied for the rates rebate that is available to those on lower incomes. If you think you may be eligible, for example if you earn under about \$30,000, make an appointment with our friendly staff at your nearest office – Paeroa, Waihi or Ngatea and take your rates assessment, Environment Waikato rates assessment and proof of your income with you and we will work out whether you will get a rebate. You can apply any time. It does not matter that you may have paid the most recent instalment of rates. The rebate is still available if you are eligible.

Customer Survey

Council has finished its triennial customer survey and councillors will consider the results over the next few weeks. The survey was a telephone one and covered a range of respondents from various age and ethnic groupings. In general there is not a huge difference from the results of the last survey but, if anything, there is a slightly higher degree of satisfaction with Councils service provision.

There is still some dissatisfaction with the condition of footpaths and the understanding of the decision-making process that Council adopts, but customers are particularly happy with our libraries, parks and reserves and public halls. We will go into more detail over the next few weeks and will endeavour to fill in the gaps about our decision-making processes.

Sustainability or What? - Food Miles

You have probably heard the expression "food miles". It was coined in England to alert people to the environmental damage caused by sending food by air all around the world. It is a simple concept, urging people to consider how far the food they buy has travelled and it caught on immediately. Unfortunately, because it is a simple concept it is simplistic and does not tell the whole story relating to the 'carbon footprint' left by producing food. For example it could well be less damaging to the environment to send something that is produced in a natural way, with very little energy used, half way round the world by air than to produce the same product in a glass house heated by power produced from a coal fired power station. In other words just looking at how far food has travelled only tells a portion of the story and the way in which the product has been grown, harvested and processed is also important.

Of course all this is too hard for the average consumer to work out so keep a few simple rules in mind if you really want to make your food choices sustainably.

- Grow your own where possible – even the smallest section has room for a few lettuces, broccoli and silver beet.
- Buy food that is in season and, where possible, locally produced. This does not mean that you have to forgo bananas and pineapple entirely. Just think what would happen to the economies of many developing nations if we stopped buying tropical fruit, rice, coconut, coffee, tea and cocoa.
- Buy fresh and unprocessed food.

If you stick to these simple guidelines you will be benefiting, not only the planet, but your health. Funny, I think I recall saying that before in relation to walking instead of taking the car. Is there a theme developing here?



Hauraki District Council Consolidated Bylaw, Part 9, (Wharves)

Pursuant to section 86 of the Local Government Act 2002, notice is given that following the Special Consultative Procedure submission process and the ordinary meeting of Council held on 19th December 2007, the Hauraki District Council Consolidated Bylaw, Part 9, (Wharves) has been adopted. The Hauraki District Council Consolidated Bylaw, Part 9, Wharves will come into force on 1st February 2008.

A copy of the bylaw parts adopted to date can be viewed at the libraries and Council offices in Ngatea, Paeroa and Waihi, downloaded on the Council website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz or obtained by calling 07 862 8609 or 0800 734 834 (from within the District).



Elected Members' Diary

Meetings for the week of the 7th January to the 13th January 2008:

No scheduled meetings



Cadetship – Engineering (Civil)

The Hauraki District Council is offering a school leaver a great start towards a career in Engineering by offering a Civil Engineering cadetship. This means you would earn a competitive salary while you learn as well as have your course fees paid for providing you succeed. With this system you would be able to get practical work experience as well as gain a Diploma in Engineering (Civil).

Our In-House Technical Services Business Unit is an engineering unit providing professional civil engineering services to Council's Asset Managers, the Community Services Department and the Planning & Environmental Services Department. The Cadetship is for a 4 year term where you will attend courses at a NZQA accredited institution and spend the balance of your time applying theory to practice in the real work environment.

Your job as a cadet would involve assisting with surveying, investigation and design of water, wastewater, stormwater and roading projects. You would also learn to assist with contract document preparation and site supervision.

In return you can look forward to:

- A supportive friendly work environment,
- Developmental opportunities to enhance your career,
- The chance to put theory into practice with "hands-on" work,
- Time off for study,
- A competitive salary package.

Applicants must have excellent mathematical skills and a desire to make a career in the Engineering field.

For Application forms and Job Descriptions please contact Julie Sweeney or Janet Tee (07) 862 8609, or E-mail jobs@hauraki-dc.govt.nz or Visit our website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz
Applications close on Friday 18th January 2008



CLOSURE OF ROAD TO ORDINARY VEHICULAR TRAFFIC

Pursuant to the 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 13 January 2008 from 10:00am to 5:00pm.

Road to be closed: Goble Road Paeroa.

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.

