Planning Committee

Notice of Meeting
A meeting of the Planning Committee will be held in the Council Chamber, Forum North, Whangarei on:

Wednesday
13 August 2014
10.00am

Committee
Councillor G C Innes (Chairperson)
Her Worship the Mayor
Cr S J Bell
Cr S J Bretherton
Cr C B Christie
Cr P A Cutforth
Cr S J Deeming
Cr S M Glen
Cr P R Halse
Cr C M Hermon
Cr G M Martin
Cr B L McLachlan
Cr S L Morgan
Cr J D T Williamson
OPEN MEETING

APOLOGIES

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST
Members are reminded to indicate any items in which they might have a conflict of interest.

INDEX

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item No</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Minutes of a Meeting of the Planning Committee held 9 July 2014</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Submission on Far North District Council Plan Change 18 – Genetically Modified Organisms</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>“Eco-sourcing Guidelines” for Native Plants</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Wandering Stock at Mokau</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>New Road Name – Resource Consents</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recommendations contained in this agenda may not be final decisions. Please refer to the minutes for resolutions.
1. Minutes: Planning Committee
   Wednesday, 9 July 2014

Minutes of a meeting of the Planning Committee of the Whangarei District Council held in the Council Chamber, Forum North on Wednesday 9 July 2014 at 10.00am

Present:
Cr G C Innes (Chairperson)
Her Worship the Mayor S L Mai, Crs S J Bell, S J Bretherton, C B Christie, S J Deeming, S M Glen, C M Hermon, P R Halse, G M Martin, B L McLachlan, S L Morgan and J D T Williamson

In Attendance:
Group Manager Infrastructure and Services (S Weston), Water Services Manager (A Venmore), Waste and Drainage Manager (A Carvell), Solid Waste Engineer (J Langsford) and Senior Meeting Coordinator (C Brindle)

Procedural motion

Moved: Cr Innes
Seconded: Her Worship the Mayor

“That the Planning Committee meeting be adjourned and reconvened in the Council Chamber at 10.30am.”

CARRIED

THE PLANNING COMMITTEE ADJOURNED AT 10.01 AM AND RECONVENED IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, FORUM NORTH ON WEDNESDAY 9 JULY AT 10.30AM

Minutes of the reconvened meeting of the Planning Committee of the Whangarei District Council held in the Council Chamber, Forum North on Wednesday 9 July 2014 at 10.30am

Present:
Cr G C Innes (Chairperson)
Her Worship the Mayor S L Mai, Crs S J Bell, S J Bretherton, P A Cutforth, C B Christie, S J Deeming, S M Glen, C M Hermon, P R Halse, G M Martin, B L McLachlan, S L Morgan and J D T Williamson

In Attendance:
Chief Executive Officer (M P Simpson), Group Manager Infrastructure and Services (S Weston), Governance Manager (D Kula), Building Compliance Manager (B Rogers), Policy and Monitoring Manager (P Waanders), Regulatory Services Manager (G Couchman), Team Leader Consents (K Ryan) and Senior Meeting Coordinator (C Brindle)

Apology:
Cr P A Cutforth

Moved: Cr Martin
Seconded: Cr Glen

“That the apology be sustained.”

CARRED

1. Confirmation of Minutes of a Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 11 June 2014

Moved: Cr McLachlan
Seconded: Cr Morgan
“That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on Wednesday 11 June 2014 having been circulated, be taken as read and now confirmed and adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings of that meeting.“

CARRIED

2. Confirmation of Minutes of a Meeting of the Community Funding Subcommittee held on 11 June 2014

Moved: Cr Deeming
Seconded: Cr Martin

“That the minutes of the meeting of the Community Funding Subcommittee held on Wednesday 11 June 2014 having been circulated, be taken as read and now confirmed and adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings of that meeting, subject to the time Cr Glen joined the meeting being amended to 8.33am."

CARRIED


Moved: Cr Christie
Seconded: Cr Williamson

“That the report be received."  

CARRIED

Cr Halse requested it be recorded in the minutes that he spoke on the subdivision consent application by J Panoho located at Puwera granted by Commissioner Les Simmons.

4. Annual Operating Fund June 2014 Quarterly Reporting

Moved: Cr Morgan
Seconded: Her Worship the Mayor

“That the information be received."  

CARRIED

Cr Williamson declared an interest in regard to Kiwi North.

5. New Road Name – Resource Consents

Moved: Cr Martin
Seconded: Cr Williamson

“That the new private road at Fourth Ave be named Milla Mae View."

CARRIED

The meeting closed at 10.53am

Confirmed this 13th day of August 2014

G C Innes (Chairperson)


**Resource Consents Manager**

The number of applications received during June increased significantly from the previous month noting that, usually, there is a disparity between the number of applications lodged for subdivision and land use in any given month. For this month, the number of subdivision and land use applications both increased substantially.

The completion of subdivisions through the Section 223 and 224 process remains steady.

Staff have commenced recording of information relating to each consent in accordance with the National Monitoring Strategy instigated by the Ministry for the Environment. This has required a small amount of adjustment to current processes and will mean additional administrative time (approximately 10-15 minutes) spent on each consent – which time is charged back to the applicant.

No decisions were issued by Commissioners during July. However, one hearing for a 74 lot subdivision on Three Mile Bush Road for Evo Holdings Limited was held. The hearing has been adjourned pending further information regarding conditions being provided.

**The Policy and Monitoring Manager (P Waanders) reports for July 2014**

After having notified three Plan Changes, which was a massive task, the Policy Team progressed the Rural Plan Change to the workshop stage. With whatever amendments Councillors would make staff will distribute the Draft Rural Plan Change for Stakeholder input.

Court Mediation on the Ruakaka Race Course and ongoing discussions on the Regional Policy Statement occupied much of the Staff’s time during the month.

Notwithstanding several vacancies, the Futures team have progressed their projects into the new financial year with the expectation of certain implementation projects in the Village Plan area. The team continue to play their role in the various harbour management strategies, UNISA, population and social modelling and biodiversity implementation.

Filling the vacancies both in Policy and Futures is a priority to be able to progress the Central Whangarei Structure Planning and producing the District Plan rolling review.

**Building Consents Manager**

The reporting period 23 June through to 26 July 2014 continues to indicate a solid adjustment back to levels more in line with the general economy and construction industry trends.

Total building work consented was $17.96 million dollars with 127 building consents. The residential to commercial ratio of work was 57% residential to 43% commercial based on dollar value. This month achieved $7.80 million worth of commercial building work consented spread over 14 building consents. Compared to $10.16 million residential building work spread over 113 consents this demonstrates a light bounce back for commercial. The high number of residential building consents is directly related to the high number (44) fireplaces. Of the 113 residential building consents 24 of these were for new house builds with a value of; $7.54 million.

Building inspections were 556 completed down from 586 completed same time last year. The drop in number can easily be attributed to the inclement weather recently experienced. Code Compliance Certificates (CCCs) issued were a strong 151 with a weaker 84 Land Information Memorandum (LIMs) issued.

**Regulatory Services Manager**

During July the Compliance Team investigated an increased number of complaints as the result of flooding during a week of heavy rain. As would be expected complaints were received about stormwater runoff across the ground between residential properties and flooded septic tank effluent fields.
The team assisted in civil defence assessment of flooded properties across the district as well. A notice to fix under the Building Act was also issued requiring remedial work on an unconsented relocated dwelling. This included reinstatement of roof trusses and strengthening of foundations.

The review of the Public Places Bylaw and separately the Signs Bylaw is progressing through the special consultative process required by the Local Government Act 2002 for bylaw reviews. The consultation period for the review of these bylaws ran from the 3 June to the 4 July and 116 submissions were received on the Public Places Bylaw and 7 were received on the Signs Bylaw. A large number of submissions related to horses on beaches (109). A public hearing was held on the 30 July and council will now consider the submissions before adoption of the reviewed bylaws.

The District Licensing Committee has now been in operation for 5 months and have determined 285 applications during that time under the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012. The committee meet weekly and most applications are dealt with on the papers where applications are not opposed. Three public hearings have been held where applications were opposed.

Dog registration has progressed well during the month and a significant number of people are now using an electronic registration process. Just under 10,000 dogs were registered last year.

**Community Services Manager**

The team has continued to deliver consistent results over the last month. As we start into the new financial year we have used this opportunity to report back to Council on our Funding and Advisory activities with respective annual reports being prepared and included in this month’s agenda for the Planning committee.

While these reports look at the 13/14 year, the first month of the 14/15 year has had some highlights for the department. Much of these are covered later in this group report but a couple are covered off below:

In response to the severe weather in July, a Mayoral Relief Fund was established. Quick work by the team meant it was publicized from 18 July 2014 onwards. The application process was kept simple and focused on timeliness and assisting with welfare needs. While the work has been challenging at times and some more complex situations going beyond the realms of the Mayoral relief fund, the district wide customer engagement has been personally and professionally satisfying for the team.

On the ‘Community Safety’ front, Northpower have now partnered with Council and their staff are now uploading graffiti vandalism of their assets into the Stop Tags database, which enables the Police to have instant access to graffiti vandalism occurring in the Whangarei district. Our staff attended a handful of youth justice meetings this month, for some significant vandalism offenders and various results were achieved. It is hoped that continued focus in this area will help minimise graffiti vandalism in our district.

**Resource Consents**

The Resource Consents Manager (A Hartstone) reports for July 2014

Volunteer of Resource Consents Manager (A Hartstone) reports for July 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Subdivision Consents Received</th>
<th>Land Use Consents Received</th>
<th>Total Consents Received</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jul-14</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug-14</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep-14</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct-14</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov-14</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec-14</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan-14</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb-14</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar-14</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr-14</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May-14</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun-14</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul-14</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Trendline for total
Volume of Other Permissions Received

Volume of Resource Consents Processed
Distribution of when a decision is made for Non-Notified Resource Consent and other Permission Applications

![Distribution Chart]

**Performance Indicators**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>July 2014 (%)</th>
<th>Year’s average to date (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resource Consents</td>
<td>Non-notified consents processed within statutory timeframes</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Permissions</td>
<td>Processed within statutory timeframes</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>223 Issued</td>
<td>Within 10 working days</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>224 Issued</td>
<td>Within 10 working days</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Timelines of Notified Resource Consents Processed

![Timelines Chart 1]

Timelines of Non-Notified Resource Consents Processed

![Timelines Chart 2]
Timelines of Other Permissions Processed

Timelines of S223 Post-Approval Subdivision Certificates Processed

Timelines of S224 Post-Approval Subdivision Certificates Processed

Current Volume of Consent Applications

Rejected Applications
No applications were rejected during this period
Appeals and other Matters

An appeal has been received from Puwera Maori Ancestral Land Unincorporated Society against the Hearing Commissioners decision to grant consent to Joy Panoho for a 3 lot subdivision at Puwera. It is noted that the Council, through Infrastructure and Services, was providing assistance to Ms Panoho during the subdivision consenting process. The appeal is challenging the conditions imposed as part of the decision to grant consent.

The enforcement matter associated with Doors 4U located at the Braigh, Waipu has now been resolved, with the request for the order being withdrawn from the Court.

The enforcement order application by Longview Estuary Estates Limited continues. Further discussions have been held between the parties, with Longview having taken legal advice on various matters to assist with their case. The matter has been complicated by a further application having been lodged by Red Rock Bay Limited (a party that the enforcement order application implicates) to extend the consent period for the last stage of the underlying subdivision at Te Maika Road. That application has now been notified on a limited basis and Longview is likely to be a submittor to that application.

The appeal by Mr and Mrs Donald against the decision to decline their subdivision application on Simons Road, Poroti is currently subject to mediation. Several meetings have now been held and, unless agreement can be reached fairly quickly from this point, it is expected that a Court hearing will be required.

