

Manager Planning & Regulatory Report – December 2009



Resource Consents

Since the last report, the following resource consents have been granted under delegated authority:

RM090042	Variation of conditions to Subdivision Consent RM070030 (Stage 2): Create two additional residential lots and a reserve L.T. & J.J. Buckingham Hunter Crescent Waimate	11/11/09
RM090046	Subdivision (Stage 3): Create eight residential lots, an access-way and road extension L.T. & J.J. Buckingham Hunter Crescent Waimate	27/11/09
RM090047	Subdivision: Boundary Adjustment with amalgamation P.L. & L.J. Brown 2508 Hakataramea Highway Ikawai	27/11/09

Oceania Dairy: A joint hearing with Environment Canterbury to determine the various resource consents required for the proposed milk processing facility near Glenavy is scheduled to be heard on 21 and 22 December 2009 at the Council Chambers in Waimate.

Waimate Childcare Centre: Council has received notice of an appeal to the Environment Court by a neighbour over the decision of the Hearings Committee to grant consent to the proposed extension to the existing childcare centre in Innes Street, Waimate.

Civil Defence Emergency Management

National Health Coordination centre has stood down now at code white in regard to the H1N1 virus. Previous outbreaks of infectious influenza have presented in three distinct waves and vigilance should be maintained should this outbreak follow historic patterns. There has been some suggestion of a second wave in the Northern Hemisphere.

Waimate Civil Defence Emergency Management hosted a meeting with representatives from NZ Police, Meridian Energy, ECAN flood control and Waitaki Civil Defence Emergency Management. Potential spilling over the Christmas / New Year period was discussed and plans for evacuation of campers if required.

Sub-regional Civil Defence Emergency Management meeting was attended at Twizel with Meridian Energy. Discussion centred around various tectonic and fault issues with regard to patency of electricity supplies.

Further meetings and appointments were:

- Routine meeting with Waitaki Civil Defence Emergency Management to discuss cross border issues.
- Attended Canterbury Civil Defence Emergency Management forum to discuss regional issues.
- Civil Defence Emergency Management presentation to Waimate Boys Brigade.

Our current Civil Defence Controller has resigned effective from 16 December 2009. Mr John Shefford, an existing staff member, will as part of his current duties take over the role.

Pareora River Toxic Material

The Canterbury Regional Council has advised that there are large growths of potentially toxic cyanobacteria (*Phormidium sp.*) present in the Pareora River. Just upstream of Pareora Huts, large mats have sloughed off the rocks and are accumulating on rocks and along the stream edge. This situation is undesirable for a number of reasons. Firstly, the algae tends to produce more toxin when exposed and under stress. Secondly, the exposed mats are more accessible to dogs. Also noted were growths below Evans Crossing, and it is likely there are cyanobacterial mats at numerous sites between these two points. A more detailed survey of these sites has been completed, and samples for biotoxin analysis have been sent for analysing.

A media release has been issued, and people staying at the Pareora Huts may be spoken to.

2010 Local Elections

Planning has already started for next years elections.

Below is a simple timetable for the elections.

On/after 1 February 2010	Complete EO's declaration
2 March – 30 April 2010	Issue Ratepayer Roll Enrolment Confirmation Letters
May 2010	SOLGM Ratepayer Roll Campaign
12 May 2010	EEC test data sent to EO's
By 30 June 2010	Optional early processing and order of candidate's names resolutions
5 July 2010	EEC enrolment update campaign commences
9 July 2010	Receive residential roll data from EEC
12-21 July 2010	Compile preliminary electoral roll
No later than 23 July 2010	Public notice of election, calling for nominations, roll open for inspection
23 July 2010	Nominations open. Roll open for inspection.

20 August 2010	Nominations close (12 noon) Rolls close (close of business)
25 August 2010 (or as soon as practicable)	Public notice of day of election, candidates names and other information
By 27 August 2010	Receive final data from EEC Ratepayer roll insert with rates notice
By 13 September 2010	Final roll to be certified by the Electoral Officer
17 September 2010	EEC contact unpublished roll electors
17-22 September 2010	Delivery of voting documents
17 September – 9 October 2010	Progressive roll scrutiny Special voting period Early processing period
By 12 Noon 8 October 2010	Deadline for appointment of scrutineers
9 October 2010	Election Day (voting closes at 12 Noon) Preliminary results announced
9-13 October 2010	Qualification of special votes and official count
13-20 October 2010	Declaration/Public Notice of results
Mid December 2010	Return of election expenses forms

Pest Management

On behalf of Council, the matters listed below will be presented to the Regional Council during the review of the Canterbury Regional Pest Management Strategy.

Rabbits

The strategy fails to recognise the threat that rabbits pose to biodiversity values and, as a consequence, the unfair burden place on land owners to totally fund rabbit control where they reside. There is growing evidence to suggest this is a regional and national issue because of their effect on bio-diversity and carbon emission due to the prevention of establishment of carbon sequestration, using native vegetation.

Waimate District Council request that:

1. The Regional Pest Management Strategy be amended to provide for a 50% general rate contribution to the operational cost of rabbit control;
2. Environment Canterbury approach the Ministry for the Environment for funding in lieu of Carbon sequestration benefits arising from farmers controlling rabbits and thus protecting native vegetation;
3. Environment Canterbury approach the Department of Conservation for funding in lieu of the benefits arising from farmers controlling rabbits and thus protecting biodiversity; and
4. Environment Canterbury to reduce the costs of consents associated with the use of control tools.

Wallabies

It is noted that little progress is being made with controlling wallabies. Too much emphasis is placed on the cost of control and who should pay.

Wandering Stock

There has been an increase of instances relating to stock wandering onto roads, including State Highways. This is a real concern for stock owners and motorists as well as Waimate District Council staff. Stock owners are required to ensure the fencing of animals is adequate to contain all stock.

Control of Dogs

The Waimate District Council's Control of Dogs bylaw requires all dogs to be kept on a leash when in a public place; however dogs are prohibited from a number of Waimate areas, including Seddon Square, Swimming Pool, Knottingley Park Cricket field and playground, Victoria Park cycle track and playground, Waimate Cemetery, Town Belt and Wilkin Street playground.

It is also a requirement that dogs' faeces in public areas are immediately picked up, and responsibly disposed of, and that owners of dogs do not allow their dogs to become a nuisance or annoyance by barking and wandering. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in an infringement fine.

Noise concerns

There have been a number of complaints made recently in regard to loud music and parties. The Waimate District Council's Noise Control Officer has the power to seize stereos that are causing a disturbance.

People are urged to, when playing loud music; ensure the noise does not affect the neighbourhood.

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