
REPORT 7
(1215/12/IM)

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER REPORT BACK

1. Purpose of Report

This report provides the Board with information about matters of interest to the Tawa Community.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Community Board:

- 1. Receive the information.*

3. Summary

The monthly report on general matters is attached as Appendix 1.

Contact Officer: *Neil Cherry, Chief Financial Officer*

Infill Housing Consultation Update

The Council received 763 submissions on the discussion paper ***How and where will Wellington Grow? - Proposals for change and character protection***. The Council's Urban Development team are currently in the process of preparing a summary report from the submissions, outlining the key themes from the feedback. The summary findings, combined with recommendations on the way forward, will be reported to the Council's Strategy and Policy Committee on 11 September 2008. At this stage it is still anticipated that a final policy, together with any District Plan implications, will be completed by the end of the year.

WCC Call Centre CONFIRM System Reporting

During previous Board meetings we have discussed the correct process for raising and logging issues with the Council's Call Centre. All calls and issues raised are logged in the Council's CONFIRM system. We are currently exploring the development of an extract report that will collate and report issues of concern and interest to the Board. I will keep the Board updated on progress on this initiative. In the meantime, if Board members are interested in the status or resolution of issues logged by the call centre please contact me directly.

Tawa BMX Track

Unfortunately, with all the recent rain parts of the Tawa BMX track have become storage areas for water and therefore have posed a potential health and safety risk. Council officers and contractors were alerted to the issue and agreed to a plan that would, initially, pump the excess water from the track and then instal a sump and field drains to stop the problem from recurring. While on site contractors were also asked to undertake further work to complete the track surface and prepare the sides of the track ready for planting.

Porirua Stream Catchment: Community Restoration Group Meetings

As part of the Council's Stream Protection Programme the Council is engaging with various community groups working in the Porirua Stream catchment area in order to develop a community restoration plan. The process is similar to the plan and process developed for the Kaiwharawhara Stream.

In conjunction with the Porirua City and Greater Wellington Regional Councils the Council has commissioned research on priorities for the ecological restoration in the Porirua Stream catchment. The research will provide a basis for more detailed planning on initiatives with the community.

The Council is holding two catchment-wide meetings with interested community groups; the first to discuss restoration work and priorities. The second meeting will focus on the outcomes of the research.

The first meeting is scheduled for **Monday 18 August, 7.30 – 9.00pm** at the Tawa Community Centre.

Telecommunications Facilities and the Council's Consent Process

Over a period of time there have been a number of issues raised by the community regarding applications being lodged with the Council for telecommunication facilities. The following provides a general overview of the nature and extent of applications the Council is expecting across the City and the process by which these applications are managed. The general information has been compiled by the Council's resource consent team and applies to applications received within Tawa.

Who are the players and what are their applications for?

Historically, the majority of applications have been received from Telecom and Vodafone. *Telecom Mobile* are currently upgrading their network to include new technology and the Council expects to receive a number of applications in the future. *Vodafone* have spent a significant amount of time upgrading their network over the last four years and the majority of their upgrade has been completed. *Woosh* and *New Zealand Communications Ltd.* are more recent entrants into the market.

The Council's Powers under the Resource Management Act

Essentially, the Council has limited powers of control under the RMA for most of the telecommunications facilities. The Council's control is limited to the District Plan which outlines how applications for utilities are to be assessed. The majority of applications received are either Permitted Activities or Controlled Activities under the District Plan.

Permitted Activity proposals are those which fit within the permitted conditions of the District Plan. Although these proposals do not require resource consent, the network operators generally lodge applications for a Certificate of Compliance although it is not a requirement to do so. A Certificate of Compliance is simply a document which states their proposal does not require resource consent. A number of the current Telecom Mobile applications and the vast majority of the Chorus roadside cabinets fit into this category.

Controlled Activities are those which resource consent it required although Council must grant consent. The Council does however have the power to impose conditions to help mitigate the effects of the development. The majority of the New Zealand Communication applications fall within this category (including the proposed installation on Abilene Crescent in Churton Park, which has been the subject to some interest). For these applications the Council, where possible, require some kind of visual mitigation around the cabinets such as landscaping. Although it is acknowledged that some of these sites have visual effects on the surrounding environment to some extent, particularly those in residential areas, they are effects which are anticipated by the District Plan.

A significantly smaller number of applications fall within the Discretionary activity status. Council powers are considerably greater when considering these applications as the Council has the powers to grant or decline consent. When the Council have approved applications within this activity status they are satisfied there will be no adverse effects on neighbouring properties or the surrounding environment.

Safety Requirements

The issue has been raised regarding the safety of the telecommunication sites with respect to radiofrequency emissions. The Council finds this is an issue that also concerns many residents.

The District Plan permitted activity conditions require any installation which emits radiofrequency emissions to comply with the New Zealand Standard NZS 2772:Part1:1999 Radiofrequency Fields Part 1 – Maximum Exposure Levels – 3kHz to 300 Ghz (or subsequent amendments). These standards are based on international recommendations. All recommended exposure levels under these standards are at least fifty times lower than the level at which any adverse effects on humans have been observed (i.e. at levels where the body level heating occurs). In general cellular telecommunication sites operate at levels of only a few percent of the public exposure levels in this standard.

All applications the Council has received include documentation to demonstrate compliance with this New Zealand Standard.