Policy and Monitoring

The Policy and Monitoring Manager (P Waanders) reports for July 2014

District Plan

Policy Staff have been very busy this month advising the public on the notified Plan Changes and receiving submissions. Meanwhile background work for the District Plan rolling review continues. A technical report has been commissioned for the future noise plan change.

Plan Changes

The following illustrates progress on the more significant plan changes presently being undertaken:

i) **Plan Change 100 – Sites of Significance to Maori**

   - Patuharakeke - Info agreement signed with WDC, Council will work directly with Patuharakeke on the finalisation of the project. Promises have been made for the handing over of information but to date nothing has been received notwithstanding reminders having been sent.
   - Ngatiwai - Information agreement has been signed, research completed, data is being verified and is ready to be shared with WDC. The preliminary information was discussed on 30 May 2014 but has to be repackaged. No information has been received.
   - Ngati Hine information was to be handed over in June.
   - Ngati Kahu ki Torongare and Ngati Hau The maps are done but it now requires a discussion with Council’s GIS Analyst to identify what the preferred format for receiving the information is. It is envisaged to have this discussion early August. Additional information will be added on a case by case basis.
   - Te Waiariki and Ngati Korora
     Issues are hindering the forming of an entity to sign with the Council. An alternative for Council to consider is the possibility of a notable and respected hapū representative that Council can sign the agreement with can be arranged. However the data is ready for transferring.
   - Te Parawhau
     Internal agreement with hapū has to be managed prior to signing. A date is yet to be decided for signing of the information sharing agreement.
     Staff are preparing draft plan provisions while awaiting the receipt of mapping information from the iwi/hapu groups.
ii) **Plan Change 112 – Te Hape Village**

A proposal to plan for a new access to the future Te Hape Village has been developed. A consultant will progress the Plan Change on behalf of Council in accordance with the Structure Plan adopted by Council.

Details of an arrangement have been further developed and a report is to be submitted to Council. A further beneficiary has been identified due to the conditions of consent on a subdivision and further negotiations might have to be entered into. This was a slow progress but enquires indicate interest to progress this Plan Change. A separate report will set out the process forward.

iii) **Plan Change 113 – Ruakaka Racecourse**

This Private Plan Change proposes the introduction of a new zone (Ruakaka Equine Environment or REE). Three Appeals have been lodged namely from the Director General of Conservation, Patuharakeke Te Iwi Trust Board Incorporated, and Ms Colleen Prendergast. In addition, two parties - the applicant (Whangarei Racing Club) and the Bream Bay Coastal Care Society have registered as s274 parties. Court assisted mediation commenced on 29 July 2014.

iv) **Plan Change 120 Kamo Plan Change**

The Kamo Walkability Environment plan change was publicly notified on 1 July 2014 and mailed out to residents, land owners and businesses within and adjacent to the affected area, as well as interested parties and statutory agencies. Submissions closed on the 29 July 2014. Six submissions have been received so far. Staff held drop-in sessions at the Kamo Library which were attended by eleven people.

v) **Plan Change 130 Okara Park Plan Change and Precinct**

PC130 was publicly notified on 24 June 2014 with submission period closing on the 22 July 2014. 11 submissions have been received. Submissions will be summarised and notified for further submission on 5 August 2014, It is intended to hold a hearing at the end of September/beginning of October.

vi) **Rural Plan Changes**

The draft Rural Plan Changes were presented to Council Workshop on 30 July. These plan changes included draft district plan provisions and identification maps for Rural Production, Rural Living, Strategic Rural Industries and Rural Village Residential, Rural Village Centre and Rural Village Industry Environments.

vii) **GMO**

The GMO plan change was notified on 15 July in conjunction with the Far North District Council’s GMO plan change. The plan change will be open for submissions until 9 September 2014. No submissions have been received so far. Media coverage on GMOs will continue throughout the submission period. It is intended to hold a joint hearing with the Far North District Council in 2015 for the GMO plan change.
## District Plan Change Progress

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adopted by Council</td>
<td>12.3.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appeals Resolved</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appeal Period Commenced</td>
<td>18.3.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council Decision</td>
<td>12.3.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hearing Commenced</td>
<td>18.11.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Hearing</td>
<td>31.7.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Further Submissions Close</td>
<td>19.6.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary Notified</td>
<td>28.5.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submissions Close</td>
<td>26.4.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Notification</td>
<td>26.3.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accepted by Council</td>
<td>13.3.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drafted s32 Report</td>
<td>8.9.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultation</td>
<td>4.4.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focus Group</td>
<td>20.5.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outline of Proposal, Plan Change #</td>
<td>22.7.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Change Environment</td>
<td>15.6.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Change Environment</td>
<td>15.6.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Living Environments</td>
<td>6.5.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Industry Environments</td>
<td>6.5.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Production Environments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Village</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papakainga Development Process</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Plan Change #**

- **Site of Significance to Māori**
- **Ruakaka Racecourse**
- **Built Heritage**
- **Okara Park**
- **GMO’s**
- **Kamo Change Environment**
- **Kensington Change Environment**
- **Urban Change Environment**
- **Rural Change Environment**
- **Rural Living Environments**
- **Rural Industry Environments**
- **Rural Production Environments**
- **Rural Village**
- **Papakainga Development Process**
Plan Formulation

a) **Implementing the Urban Growth Strategy**

Implementation of the Urban Growth Strategy continues, with the relationship between the Urban Growth Strategy and the Rural Development Strategy being explained as background to the Rural Plan Changes at the workshop of 30th July. Two urban plan changes currently within the notification stage of the plan change process are PC130 Okara Park and PC120 Kamo Walkability.

b) **Coastal Management Strategy**

The Coastal Management Strategy, coastal structure plans identified growth requirements for villages in the coast. These structure plans have formed the basis for the rural plan change package including rezoning and growth of appropriate villages in accordance with the Whangarei District Growth Strategy projections.

The Proposed Regional Policy Statement (RPS) contains maps defining the extent of the coastal environment tested against the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010. These maps and the associated draft policies will be given effect to through the District Plan rolling review once the RPS is operative. Court mediation has been initiated but agreement on the Coastal environment has not yet been reached. Parties are working hard to develop compromises.

c) **Landscape**

The Regional Council has adopted the Proposed Regional Policy Statement where areas have been identified as Outstanding Natural Landscapes, Outstanding Natural Features and Natural Character areas through the Northland Mapping project. Various appeals have been lodged to the Environment Court on both the criteria and some individual properties. The District Plan will ultimately have to be amended to give effect to the RPS when operative and will prescribe the performance standards. Court mediation has been initiated but as the methodology used has been challenged in all categories bar the Outstanding Natural Features Intensive discussions are happening to reach agreements. Further site visits and mediation is envisaged but it might still be a long drawn-out process.

d) **Urban Design**

Work on finalising the draft city wide urban design guideline continues, with the urban design student having progressed the drawings in the university break.

A CPTED / Urban Design evaluation has been drafted for the Otangarei central reserve area, and a brief report has been prepared considering aesthetic and urban design implications of raising minimum floor levels in response to sea level rise.

Work on Carpark to Park design continues.

e) **Preparations for the Northland Regional Policy Statement (RPS)**

The Regional Policy Statement was notified on 28 September 2012 and hearings conducted by three independent Commissioners.

The Regional Council has adopted the Proposed Regional Policy Statement.

The Whangarei District Council’s appeal documents were lodged with the Environment Court.

Whangarei District Council registered an interest as a sec 274 party against several appeals. The Court assisted mediation on resolving the appeals on the Regional Policy Statement has commenced. Some of the matter could be resolved with general acceptance and the necessary consent documents signed under delegation, but fundamental issues, might need further mediation or ultimately will be set down for Court hearings. The outcomes will have a profound effect on the District Plan and future plan changes such as the Coast, Landscape and Natural Hazards provisions. This will also trigger the revision of the Regional Plans such as the Water and Soil Plan, Air Quality plan and the Coastal Plan – all which will require District plan amendments.

Strategic Planning/State of the Environment Monitoring and Reporting

a) **Strategic Planning/Sustainable Futures 30/50**

Various actions from the Whangarei Growth Strategy Sustainable Futures 30/50 Implementation Plan are being implemented, including those mentioned below. The adopted Implementation Plan for 30/50 will inform the next LTP.
b) **Central Whangarei Structure Plan**

Consultation on the Hihiaua Precinct Plan will commence once a staff member has been appointed. Summary pamphlets on the Precinct Plan have been printed in readiness for the consultation. Work on the Central Whangarei Development Plan will continue when new staff member has been appointed.

c) **Village Plans**

Staff are working with the Otangarei Neighbourhood Safety Panel to progress the actions in the Community Plan. Plans for a community day on the central reserve in September continue, in association with other key users of the site including Te Kura O Otangarei, Te Kotahiitanga Marae, and local sports clubs. Staff have prepared a basic walkway design that will be refined with members of the community in an on-site meeting.

The Hikurangi community distributed a survey to residents in and around the township, which was published as part of the Hikurangi Bulletin. The results of the survey have been collated, and will be presented to the community on 20 August 2014. Three members of the Youth Advisory Group undertook a street survey of younger residents in Hikurangi to get their feedback.

d) **Whangarei Harbour Integrated Managed Strategy**

The Whangarei Harbour Catchment Group met on 29 July 2014 and undertook a tour of the Whangarei Wastewater Treatment Plant. The visit was timely, especially given the recent storm events, as it offered an opportunity to highlight the successes of recent wastewater improvements. There was additional discussion around stormwater, which is seen as still requiring improvement, in accordance with the Whangarei Harbour Water Quality Improvement Strategy.

e) **Kaipara Harbour Projects**

The Kaipara Harbour Joint Political Committee held a meeting in Kaiwaka on 16 July 2014. Presentations were received on habitats of significance for fisheries management, sustainable fisheries management in Kaipara Harbour, as well as reports on work carried out by the Fonterra-DoC partnership in Hikurangi Harbour and an update on Treaty Settlement matters. The Committee also received the proposed business plan of the Integrated Kaipara Harbour Management Group that will be submitted to the various LTP’s of the respective member councils.

f) **State of the Environment Monitoring and Reporting**

“Eco-sourcing” Guidelines for Native Plants is submitted to Council to be received as part of the implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy.

In the process of creating a brochure about Eco-sourcing.

g) **Demographic Profile**

The previous demographic profile of the Whangarei District was completed in 2008 and used 2006 Census Data. The profile identifies key population characteristics that might influence future resource and environment needs for the District. Policy staff have drafted a new profile with the data from the 2013 Census. Staff are currently peer reviewing the draft. Information from Statistics New Zealand will continue to be released over the next year to assist with the profile and we should have a final version within the next few months.

h) **GMO**

The GMO plan change was notified on 15 July 2014. Submissions can be made until 9 September 2014.

i) **Consents Monitoring Report 2013/14**

Staff have started the Consents Monitoring and Development Report for the 2013/14 financial year. The Ministry for the Environment has established a new system to capture all data from Councils, which may eliminate the need for a future reporting.
Building Consents

The Building Consents Manager (B Rogers) reports for July 2014

Building Inspection Numbers

Note: First month of new government year i.e. July 2014 has been included with last government year’s data to assist interpretation.

Value of Building Consents
### Lodged Issued Suspended

- **Consent Applications Received**
- **Consent Applications Issued**
- **Applications Suspended**

### Performance Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Measurement</th>
<th>July 2014 (%)</th>
<th>Year’s average to date (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building Consents</td>
<td>Issued in 20 working days</td>
<td>98.41</td>
<td>98.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIMs</td>
<td>Within 7 working days</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIMs (Statutory Requirement)</td>
<td>% within 10 days</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIMs</td>
<td>Within 5 working days</td>
<td>55.4</td>
<td>55.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inspections</td>
<td>Completed within 2 working days</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Building Consents Issued - Commercial and Residential Percentages

- **Commercial Value**
  - $7,794,250
  - 43%

- **Residential Value**
  - $10,162,372
  - 57%
Regulatory Services

The Regulatory Services Manager (G Couchman) reports for July 2014

Environmental Health

The following is a summary of inspections/samples/notifications addressed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>July 2014</th>
<th>Year to date cumulative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of inspections carried out on food premises</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of inspections carried out on other premises e.g. hairdressers, mobile shops, camping grounds</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of water samples taken either at non-reticulated food premises or marine sampling/fresh water sampling</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Health Act nuisances e.g. odour, noise, dust, drainage, rodents, offal etc</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of infectious diseases notified</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AEE – Assessments of environmental effects including monitoring</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Premises Inspection Grading

Each month inspections of food premises are undertaken prior to their annual registration

This annual registration inspection includes an assessment of the premises in terms of Council’s Food Premises Risk Evaluation System which assesses four areas of performance

1. Premises layout
2. Food hygiene conduct and practices
3. Cleaning and sanitising
4. Food handler training

A grade is allocated to the occupier of each premise from this assessment

Food premises gradings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade A+</th>
<th>Happy Dragon Takeaways</th>
<th>404 Kamo Road, Kamo, Whangarei</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Onerahi Hot Bread Shop</td>
<td>Onerahi Shopping Centre, 122 Onerahi Road, Onerahi, Whangarei</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Two Birds Cafe &amp; Restaurant</td>
<td>378 Marsden Point Road, Ruakaka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bacio</td>
<td>31 Bank Street, Whangarei</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Harry's Lunchbar</td>
<td>156 Cameron Street, Whangarei</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bream Bay Takeaways</td>
<td>378 Marsden Point Road, Ruakaka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Caffeine Espresso Cafe</td>
<td>4 Water Street, Whangarei</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Bakehouse Cafe</td>
<td>21 Rathbone Street, Whangarei</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marina Pizzeria</td>
<td>Marina Road, Tutukaka, Whangarei</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Denby Caterers</td>
<td>Tikipunga Soccer Club, Reed Street, Tikipunga, Whangarei</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oceans Resort Tutukaka</td>
<td>4-11 Marina Road, Tutukaka, Whangarei</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parua Boys Bakery</td>
<td>1375 Whangarei Heads Road, Parua Bay, Whangarei</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tahi Cafe</td>
<td>1774 Pataua North Road, Pataua North, Whangarei</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Baker’s Crust</td>
<td>81 Port Road, Whangarei</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strikers Cafe</td>
<td>Inside the Whangarei 10 Pin Bowling Centre, 129 Port Road, Whangarei</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sherwood Park Golf Club</td>
<td>114 Millington Road, Maunu, Whangarei</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food for Life</td>
<td>26 Water Street, Whangarei</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walton Street Cafe</td>
<td>67 Walton Street, Whangarei</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NZ Fudge Farm</td>
<td>Shop 3, Town Basin, Quay Street, Whangarei</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas Point Ltd @ Wortelboer’s</td>
<td>596 Port Marsden Highway, Ruakaka</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grade A</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sabres Ezi Meals</td>
<td>80 Station Road, Kamo, Whangarei</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian Aroma</td>
<td>23-25 Vine Street, Whangarei</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hook Inn Fresh Fish &amp; Takeaway</td>
<td>386 Kamo Road, Kamo, Whangarei</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King’s Mart</td>
<td>18 John Street, Whangarei</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onerahi Foodmart</td>
<td>16 Old Onerahi Road, Onerahi, Whangarei</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cafe Latino</td>
<td>Mobile Shop, Whangarei</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regency Pies</td>
<td>45 Maunu Road, Whangarei</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Korna Store</td>
<td>45 Morningside Road, Whangarei</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-Cam Takeaways</td>
<td>State Highway 1, Maungatapere, Whangarei</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northland Hockey Association</td>
<td>Western Hills Drive, Kensington, Whangarei</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Stag</td>
<td>1024 Cove Road, Waipu</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduced to Clear</td>
<td>Unit C, Tarewa Centre, 19 Lower Tarewa Road, Whangarei</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobil Tikipunga</td>
<td>209 Kiripaka Road, Tikipunga, Whangarei</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diamond Takeaways</td>
<td>1-3 Spedding Road, Tikipunga, Whangarei</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tikipunga Foodmarket</td>
<td>171 Kiripaka Road, Tikipunga, Whangarei</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kingsway Dairy</td>
<td>11A King Street, Hikurangi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BP2GO Whakapara</td>
<td>1609 Statehighway 1, Whakapara, Whangarei</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oakura Bay Store</td>
<td>138 Oakura Road, Oakura, Hikurangi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tornado Trading Post</td>
<td>2A George Street, Hikurangi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taurikura Bay Store</td>
<td>Whangarei Heads Road, Taurikura, Whangarei</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas Parua Bay</td>
<td>1373 Whangarei Heads Road, Parua Bay, Whangarei</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toni’s Seafood</td>
<td>Stall at Whangarei Grower’s Market</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grade B+</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kamo Dairy</td>
<td>396 Kamo Road, Kamo, Whangarei</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denby Dairy</td>
<td>179 Kiripaka Road, Tikipunga, Whangarei</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springs Flat Roadhouse</td>
<td>535 Great North Road, Springs Flat, Whangarei</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grade C</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Food Premises Grades

Liquor Licensing Monthly Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>July 2014</th>
<th>Year to date cumulative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of liquor licensing applications received</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of premises inspections (routine)</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of premises inspections (monitoring operations)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Regulatory Compliance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Complaints investigation</th>
<th>July 2014</th>
<th>Year to date cumulative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total number of complaints received</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Building Act 2004 complaints</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Resource Management Act 1991 complaints</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Fencing of Swimming Pools Act 1987 complaints</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of complaints resolved during the month</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of complaints still under investigation</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Compliance inspections

| Number of land use resource consent conditions monitored  | 24        | 24                      |
| Number of Fencing of Swimming Pools Act 1987 inspections | 29        | 29                      |

Enforcement actions

| Number of abatement notices issued                        | 0         | 0                       |
| Number of infringement notices issued                    | 0         | 0                       |
| Number of Building Act – Notices to fix                  | 1         | 0                       |
| Number of Building Act – warrants to alleviate immediate danger | 0        | 0                       |
| Number of Building Act – dangerous/insanitary buildings  | 0         | 0                       |
| Number of prosecutions/other applications                | 0         | 0                       |
Resource Management Act/District Plan Complaints

Building Act Complaints Investigated
Environmental Northland
Excessive Noise Complaints

![Excessive Noise Complaints Chart]

Stock Complaints

![Stock Complaints Chart]

Planning Committee
13 August 2014
Community Services

The Community Services Manager (O Thomas) reports for July 2014

Funding

All those that nominated people for a WDC Civic Honour have been advised of the respective outcomes. Nominators of the selected recipients of the awards have now been contacted by members of the Civic Honours Selection Committee. As at 21 July, the recipients have been visited by councillors to advise them of their awards. Final letters and invitations have been sent. The awards ceremony is being held on 19 August.

Grant recipients from Annual Operating Fund have all been sent a letter confirming funding granted for 2014-2015 and requesting an invoice. The respective Annual Performance Measures have also been sent to each of the 15 Annual Operating Grant recipients.

Both the Performing Arts Fund and Creative Communities Fund for 2014-2015 opened in July. The Performing Arts Fund closes on 15 August and the Creative Communities Scheme closes on 29 August. New application forms (writable PDF) were developed for both funds and both have been publicized via the website, the Customer Service counters and advertising in The Leader. Known potential applicants were also emailed.

A workshop to support potential applicants to Community Funding and in particular to the Performing Arts Fund was held in the Central Library’s May Bain Room at 4.30pm on Monday 28 July 2014. A similar workshop was also held the next day, at the same venue, to support potential applicants to the Creative Communities Scheme.

In addition to the regular promotion of the current funds and workshops, Ann Midson and the Community Funding Officer wrote an article for The Leader promoting Community Funding, which was in the 15 July edition. It promoted community funding, the updates to the website, and encouraged people to apply and attend the workshops.

All Councillors were emailed with the Funding Calendar for 2014-2015 and the review of Community Funding throughout Council continues.
Safety

The City Safe programme continues to work well, with the Call Centre recording 268 reported activities for the period, compared with 226 for the last period. This increase in activities is attributed to another particularly wet period as there has been a significant increase in council maintenance reporting, as well as a slight increase in disorder and dishonesty reported. Also during this period was one week of the school holidays. Graffiti vandalism saw a slight drop, however, it still continues to be the single most reported activity to City Safe with over 100 reported incidents, followed by around 50 maintenance calls, for such issues as, fly dumping, toilet and road maintenance. All the other reported activities, such as begging, bikes in the mall, buskers, skateboards and truants have been relatively low over this wet period. The busiest days have been Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays, Thursdays, Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays respectively; and the busiest times have been from 11am through to 2pm.

The City Safe Community Officers have recorded 103 activities in total, compared with 85 for the last period. The officers have, again, noted the low levels of antisocial behaviour in the city centre and adjacent parks, where they are pleased to report that the youths were well behaved in the mall during the two “Teacher Only” days at the end of the school term. Up to the end of the school term, the officers continued to maintain their after-school supervision of the Whangarei Intermediate School students crossing the intersection of Bank and Cameron Streets, and were reporting drivers running red lights before the students cleared the intersection. They have also assisted the Police in apprehending a youth tagging the public toilet in Rathbone Street; assisting a parking enforcement officer who had been abused by a member of the public; assisted with looking after a man with special needs who was abusing members of the public until the Police arrived; assisting a young child who had lost his mother; and located an elderly woman’s vehicle after she had forgotten where it was parked.

The CCTV Volunteers continue to work well with the City Safe Community Officers and Police in identifying bylaw offending, potential incidents of dishonesty, suspicious activity and disorder within the CBD. The monthly trend has seen a significant reduction in both offences and incidents, being attributed to the particularly wet month, as reported above, with the majority of reported disorder occurring on late Friday and Saturday evenings to early hours of the following mornings, however, the majority of reported activity is still between 11am through to 4pm, with the predominant days being Saturdays, Tuesdays, Sundays and Fridays respectively.
Total CCTV Activity - Incidents & Offences: Jun-Jul 2013 to Jun-Jul'14

Total CCTV Offences: Jun-Jul 2013 to Jun-Jul'14

- Breach Liquor
- Damage
- Dishonesty
- Disorder
- Drugs
- Other

Planning Committee
The Stop Tags graffiti database, for this period, has recorded 405 jobs attended and 2,157 tags removed. There has been a slight decrease in jobs attended, but a significant decrease in tags removed since the last period, where 424 jobs were attended and 3,741 tags removed. Again, this can be attributed to the particularly wet month where there were only 4 days without rain. D'Tag, the primary graffiti removal contractor for Council, has attended 313 jobs, of which, 187 were requests for service through the Council and City Safe Call Centres. D'Tag reported an increase in calls for service over the school holiday period. They removed 1,553 tags, which is significantly down from the amount reported for the last two periods. Wet weather during this period, particularly during the storm, created a backlog in removal jobs; however, staff worked their way through the majority of reported jobs by the end of this period.

D'Tag are still reporting a high amount of felt pen tagging being used in the CBD, Regent, Otangarei, Raumanga, Morningside, Kamo and Tikipunga suburbs. The Supervised Work Programme for youth offenders and the Community Probation Community Work Programme removed 72 and 325 tags respectively, compared with 681 and 736 for the last period. As reported, we continue to see high density tagging with marker pens as an issue, particularly in the inner city area, Regent, Kensington, Whau Vally (Kamo Bypass), Otangarei and Tikipunga. This high density tagging continues to be attributed to the same group of youths who frequent these areas. Police have advised that 5 male youths between 13-18 years, have been reported for graffiti vandalism offending for the month of June. Commercial buildings are the predominant target, followed by private fences and Council assets, such as, bus shelters; parks and reserves; road barriers and signs; and public facilities.

### Stop Tags Database: Total Jobs & Tags 16/07/2013 to 15/06/2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total Jobs</th>
<th>Total Tags</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jun-Jul '13</td>
<td>388</td>
<td>336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul-Aug '13</td>
<td>449</td>
<td>391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug-Sep '13</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep-Oct '13</td>
<td>2349</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct-Nov '13</td>
<td>2037</td>
<td>1718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov-Dec '13</td>
<td>326</td>
<td>304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec-Jan '14</td>
<td>1577</td>
<td>1404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan-Feb '14</td>
<td>371</td>
<td>371</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb-Mar '14</td>
<td>508</td>
<td>508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar-Apr '14</td>
<td>439</td>
<td>439</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr-May '14</td>
<td>424</td>
<td>424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May-Jun '14</td>
<td>406</td>
<td>406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun-Jul '14</td>
<td>2157</td>
<td>2157</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Ministry of Justice funded Community Crime Prevention Initiatives, consisting of the CCTV Activate Programme and the Supervised Work Programme continues to benefit the District. The CCTV Activate Programme has reviewed 31 jobs and reported 18 persons.

Two people were reported for graffiti vandalism and the remainder for anti-social and disorder offending. Our CCTV Activate contractor has noticed an overall reduction in anti-social behaviour in the CBD but a notable increase in the late evenings and early hours from Friday night to Sunday morning. The Supervised Work Programme was hampered by the wet weather and vehicle problems during this period, where they supervised 4 youths (3 boys & 1 girl) and removed 72 tags, with 3 of the youths completing their community hours. The programme continues to build on previous relationships formed with these youths through the Lion’s Den grappling programme and the Te Ora Hou Whai Ake youth mentoring programme.

**Advisory**

At the Youth Advisory Group monthly meeting on 9 July, Owen Thomas, (WDC Community Services Manager) spoke briefly on the UNICEF Child Friendly City accreditation initiative. To include youth, Whangarei has named their programme “Child and Youth friendly”. The YAG policy committee discussed the Public Places By-Law and felt that it contained nothing contentious to warrant a submission. Three members of the YAG offered to support/participate in the Hikurangi ‘village-plan’ consultation, specifically to canvas the views of youth living in the township.

On 10 July, members from the Positive Ageing, Disability and Youth Advisory groups, Councillors sitting on these groups and WDC staff were welcomed by Her Worship the Mayor to a joint workshop on effective communication. Attendees found the workshop provided a valuable forum for exchanging ideas on how they can best represent their respective sectors. Each group was asked to choose one idea they could adopt to improve communication. YAG suggested interactive notice boards at places where youth congregate. The DAG would like to hold a promotional event in the mall with the other advisory groups on 3 December, the International Day for Disabled People. The Positive Ageing Advisory Group proposed posting information online, like a portal, on longstanding issues/activities that could provide some background as well as what measures had been, or will be, taken to meet community needs.

The Positive Ageing Advisory Group held their monthly meeting on 11 July. The group has made a submission to the review of the Public Places By-Law in support of proposed changes to ban the riding of bicycles and skateboards in the CBD. The PAAG submitted that some older residents are “reluctant to visit the CBD for fear of encountering” these.

The Disability Advisory Group has raised, for some time, various problems with the hydrotherapy pool at the Whangarei Aquatic Centre. One of the group members collated the issues raised and invited Isobel Finlayson, a physiotherapist working at the hydrotherapy pool to speak at their monthly meeting on 15 July. The main concerns were a shortage of accessible parking, insufficient accessible changing rooms, pool temperature and lack of supervision. The group decided to invite representatives from Sports Northland, the Aquatic Centre and DAG to a meeting to discuss these matters. Owen Thomas, (WDC Community Services manager) also talked to the group on the proposed Okara Park (Bulk Format Retail Environment) Plan Change. This was in response to increasing concerns at the lack of controlled pedestrian crossings in this precinct. The group decided to highlight accessibility issues by supporting the plan’s provision for comprehensive walkways and have subsequently made a submission.

**Arts, Culture and Heritage**

On 28 June the Whangarei Museum & Heritage Trust (KiwiNorth) opened their Matariki exhibition “Nga tirohanga a mua ki muri – Looking back to the future”. This was opened to commemorate the Maori Contingent, WW1 and the Maori Battalion, WW2. This exhibition is in conjunction with the WW1 centennial exhibition.

For CHART this month, the highlight was the tour (through Creative Northland) of the Okareka Dance Company. On 3 July, participants were treated to a master class by Taioa Royal & Taane Mete and two performances of “Mana Wahine” were held on 17 July at Forum North. The Old Library continues to be a popular venue for privately run events, performances, classes and workshops; and frequently serves as a venue for various exercise classes such as pilates, zumba and yoga.

The Whangarei Art Museum is hosting a major exhibition from the ‘Da Dun Fine Arts Exhibition’ held annually in Taichung City, Taiwan. This exhibition is described as:

“A Symphony of Culture: Treasures from the Heart of Taiwan", is an exhibition of selected prize-winning art works offering a unique opportunity to experience the diversity of arts and culture from contemporary Taiwanese artists. The exhibition includes artefacts of textile and bamboo weaving from Taiwan’s indigenous cultures, as well as contemporary works using the traditional mediums of calligraphy, seal engraving and ink wash painting.
The exhibition opened on 13 July and will be showing until 21 September 2014.

**Recommendation**

1. That the report be received.
2. That Councillor J D T Williamson be appointed as Commissioner to join the Hearings Commission on Plan Change 130 Bulk Format Retail Environment (Okara Park).
3. That Councillor S J Deeming be appointed as Commissioner to join the Hearings Commission on Plan Change 120 Kamo Walkability Environment.

Reporting officer  Bree Kurtovich (Community Funding Officer)
Date of meeting  13 August 2014

Vision, mission and values
This item is in accord with Council’s vision, mission and values statement as it highlights Council’s support of local community organisations and initiatives through the provision of community funding.

Introduction
Whangarei has a very active community and voluntary sector whose activities not only contribute to the wellbeing of our district but also add value to our local identity and sense of community. Whangarei District Council has traditionally assisted local community groups and organisations with a wide range of community projects and events, capital development projects, and public service delivery via grants and loans from Council’s community funding portfolio.

During 2013-2014 almost $1.8 million was distributed from the funding administered by Community Services Department. This includes almost $55,000 of funding for creative projects in the district through the Creative Communities Scheme, which is administered by Council, and allocated by a community assessment committee, on behalf of Creative New Zealand.

Community Funding Activity in 2013-2014

Non-contestable Funding
Non-contestable funding made up 85% of the annual community funding budget for 2013-2014. There are two non-contestable funding streams: the Annual Operating Fund and Rent Concessions.

In 2013-2014, $1,517,963 was administered in non-contestable funding as follows:

**Annual Operating Fund**
The Annual Operating Fund is a rolling year over year funding cycle designed to provide ongoing operational support to selected organisations which provide valued services to the District.

The following grants were distributed in 2013-14:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHART</td>
<td>$190,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hikurangi Historical Museum Society Inc</td>
<td>$5,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mangakahia Sports Ground Society Inc</td>
<td>$26,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northland Craft Trust</td>
<td>$38,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northland Society of Arts</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northland Youth Theatre</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruakaka Recreation Centre</td>
<td>$33,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surf Life Saving Northern Region</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tornado Youth Community Trust</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waipu Centennial Trust Board</td>
<td>$58,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whangarei Art Museum Trust (WAM)</td>
<td>$280,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whangarei Citizens Advice Bureau</td>
<td>$45,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whangarei Museum and Heritage Trust (KiwiNorth)</td>
<td>$365,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whangarei Quarry Gardens Trust</td>
<td>$36,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whangarei Youth One Stop Shop Charitable Trust</td>
<td>$11,100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL** $1,150,400
Reports against agreed 2013-2014 performance measures were received from all the 15 recipient organisations of the Annual Operating Fund. Overall, the results of all 15 organisations met the requirements for eligibility for 2013-2014 funding, however three organisations, Northland Society of Arts, Tornado Youth Community Trust and Ruakaka Recreation Centre struggled to complete the reporting due to limited personnel and limited understanding of business planning and reporting. These groups were supported as much as practicable by Council staff to provide the information needed.

Rent Concessions

Rent concessions are available to selected, not for profit community organisations with legal status that provide a valued service to the District and who operate from Council owned property.

The following rent concessions were awarded in 2013-2014:

- Air Training (Site B2 Whangarei District Airport) $3,050
- Old Municipal Building $5,193
  - CAB - Suites 1 & 2 $1,499
  - SPELD - Suites 3 & 4 $456
  - Epilepsy - Suite 5 $919
  - Multiple Sclerosis - Suite 6 $440
  - Literacy - Suite 9 $1,477
  - OSCAR - Suite 10 $402
- Hihiaua Trust $42,000
- Ruakaka Community Library $15,000
- Ruakaka Surf Lifesaving $6,000
- Old Library/CHART/Chamber of Commerce $55,000
- Otaika Hall $480
- Reyburn House (Northland Society of Arts) $42,840
- Whangarei Art Museum $167,000
- Whangarei Youth Space Trust $31,000

**TOTAL** $367,563

Contestable Funding

Contestable funding makes up 15% of the annual community funding budget. In 2013-2014 there were six contestable funding streams available: Community Fund (two rounds), Performing Arts Fund, Community Halls Fund, Resident and Ratepayer Administration Fund, and School Scholarships. In addition, Council also administered the Creative Communities Scheme (two rounds) on behalf of Creative New Zealand.

Contestable funding is administered cyclically using a ‘Funding Calendar’. All applications are subject to a competitive application process and assessed against pre-set criteria to determine eligibility and priority for, and level of funding awarded.

**Contestable funding granted for the 2013-2014 financial year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>$ Budget</th>
<th>No. of apps received</th>
<th>$ requested</th>
<th>No. of apps approved</th>
<th>$ granted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Fund</td>
<td>100,000.00</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>202,080.89</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>99,970.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two funding rounds</td>
<td></td>
<td>44</td>
<td>202,080.89</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>83,538.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top up to Community Halls*</td>
<td></td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>(14)*</td>
<td>16,432.50*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative Communities Scheme</td>
<td>54,926.51</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>111,271.59</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>52,557.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(two rounds)</td>
<td>(includes $36.51 from 2012-2013)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performing Arts Fund</td>
<td>15,000.00</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9,367.00</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Community Halls Fund
- Maintenance
- Maintenance top up*
- Insurance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>90,000.00</th>
<th>60,000.00</th>
<th>23</th>
<th>159,333.23</th>
<th>23</th>
<th>81,690.69</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30,000.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>23</td>
<td>137,642.54</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>59,958.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Resident & Ratepayer Admin

|                | 14,000.00 | 19       | 13,300.00 | 19   | 13,300.00 |

School Scholarships

|                | 8,000.00  | 8        | 8,000.00  | 8    | 8,000.00  |

**TOTAL** $281,926.51 127 $503,352.71 101 $263,519.10

*Fourteen Community Halls received a top up from the Community Fund totalling $16,474.00. This funding was sourced from the remainder of the Community Halls Fund ($41.50) and the remainder of the Community Fund ($16,432.50) for 2013-2014.

Comparison with the 2012-2013 year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>No. of apps received</th>
<th>Total $ requested</th>
<th>Average $ amount requested</th>
<th>No. of apps approved</th>
<th>Total $ granted</th>
<th>Average $ amount approved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012-13</td>
<td>$301,751</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>$658,968</td>
<td>$3,876</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>$249,019</td>
<td>$2,203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>$281,926</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>$503,353</td>
<td>$3,963</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>$263,519</td>
<td>$2,609</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key points
1. The 2013-2014 contestable funding budget is $19,825 lower than it was in 2012-2013 This is attributed to:
   - The reduction in carried over funds in the Creative Communities Scheme (from $3,861 in 2012-2013 to $36.51 in 2013-2014).
   - The reallocation of the Operational Support Fund for 2013-2014 ($50,000) as agreed by the Community Funding Subcommittee on 25 September 2013 to:
     - Community Halls Fund: $30,000 for insurance (see contestable funding table).
     - Resident and Ratepayers Administration Fund: $4,000 to increase payments from $500 to $700 (see contestable funding table).
     - Surf Life Saving NZ Northern Region: $16,000 as a non-contestable allocation to contribute towards its summer patrols. **Note: as this was a non-contestable funding allocation made by Council, it does not appear in the contestable funding table above.**

2. There were 27 fewer applications received in 2013-2014 compared with 2012-2013:
   - This is attributed to the removal of the Operational Support Fund, which had 43 applications in 2012-2013.
   - Applications to the Community Fund (up five) and Community Halls Fund (up seven) are both up slightly, but the Community Fund applications are still below 2011-2012 levels.
   - Applications to the Creative Communities Scheme are down by thirteen, due to having two, rather than three funding rounds this year. This follows a general trend of reducing numbers of applications to this fund.

3. There was very little change in the average grant requested, however, the average grant increased by more than $400.
4. Thirteen fewer grants were awarded in 2013-2014 compared with 2012-2013; however, due to the decreased number of applications, 78% of applications received were approved in 2013-2014 compared to 66% in 2012-2013.

5. The total amount of funding requested in 2013-2014 decreased by more than $150,000, this comprised of a mix of increases and decreases:
   - The removal of the Operational Support Fund had a significant effect, as it attracted $254,000 in applications in 2012-2013.
   - Applications to the Community Halls fund increased by a staggering $100,000.
   - Applications to the Community Fund increased by $30,000.
   - Applications to the Creative Communities Scheme decreased by almost $40,000.
   - Applications to the Performing Arts Fund and Resident & Ratepayer Administration Grant have increased slightly, and School Scholarships applications remained unchanged.

Loans

No community loan applications were received during 2013-2014.

Community Funding Review

A review of Council’s community funding was first raised in the 2011-2012 Community Funding Annual Report, and commenced in April 2013, with the directive for the review to be brought back to Council in April 2014. During the 2013-2014 year a number of small changes occurred to a number of funds that make up community funding and these are covered in detail below. In April 2014 Council agreed to extend this date to October 2014, as the scope of the review has been extended across the whole organisation.

Operational Support Fund

In May 2013 Council resolved that the budget allocated to the 2013-2014 Operational Support Fund be held in reserve pending the result of the Community Funding review.

The rising number of applications and the marked increase in the amount requested from the Operational Support Fund in 2012-13 indicated that the fund was no longer working effectively and to the purpose for which it was originally intended. In September 2013 the fund’s 2013-2014 budget of $50,000 was re-allocated to:
   - Resident and Ratepayers Administration Grant Fund – $4,000 in order to increase the grants from $500 to $700 each.
   - Community Halls Fund – $30,000 for up to $1,000 per hall for insurance costs.
   - Surf Life Saving Northern Region - $16,000 for an additional surf life saving services over the summer 2013-2014 period.

In April 2014, as a result of the extension of the Community Funding review, Council resolved that the budget allocated to the 2014-2015 Operational Support Fund be held in reserve pending the result of the Community Funding review.

School Scholarships

In the 2013-2014 year, one out of the eight scholarships awarded was not uplifted. A trend seemed to be developing with three scholarships not being uplifted in 2012-2013, two in 2011-2012 and one in each of the two preceding years. In September 2013 the Community Funding Subcommittee resolved that the School Scholarships be discontinued in the 2014-15 financial year, to be replaced with an appropriate activity to celebrate and recognise young achievers in the District and so staff are working with our Youth Advisory Group to achieve this.

Creative Communities Scheme

In July 2013 Council resolved that with the renewal of the agreement with Creative New Zealand for a further three year period (July 2013-June 2016), once local body elections were completed in October 2013 the Creative Communities Assessment Committee would cease being a Council committee and become a community committee administered by the Community Services Department of Council.
Cr. Bell and Cr. Cutforth were appointed to the committee, and new community representatives were appointed prior to the first funding round of 2013-2014.

Administration
As a part of continuous improvement application forms are updated yearly, the website is updated frequently, organisations and the public are involved in changes.

Community Funding Subcommittee
In June 2014 the Community Funding Subcommittee approved the Mowing Grants for 2013-2014. These grants are administered by Parks and Recreation and by using the singular grants committee more consistent oversight and consideration can be made in the decision making process. We hope the subcommittee will be used increasingly in the coming year to consider grants across the organisation.

Community Funding Feedback
In line with LTP performance measures, during 2013-2014 customer feedback was sought from community funding applicants. Feedback forms were attached to all community funding application forms, except for the School Scholarship Fund, Resident and Ratepayer Administration Grant Fund and the Creative Communities Scheme.

Applicants were asked the following:

- How did you find out about the fund (that they were applying to)?
- Have you visited the Funding and Grants page on Council’s website?
  - If yes, how user friendly was it?
- Did you find this application form easy to understand and complete?

83% of grant applicants responded by completing the feedback form attached to the application form.

Just fewer than 50% of applicants found out about the fund they were applying to via advertisements in The Leader or Council’s website. A large proportion of referrals to the funds are from personal contact, with 28% from a friend or the Community Funding Officer. In addition, many of those that had stated “Other” (22%) advised that they had applied in previous funding rounds, or had been advised by office holders in their organisations or the Community Services Manager.

How did you find out about the fund?

- Whangarei Leader 17%
- Council’s website 31%
- Council’s Community Funding Officer 21%
- From a friend 7%
- Community noticeboard / newsletter 2%
- Other 22%
73% of respondents had visited the Funding and Grants page on Council’s website. Of those that visited, all but one respondent rated the page as ‘average’ to ‘great’. Whilst this indicates that the website is functional for most users, with only 24% of respondents rating the pages as ‘great’, there is room for improvement.

Lastly, 99% of the survey respondents found the application form they were using easy to understand and complete.

**Improvements**

In response to feedback from the 2013-2014 year, the following changes are being made for 2014-2015:

- Improvements to the ‘funding and grants’ web pages to make them more user friendly are now live for the 2014-2015 financial year.
- Additional support tools have been developed and made available, including a guide to project management, a project management template, and guidance on how to access other (non-Council) funding streams.
- Workshops for potential applicants are scheduled for 2014-2015.
- The Resident and Ratepayers Administration Grants Fund closing date has been moved from January to February.
- Application forms are being updated. As these forms had such a positive response in 2012-2013, they will only be tweaked slightly for the 2014-2015 financial year.

In addition, monthly and quarterly reporting measures have been implemented for the ‘big three’ Annual Operating Grant recipients. Whangarei Art Museum (WAM), The Culture Heritage and Arts Resource Trust (CHART) and Whangarei Museum and Heritage Trust (Kiwi North) are now required to report on significant activities that have occurred, so that the Council’s contribution to their operations is more visible.

**Summary**

The past year has been one of change. The Community Funding Officer left in late 2013, and was replaced in early 2014.

There has been a noticeable trend of a reduction in both the quality and quantity of applications, particularly to the Community Fund, Creative Communities Scheme, and the Performing Arts Fund. This indicates both a lack of community awareness and interest in the funds, and a general lack of knowledge about what is required in an application, and what makes a project stand out. Council staff can take responsibility for this situation, by providing better support and information to potential applicants to these funds.
The improvements listed above are expected to increase the quality of applications, the quantity of good applications and make the assessment of applications a much easier task. With better information applicants know where they stand with Council processes and in turn, Council can be surer in its decision making.

Meeting all the funding needs and expectations of our not for profit sector is not possible. By reviewing community funding to ensure it is targeted where it has the most community benefit, and by providing quality information and support for community groups seeking funding, Council can obtain positive outcomes for the communities of our District through the provision of public service and community infrastructure.

**Recommendation**
That the information be received.

Reporting officer Carla Janssen (Community Services Adviser)

Date of meeting 13 August 2014

Introduction

This item is an annual report on the activities of Whangarei District Council’s (WDC) Advisory Groups, coordinated by the Community Services Department. There are three advisory groups, which cover three sectors of our district’s population. These are; positive aging, disability and youth. The purpose of this report is to highlight their respective contributions and value to the organisation’s strategic outcomes such as ‘Sense of Place’. In this context, it is significant to acknowledge that it is the process of working with people that ensures positive results for the organisation and our district’s communities.

Background

Council’s engagement with these three sectors goes back many years and has naturally reflected the changes of the time. A challenge for Community Services is to sustain and build on the positive relationships developed over this period by ensuring meaningful consultation and communication with its advisory groups. This is essential to the groups having credible agency within their sectors and within Council departments.

Challenges

For the advisory groups to be effective (for both WDC and the groups’ members) it is necessary to maintain the focus on their terms of reference, which are aligned to Council’s LTP and obligations under the Local Government Act. With each advisory group representing the aspirations and concerns of their respective sectors, expectations need to be kept realistic and consistent with Council’s role within the district. This is particularly so in the context of budgetary constraints and Council not delivering personal social services.

A further challenge is to promote active engagement with the groups’ respective communities and thereby to ensure that they are truly representative. This requires on-going evaluation and management of membership to provide for continuity, new voices and meaningful participation.

Value

Council’s advisory groups have had an important role to play in ensuring that the public services provided to the district are efficient, effective and appropriate. The monthly dialogue between Council staff and the advisory groups ensures that Council is well informed and able to respond to community concerns, whilst keeping the sectors accurately and fully informed of Council activities and processes. Through consultation and discussion with their wider networks, the advisory groups can accurately identify community needs and support Council to meet its obligations under the Local Government Act.

Positive Aging Advisory Group

The Positive Aging Advisory Group (“PAAG”) is a solid, committed group that discusses issues concerning the senior members of our District. Many members have a long history of contribution to the District with the concept of a “sense of place” being perhaps stronger than with any other sector of our District.

The group encourages and maintains a wide range of membership from many civic groups dealing with the older population, as well as including representation from organisations such as Manaia PHO, ACC and MSD. This last year the group has welcomed three new members from Age Concern, Anglican Care and Otangarei Maori Women’s Welfare League.
An important role for the PAAG is liaising with Council over the implementation of the Positive Aging Strategy that expresses national principles. The strategy as outlined in Council’s publication “Aging in Our Place” 2005-2015, is scheduled for review over the coming year, with the group being in favour of replacing this with a more succinct policy.

The group meets monthly to ensure that the PAAG is engaged with, and accurately informed, on Council activities. This past year the PAAG has made both written and oral submissions on the William Fraser Memorial Park on Pohe Island Reserve Management Plan, WDC Psychoactive Substances Policy, the Local Government Commissions’ Draft Proposal for the Reorganisation of Local Government in Northland and on proposed by-law changes. A project the group strongly supports is the provision of multigenerational outdoor exercise equipment.

The opportunity to hold regular discussions with Council staff and councillors is greatly valued by the PAAG members, many of whom have a long and significant investment in the District. For more information on the group’s activities please refer to the annual calendar of events attached.

Disability Advisory Group

The disability sector is the most diverse served by the three advisory groups, in that it is not confined to a specific age group and covers a wide range of disabilities/needs.

The national Disability Survey carried out every five years by the Department of Statistics published its report in June 2014. This document provides a framework for agencies making policy and providing services affecting disabled people to promote greater inclusiveness.

- In 2013, 24% of the New Zealand population were identified as disabled, a total of 1.1 million people.
- The Northland regional disability rate (29%) was slightly higher than the national average. Auckland (19%), Bay of Plenty and Manawatu-Wanganui (both 27%), and Taranaki (30%).
- Māori and Pacific people had higher-than-average disability rates, after adjusting for differences in ethnic population age profiles.
- The increase from the 2001 census (20%) is partly explained by our ageing population.
- People aged 65 or over were much more likely to be disabled (59%) than adults under 65 years (21%) or children under 15 years (11%).
- Just over half of all disabled people (53%) had more than one type of impairment.
- The most common cause of disability for adults was disease or illness (42%).
- For children, the most common cause of disability was a condition that existed at birth (49%).

The demographic projections for Whangarei published in the Whangarei District Growth Strategy, “Sustainable Futures 30/50”, suggest that our population is aging compared to New Zealand as a whole. Applying the statistical data above, it can be inferred that over time there will a greater number of residents living with disabilities. Consequently accessibility issues facing Council will become increasingly significant.

The Disability Advisory Group (“DAG”) meets monthly and represents a wide range of organisations serving the disability sector. A challenge for the group is capacity and representation, with a point of tension being the recruitment of more members with lived experience of impairment, as opposed to a preponderance of organisational perspectives.

At their meetings, the group provide valuable feedback to WDC staff members on current accessibility problems encountered in the community. As well as the monthly discussions, this past year the DAG has made both written and oral submissions. These have pertained to: the William Fraser Memorial Park on Pohe Island Reserve Management Plan, WDC Psychoactive Substances Policy, the Local Government Commissions’ Draft Proposal for the Reorganisation of Local Government in Northland, the Okara Park (Bulk Format Retail Environment) plan change and on proposed by-law changes.

Members of the DAG were involved in the production of a new accessibility map for Whangarei and a public accessibility survey. Interestingly, the survey indicated that accessibility problems were neither as common nor severe as some public perceptions suggested.

However, several issues continue to raise concern, these are: the safety of the paving in the CBD, the lack of controlled pedestrian crossings in the Okara Park/Toll stadium vicinity, difficulty with crossing roads where traffic flow is controlled by roundabouts, and problems encountered by patrons of the
hydrotherapy pool at the Aquatic Centre. For more information on the group’s activities please refer to the annual calendar of events attached.

Youth Advisory Group

True to its motto, “Shape Your City”, the Youth Advisory Group (“YAG”) continues to be actively and effectively engaged with Council. The YAG meets monthly, with members also sitting on either a Policy Implementation Committee or the Youth Awards Committee, which were established this year to ensure the group’s goals are met. The former is a committee dedicated to writing the group’s submissions and the latter to administer the annual Youth Awards.

The report prepared on the survey of more than 700 local youth was published as the “Shape Your City Youth Survey Report 2013”. The survey attracted the attention of outside agencies such as; Northland District Health Board, Department of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Youth Development and Manaia PHO, who used it to support their funding application for the Whangarei Youth Space.

This past year the YAG has made both written and oral submissions on the William Fraser Memorial Park on Pohe Island Reserve Management Plan, the Local Government Commissions’ Draft Proposal for the Reorganisation of Local Government in Northland, The Psychoactive Substances Policy and on the draft WDC Annual Plan.

Organisation of the Annual Youth Awards is a new function of the YAG following the disestablishment of the School Scholarship fund. The inaugural Youth Awards will be presented at a function to be held on 5 December 2014 to acknowledge the diverse achievements of our district’s Youth.

Throughout the year, the YAG has maintained a close partnership with the Whangarei Youth Space group that opened its doors in the old homestead in Cafler Park in May. This is, as well as working with other local youth organisations and meeting with Auckland City’s Youth Advisory Panel, a relationship they intend to foster. A member of the YAG was selected to sit on the WYS Youth Advisory Panel.

WDC supported three YAG members to attend a national Youth Cultural Diversity Conference. YAG members have also helped organise and support local events that presented issues to the district’s wider youth community such as the annual Youth Summit and a “Love Your Life” concert conceived at the summit to promote youth wellbeing. During the summer holidays, several YAG members conducted a public utility survey at 11 locations in the Town Basin/Pohe Island precinct, which was later published in the comprehensive “Jewel of the City Report”. A new communication initiative commenced in April 2014 was the publication of a monthly newsletter that is sent to all local secondary schools and available online.

The current Chair of the Youth Advisory Group is an exceptional young man whom the Community Services Adviser successfully nominated for an inaugural National Youth Week Leadership award. The Chair provides a strong role model for those that follow in the position, but with the skills, vitality and commitment of newer members the group is in safe hands. For more information on the group’s activities please refer to the annual calendar of events attached.

Conclusion

It is Council’s purpose to provide community infrastructure and public services to meet the present and future needs of our community. To fulfil this purpose Council has set a strong direction to enhance Whangarei’s economic growth and ‘sense of place’. The Community Services Department is mindful that the key to effective ‘place-making’ is as much about how we do our business as what we do. It is through meaningful relationships with our community through vehicles such as our Youth, Positive Aging and Disability advisory groups that we can better understand and consider the diverse needs of our district. In the 13/14 year, Community Services held a joint advisory group function to promote communication across the sectors as well as to acknowledge the contribution group members make to Council. This joint meeting was so successful members asked for these to be held more frequently. A second joint Advisory Group workshop will be held on 10 July 2014.

The performance measure 7.10 within our 2012–2022 LTP challenges us to achieve strong engagement with these sectors; all members of our advisory groups were asked if Council was achieving this, with issues relating to their sectors. Respondents were asked to rate the level of involvement from “not at all” to “excellent”.
All members rated Council as being either “very good” (59%) or “excellent” (41%). Several respondents commented that they would not give a rating of excellent on principle, “as there is always room for improvement.” Acknowledging this sentiment, Community Services continues to work on enhancing these groups by providing them with a clear and purposeful function, and focusing on further integrating their inputs across the organisation and throughout our district.

Recommendation
That the information be received

Attachment
Calendar of events
Annual Calendar of Events – YAG, DAG, & PAAG.

July 2013
12 July, PAAG monthly meeting: Election of Officers, with positions of Chair, Linda Holman (Manaia PHO) and Deputy, Pat Ryder (Bream Bay 60+) reconfirmed. Motion carried to include a provision in the Terms of Reference that these not exceed 3 years.

16 July, DAG monthly meeting: Ann Midson, Publicity Adviser WDC, spoke on raising the group’s profile by writing small regular articles for WDC Whangarei Leader pages.

17 July, YAG induction programme and formal welcome (mihiwhakatau) of 5 new members. Rachel O’Gorman, WDC events management team, spoke on the September NZRL Youth Development Day to be held in September at the monthly meeting.

22 July, Members of DAG participated in a successful accessibility test of the new bridge, Te Matau a Pohe.

27 July, Members of DAG and YAG participated in the opening of Te Matau a Pohe. NZSL interpretation was arranged for members of the deaf community who have a strong connection with the late Dave Culham.

August 2013
9 August, PAAG monthly meeting: Paul McDonald, WDC Parks and Recreation Manager, spoke on the concept of activating public spaces and CPTED, followed by discussion on the loop walkway along the Hatea River. PAAG strongly supported the inclusion of multigenerational outdoor exercise equipment.

17-21 August, 3 YAG members were supported to attend the annual National Youth Forum on Cultural Diversity hosted by the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO, and the Human Rights Commission in Wellington.

19 August, YAG, DAG and PAAG all spoke to their written submissions on the WDC William Fraser Memorial Park on Pohe Island development plan.

20 August, DAG monthly meeting: Victoria Randall, Civil Defence Emergency Management Officer addressed the group on the Northland Resilience Project for vulnerable residents.

21 August, YAG monthly meeting: The group prepared 4 questions to be put to all mayoral candidates. YAG’s terms of reference relating to meeting procedure were reviewed and revised.

September 2013
13 September, PAAG monthly meeting: Sonya Seutter, WDC Policy and Planning, introduced the Weekend and Night Time Economy Strategy. PAAG keen to promote more free public transport for seniors, particularly connecting the CBD with shopping precincts. The group discussed perceptions of danger in the inner city at night.

17 September, DAG monthly meeting: Sonya Seutter presented the Weekend and Night Time Economy Strategy to get a disability perspective.

18 September, Mark Seakins, project manager, presented plans for the proposed Waiarohia Stream footbridge to a joint group of PAAG and DAG members. The groups appreciated the opportunity to work together.

18 September, YAG monthly meeting: Sonya Seutter discussed the Weekend and Night Time Economy Strategy. The promise of a more vibrant city was particularly attractive to youth.

25-27 September, Members representing the YAG, PAAG and DAG assisted Matt Trubshaw to test a new WDC online payment scheme.
October 2013
1 October, UN International Day of Older Persons
11 October, PAAG monthly meeting: new member Jenny Gilmore, representing the Maori Women’s Welfare League was welcomed. Bruno Gilmore, WDC Senior Landscape Architect, spoke on design considerations for older people.
15 October, DAG monthly meeting: the group discussed holding a public survey to test commonly held perceptions of accessibility. This was both online and face-to-face at the central library on Sunday 20 Oct 10-12, and 22-24 October 10am-2pm. Contrary to expectations, the results of the survey revealed no clear patterns, with the diversity of personal experiences indicating problems were not necessarily shared.
16 October, YAG monthly meeting: attended by Eru Lyndon, Northland Regional Commissioner for MSD, spoke on wanting to raise Northland’s performance statistics to reflect the slogan “Northland at the Top” through meeting the goals of excellence urgency and focus.
30 October, Members representing the 3 WDC advisory groups attended the swearing in of the new Mayor and Whangarei District Councillors.

November 2013
8 November, PAAG monthly meeting: members discussed various organisational activities and issues relating to older members of the community. The group developed a Positive Ageing Lens based on the national Positive Ageing Strategy as a reference tool for future group discussions.
A new web page committed to Volunteering added to WDC web site.
19 November, DAG monthly meeting: Rachel O’Gorman, Venues and Events, promoted WDC Endless Summer events, and identified events that were accessible.
Members of the disability sector visited the Whangarei Youth Space building in Caffler park as they were concerned about the accessibility of the facility.
20 November, YAG monthly meeting: councillors Cherry Hermon and Stuart Bell were introduced to the group as the new WDC representatives. The group discussed the Local Government Commission’s proposal for a unitary authority. YAG accepted their strategic plan for 2014.
Publication of the “Shape Your City Youth Survey 2013 Report” with assistance from WDC staff members.
27 November, H.W. the mayor, WDC councillors and Manaia PHO representatives exchanged gifts and celebrated with youth involved in the new youth space project.

December 2013
3 December, UN International Day of the Disabled Person: celebrations organised by the disability sector were cancelled because of inclement weather.
13 December, Community Services Department hosted a joint advisory group morning tea in appreciation of their contribution to WDC.
14 December, The “Love my Life Festival”, an anti youth suicide initiative was held at the Town Basin and attended by more than 300 people. It was supported by a grant from YAG, with members also involved in the organisation.
16 December, 5 YAG members visited Auckland City, Youth Advisory Panel meeting. The hope was expressed by both groups that this relationship would continue.
A Public utility survey of 10 main sites in the Town Basin/Pohe Island precinct was designed by Community Services staff. Members of YAG conducted the survey and recorded their findings.
January - February 2014

28 January, the mobility scooter was relocated from the library to Te Manawa / The Hub, to promote the use of the Town Basin precinct

1 February, The Octane Youth Health Clinic was opened at 75 Bank St in a predawn ceremony. YAG members were invited to be part of the youth governance team for this project.

4 February, a combined advisory group consultation was facilitated by Paul Dell on the Local Government Commission’s Draft Proposal for Reorganisation of Local Government in Northland. Each advisory group prepared submissions expressing their various concerns about the proposed unitary authority.

12 February, YAG monthly meeting: Mike Henehan, By-laws coordinator spoke on reviews to the Signs, Skateboards and Public Places by-laws prior to public consultation. Members were asked to consult with skate board users. 3 YAG members were presented with certificates for their contribution to the group as they left for further study.

14 February, PAAG monthly meeting: Mike Henehan discussed the review of WDC bylaws and the possible effect this would have on the older members of the community. Cr Cutforth was welcomed to the group.

18 February, DAG monthly meeting: Mike Henehan spoke on WDC bylaws for review and how this may affect accessibility.

March 2014

10 March, special YAG meeting: to receive and consider applications for YAG membership.

14 March, PAAG and YAG made oral submissions to the Local Government Commission.

14 March, PAAG monthly meeting: Owen Thomas, Community Services Manager, provided a comprehensive presentation on the WDC draft Psychoactive Substances Policy in response to the Psychoactive substances Act (2013). PAAG members expressed their support for the policy because of the negative impacts of these substances and moved to prepare a submission in support.

15 March, YAG induction programme held for 7 new and all current members as an opportunity to meet and share as well as learn about the function of the group in the context of local government.

18 March, DAG monthly meeting: Shona Morgan, NRC Civil Defence Emergency Management Officer, spoke on a series of workshops to ensure agencies responsible for vulnerable people are prepared for a civil defence emergency. Owen Thomas also presented the WDC draft Psychoactive Substances Policy. Members reported on the vulnerability of the disability sector to the substances and associated antisocial behaviour.

19 March, YAG monthly meeting: the new YAG members were formally welcomed to the group with a mihi whakatau. Owen Thomas Community Services Manager spoke on the WDC draft Psychoactive Substances Policy and asked the group to consider this.

April 2014

9 April, YAG monthly meeting: HW the mayor attended and was presented with a Shape Your City T-shirt.

The group prepared a submission in support of the WDC psychoactive substances policy. YAG presented their written submission to the draft WDC Annual Plan in support of WDC funding the ‘Carpark to park’ plan, extending the Kensington netball courts and improving the Pohe island skateboard park.

The first of the YAG monthly newsletters was published on the WDC web site and sent to all local secondary schools.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 April</td>
<td>PAAG monthly meeting: Bree Kurtovich WDC Funding Officer introduced to the group and spoke of the 2014 Civic Honours awards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 April</td>
<td>DAG monthly meeting: The group chair, Jonny Wilkinson addressed the Local Government Commission on 9 April and reported to the group that the commissioners acknowledged the work that had gone into establishing the group and its relationship with the WDC. The new Whangarei accessibility map was approved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 April</td>
<td>Several YAG members attended a full council meeting and joined the mayor, CEO and counsellors for lunch.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 April</td>
<td>ANZAC DAY: Representatives from YAG laid a wreath at the cenotaph commemorating the youth who died fighting for NZ.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>May 2014</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 May</td>
<td>Whangarei Youth Space was formally opened at Caffler Park, Water Street. The opening was attended by WDC staff and members of the YAG.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 May</td>
<td>PAAG monthly meeting: Shona Morgan, NRC Civil Defence Emergency Management Officer, spoke on a series of workshops to be held to ensure agencies responsible for vulnerable people are prepared for a civil defence emergency.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PAAG submitted to the draft annual plan on the health benefits of multigenerational outdoor exercise equipment for senior members of the community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 May</td>
<td>Deputy Mayor, Cr Sharon Morgan accepted a gift of a new mobility scooter from NorthAble, The scooter was located at Te Manawa/the Hub and replaced the mobility scooter given several years earlier.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 May</td>
<td>YAG monthly meeting: Ann Midson, WDC media adviser, spoke on dealing with the media. YAG members prepared a comprehensive written submission to the draft annual plan and spoke to this at a council hearing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 – 25 May</td>
<td>Youth Week: This years theme was “Be the Change”. Several YAG members attended the Youth Summit held in Kaitaia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 May</td>
<td>DAG monthly meeting: The group discussed MBIE consultations pending the review of New Zealand Standard, NZS 4121:2001, and the Building (Earthquake Prone Buildings) Amendment Bill. Section 133(a)(x), was criticized for undermining the safety and accessibility provisions of the Building Act. As a central government issue, the group wrote a letter to M.P. Hon Phil Heatley voicing their concern.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 May</td>
<td>YAG Chair, Brad Olsen, presented with a Leadership Award in the inaugural Youth Week Awards at Parliament by Youth Affairs Minister Nikki Kaye. Brad was nominated by Community Services Adviser.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>June 2014</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 June</td>
<td>YAG monthly meeting: Peter Gleeson, WDC Economic Development manager, spoke on U20 FIFA 2015 event. He invited representation from the YAG on the marketing committee. YAG sent submission to WDC on proposed Public Places by-law changes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 June</td>
<td>PAAG monthly meeting: Nominations were received and accepted for the new Chair and Deputy Chair. Stephanie McMillan, QSM. J.P. and Sue Bodle, ACC injury Prevention Adviser elected Chair and Deputy respectively.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 June</td>
<td>DAG monthly meeting: Rachel Pascoe, WDC senior communications advisor, spoke to the group on using social media as an effective communications tool.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. Submission on Far North District Council Plan Change 18 – Genetically Modified Organisms

Reporting officer Dr Kerry Grundy, Melissa Needham
Date of meeting 13 August 2014

Vision, mission and values
This agenda item, together with its recommendations, was written with the Whangarei District Council's Vision, Mission and Values in mind. It is felt that the recommendations, if adopted, would contribute to the Vision, Mission and Values, particularly to the values of customer first, innovation and excellence and visionary leadership.

Background
Whangarei District Council is a member of the Inter-council Working Party on GMO Risk Evaluation and Management Options along with Auckland Council (and predecessor councils), Far North District Council, Kaipara District Council and Northland Regional Council. In response to on-going concerns expressed by their communities, including tangata whenua, councils on the Working Party have collaboratively investigated the risks posed by GMOs in the environment, together with options to manage those risks, over a period of ten years. They have also lobbied central government extensively to amend HSNO to address those risks, particularly by putting in place a strong mandatory precautionary requirement on decisions to trial or release GMOs to the environment, along with strict liability provisions for possible harm resulting from outdoor use of GMOs.

In response to the continued inaction by central government in addressing those concerns, the Working Party commissioned draft district/unitary plan provisions, a supporting section 32 evaluation and report, and accompanying legal opinions from Dr Somerville QC to enable councils on the Working Party to include provisions in their RMA planning documents to manage the risks from outdoor use of GMOs should they choose to do so. The Working Party recommended that member councils work collaboratively to introduce the provisions outlined in the Draft Plan Change, Section 32 Report and legal opinions produced by the Working Party into their RMA planning documents, and that they align the plan change process to facilitate collaboration and cost sharing between councils and a joint defence to legal challenge if necessary.

Subsequently, Far North District Council has included provisions in Plan Change 18 based upon the draft Plan Change, Section 32 Report and legal opinions produced by the Working Party. Whangarei District Council has adopted a plan change on GMOs based upon the documentation produced by the Working Party and aligned with the provisions in the Auckland Unitary Plan and Far North District Plan. The Whangarei and Far North GMO Plan Changes were notified on 15 July 2014 so as to align with the Auckland Council’s Unitary Plan process to enable a joint defence to possible legal challenge. Kaipara District Council has yet to make a decision on including GMO provisions in its district plan. Northland Regional Council has included precautionary provisions relating to GMOs in its Regional Policy Statement as Adopted by Council. These provisions are currently under appeal.

To facilitate a collaborative approach by member councils on the Working Party, including a joint defence (and joint funding of such a defence) to possible challenge in the Environment Court, it is important for member councils to submit (in support) on GMO provisions in other member council’s planning documents. The closing date for submissions on the Far North District Plan is 9 September 2014. It is important that WDC lodges a submission in support of the Far North District Council's Plan Change 18 by that date.

Recommendation
That Council approves the submission on the Far North District Councils Plan Change 18 supporting provisions relating to the management of GMOs included in the District Plan.

Attachments
1. Whangarei District Council submission on the Far North District Council’s Plan Change 18 – Genetically Modified Organisms – TRIM 14/61861
2. Far North District Councils Plan Change 18 - Genetically Modified Organisms – text – TRIM 14/64175
Dear Sir/Madam

Submission on Proposed Plan Change 18 - Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)

Please accept this submission on Proposed Plan Change 18 – Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) from Whangarei District Council.

Submission

The Whangarei District Council supports in full the provisions in Proposed Plan Change 18 relating to the management of genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Specifically, it supports:

(a) The issues in Chapter 19, Genetically Modified Organisms, section 19.1.
(b) The environmental outcomes expected in Chapter 19, Genetically Modified Organisms, section 19.2.
(c) The objectives and policies in Chapter 19, Genetically Modified Organisms, sections 19.3 and 19.4.
(d) The methods of implementation in Chapter 19, Genetically Modified Organisms, section 19.5.
(e) The rules in Chapter 19, Genetically Modified Organisms, section 19.6.
(f) The notification criteria in Chapter 19, Genetically Modified Organisms, section 19.7.
(g) The assessment criteria in Chapter 19, Genetically Modified Organisms, section 19.8.
(h) The definitions for Genetically Modified Organism Field Trials (Tests), Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and Genetically Modified Organism Release in Chapter 3, Glossary.

Reasons

Whangarei District Council is a member of the Inter-council Working Party on GMO Risk Evaluation and Management Options along with Far North District Council, Auckland Council (and predecessor councils), Kaipara District Council and Northland Regional Council. In response to on-going concerns expressed by their communities, including tangata whenua, councils on the Working Party have collaboratively investigated the risks posed by GMOs in the environment, together with options to manage those risks, over a period of ten years. They have also lobbied central government extensively to amend HSNO to address those risks, particularly by putting in place a strong mandatory precautionary requirement on decisions to trial or release GMOs to the environment, along with strict liability provisions for possible harm resulting from outdoor use of GMOs.

In response to the continued refusal by central government to address those concerns, the Working Party commissioned draft district/unitary plan provisions, a supporting section 32 evaluation and report, and accompanying legal opinions from Dr Somerville QC to enable councils on the Working Party to include provisions in their RMA planning documents to manage the risks from outdoor use of GMOs should they choose to do so. The Working Party recommended that member councils work collaboratively to introduce the provisions outlined in the Draft Plan Change, Section 32 Report and legal opinions produced by the Working Party into their RMA planning documents and that they align the plan change process to facilitate collaboration and cost sharing and a joint defence of the provisions if necessary.

Subsequently, Far North District Council has included provisions in Plan Change 18 based upon the draft Plan Change, Section 32 Report and legal opinions produced by the Working Party. Whangarei District Council has adopted a plan change on GMOs based upon the documentation produced by the Working Party and aligned with the provisions in the Auckland Unitary Plan and Far North District Plan Change 18. The Whangarei and Far North GMO Plan Changes were notified on 15 July 2014 so as to align with the
Auckland Council’s Unitary Plan process to enable a joint defence to possible legal challenge. Kaipara District Council has yet to make a decision on including GMO provisions in its district plan. Northland Regional Council has included precautionary provisions relating to GMOs in its Regional Policy Statement as Adopted by Council. These provisions are currently under appeal.

The provisions produced by the Working Party and those provisions included in Proposed Plan Change 18 provide the following benefits to communities and councils in Northland and Auckland:

(a) An assured, community determined level of risk at the local/regional level compared to lack of surety at the national level. The Northland/Auckland communities (as the ultimate risk bearers) have indicated that they want a strong precautionary approach to the risks from GMOs as opposed to HSNO’s weaker requirement for the EPA to consider the necessity for caution.

(b) The avoidance of potential major financial exposure for constituents and councils from possible GM contamination and/or eradication or control of unwanted GMOs, whilst retaining opportunities to benefit from GMOs in the future should such opportunities arise.

(c) A strict liability regime, including bond and financial fitness rules, that provides (to the extent possible) for users of GMOs to pay the cost of any damages (environmental and economic) resulting from that usage (which HSNO does not impose). Linked to this is a duty of care to existing conventional and organic farmers that their social and economic well being will not be adversely affected by the use of GMOs.

(d) Local and regional marketing and branding advantages, based at least in part on the GE Free status of the area, in order to seek price premiums for agricultural production and underpin tourism activities. At present GM food products do not command a price premium – rather they can result in a reduction in price – in the global market.

(e) A policy position that is representative of the strong cultural concerns of Maori in Northland and Auckland regarding GMOs indicated in iwi and hapu resource management and environmental documents and in other forums, including submissions from Maori on Northland/Auckland planning documents. Given the high proportion of Maori in the Northland/Auckland region, this is of greater significance than nationally.

(f) A consistent regulatory approach across the whole (or most) of Northland/Auckland which will assist the implementation of policies and methods to manage the effects of GMOs in the environment.

Minor Amendment

The Whangarei District Council requests that the following minor amendment be made to the provisions in Proposed Plan Change 18:

- In Chapter 19 section 19.6.2 (b) replace the word ‘Trails’ with the word ‘Trials’.

Decision sought

Whangarei District Council asks that Far North District Council retains the provisions relating to GMOs in Plan Change 18 as presently worded with the above minor amendment.

Whangarei District Council does not wish to be heard in support of its submission.

Trade Competition

Whangarei District Council could not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.

Yours faithfully

Dr Kerry Grundy
Team Leader (Futures Planning)
19 GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS

CONTEXT

Genetic modification (GM) refers to a set of techniques that alter genetic makeup by adding, deleting or moving genes (within or between species) to produce new and different organisms. Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are products of genetic modification. Another term often used to refer to the same technique is genetic engineering (GE).

A wide range of GM products are being researched and developed for commercialisation. While the GMOs commercialised to date are, in general, directed at reducing harvest losses by combating pests and viruses, research into future varieties is attempting to considerably widen the scope of applications. This includes improved growth in plants, improved tolerance to environmental conditions, and creating entirely new products and sectors of economic activity in agriculture, horticulture, plantation forestry, dairying, aquaculture and medicine.

The absolute and relative benefits associated with the development and use of GMOs is continually being redefined as this and other forms of applied biotechnology advance. However there remains scientific uncertainty with respect to potential adverse effects of GMOs on natural resources and ecosystems. The risks could be substantial and certain consequences irreversible. Once released into the environment, most GMOs would be very difficult to eradicate even if the funding were available for this, irrespective of the consequences. If the GMO is related to a food product, the “GE Free” food producer status of a district or region would likely be permanently lost, along with any marketing advantages that status conferred.

The relevant legislation which applies to the management of GMOs in New Zealand is the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (HSNO Act). The HSNO Act establishes the legal framework for assessments by the national regulator, the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). This Act sets minimum standards (section 36) and provides for the EPA to set additional conditions that are to apply to a particular GMO activity.

While the HSNO Act provides the means to set conditions on the management of GMOs within a specific geographic area or irrespective of location, councils have jurisdiction under sections 30 and 31 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) to control land and water use activities involving field trials and the release of GMOs, to promote sustainable management under the RMA.

Local regulation can address key gaps that have been identified in the national regulatory regime for the management of GMOs, in particular the absence of liability provisions and the lack of a mandatory precautionary approach. Benefits of local level regulation, in addition to the controls set by the EPA, include:

- Ensuring GM operators are financially accountable in the long-term through bonding and financial fitness provisions for the full costs associated with the GMO activity. This includes accidental or unintentional contamination, clean-up, monitoring and remediation.
- Adoption of a precautionary approach to manage potential risks (economic, environmental, social and cultural) associated with the outdoor use of GMOs.
- Protection of local/regional marketing advantages through reducing risks associated with market rejection and loss of income from GM contamination of non-GM crops, and negative effects on marketing, branding and tourism opportunities.
- Addressing cultural concerns of Maori, particularly given that Maori make up a considerably greater proportion of the population in Northland than is represented nationally.

Given a council’s general duties of care for its financial position and that of its constituents, there is a ready justification for councils to enforce mandatory conditions to provide for both financial accountability and avoidance of economic damage. These controls would act in addition to those that may be set by the EPA under the HSNO Act.

19.1 ISSUES

19.1.1 The outdoor use of GMOs can adversely affect the environment, economy, and social and cultural resources and values, and significant costs can result from the release of a GMO.

19.2 ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOMES EXPECTED

19.2.1 Manage risk and avoid adverse effects on people, communities, tangata whenua, the economy and the environment associated with the outdoor use of GMOs.
Chapter 19 – GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS

19.2.2 Provide the framework for a unified approach to the management of the outdoor use of GMOs in the Far North to address cross-boundary effects.

19.2.3 Ensure accountability by GMO operators for the full costs related to the monitoring of GMO activities, and any migration of GMOs beyond specified areas, including unintentional GM contamination.

19.2.4 Ensure accountability by GMO operators for compensation via performance bonds in the event that the activity under their operation results in adverse effects to third parties or the environment.

19.3 OBJECTIVES

19.3.1 The environment, including people and communities and their social, economic and cultural well being and health and safety, is protected from potential adverse effects associated with the outdoor use, storage, cultivation, harvesting, processing or transportation of GMOs through the adoption of a precautionary approach, including adaptive responses, to manage uncertainty and lack of information.

19.3.2 The sustainable management of the natural and physical resources of the district with respect to the outdoor use of GMOs, a significant resource management issue identified by the community.

19.4 POLICIES

19.4.1 To adopt a precautionary approach by prohibiting the general release of a GMO, and by making outdoor field trialling of a GMO a discretionary activity.

19.4.2 To ensure that a resource consent granted for the outdoor field trialling of a GMO is subject to conditions that ensures that the consent holder is financially accountable (to the extent possible) for any adverse effects associated with the activity, including clean-up costs and remediation, including via the use of bonds.

19.4.3 To ensure that a resource consent granted for the outdoor field trialling of a GMO is subject to conditions that serve to avoid, as far as can reasonably be achieved, risk to the environment from the use, storage, cultivation, harvesting, processing or transportation of a GMO.

19.4.4 To ensure that a resource consent granted for the outdoor field trialling of a GMO is subject to a condition requiring that monitoring costs are met by the consent holder.

19.4.5 To require consent holders for a GMO activity to be liable (to the extent possible) for any adverse effects caused beyond the site for which consent has been granted for the activity.

19.4.6 To adopt an adaptive approach to the management of the outdoor use, storage, cultivation, harvesting, processing or transportation of a GMO in the district through periodic reviews of these plan provisions, particularly if new information on the benefits and/or adverse effects of a GMO activity becomes available.

19.5 METHODS OF IMPLEMENTATION

DISTRICT PLAN METHODS

19.5.1 Rules in the Plan to control GMO Field Trails and prohibit the release of GMOs in the Far North.

19.5.2 Where resource consents are required to undertake GMO activities protection of the environment, economy, society and cultural values may be achieved by imposing conditions of consent.

OTHER METHODS

19.5.3 The Council will liaise with other Councils in order to achieve an integrated approach to GMOs in Northland.

19.5.4 The Council will encourage all applicants to actively engage with the public and tangata whenua through early dialogue when developing land use proposals to ensure that adverse effects are avoided, remedied or mitigated.

COMMENTARY
The outdoor use of GMOs has the potential to cause adverse effects on the environment, economy and social and cultural wellbeing. The objectives and policies seek to protect the community and receiving environment from risk associated with any GMO activity.

The application of a precautionary approach to the outdoor use, storage, cultivation, harvesting, processing or transportation of GMOs in the district shall mean that:

- The release of a GMO is prohibited (this is to avoid the risk that significant adverse environmental effects will arise, including adverse effects on the economy, community and/or tangata whenua resources and values); and
- Outdoor field trialling of a GMO (where the proponents of such activities have prior approval of the EPA) shall be a discretionary activity.

Pastoral farming, dairying, horticulture and forestry are important land uses in the Far North and are major contributors to the local and regional economy. Therefore there are a range of outdoor GMOs that GMO developers could consider using in the district or region, including GM food crops, trees, animals, and pharma crops. The potential for adverse effects, including accidental contamination, resulting from the outdoor use of GMOs poses a “risk” to the community and environment. By specifying classes of GMOs and applying standards to the outdoor use of GMOs, the risks associated with their use, storage, cultivation, harvesting, processing or transportation can be reduced.

Within the Far North, this will involve managing and limiting the outdoor use of GMOs. Further, performance standards will be used to mitigate any adverse effects associated with contamination of GMOs beyond the subject site, thereby reducing the risks to the community, environment and economy.

Accidental or unintentional migration of GMOs that result in GMO contamination and subsequent clean-up and remediation can be expensive. Council therefore requires a GMO operator to meet all potential costs associated with the activity and will secure long-term financial accountability through appropriate standards and bonding provisions.

The EPA is not obligated to set monitoring requirements as a part of its approval process, and can only require monitoring where it is relevant to assessing environmental risk. Under section 35 of the RMA, a council has a duty to monitor, which can be expensive. Requiring a GMO operator to meet the costs of monitoring, via consent conditions, ensures the costs are meet by the activity operator.

To avoid foreclosure of potential opportunities associated with a GMO development that could benefit the district or region, there is the ability to review a particular GMO activity if it were to become evident during the field trial stage or in light of other new information that a particular GMO activity would be of net benefit to the district or region and that potential risks can be managed to the satisfaction of Council. A council or a GMO proponent can initiate a plan change to change the status of a GMO activity.

19.6 RULES
Activities affected by this Section of the Plan must comply not only with the rules in this Section, but also with the relevant standards applying to the zone in which the activity is located (refer to Part 2 - Environment Provisions), and with other relevant standards in Part 3 – District Wide Provisions.

19.6.1 PERMITTED ACTIVITIES
An activity is a permitted activity if:

(a) it complies with the standards for permitted activities set out in Rules 19.6.1.1 below; and
(b) it complies with the relevant standards for permitted activities in the zone in which it is located, set out in Part 2 of the Plan - Environment Provisions; and
(c) it complies with the other relevant standards for permitted activities set out in Part 3 of the Plan - District Wide Provisions.

19.6.1.1 INDOOR USE AND RESEARCH INVOLVING GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS
GMOs that are not specifically provided for in 19.6.2 Discretionary Activities and 19.6.3 Prohibited Activities below are a permitted activity. These include (but are not limited to):

(a) Research within contained laboratories involving GMOs;
(b) Veterinary Vaccines using GMOs; and
(c) Medical applications involving the manufacture and use of non-viable GM products.

Note: Such activities may require consents and / or permits under other legislation / plans.
19.6.2 DISCRETIONARY ACTIVITIES

An activity is a discretionary activity if:

(a) it does not comply with one or more of the standards for permitted activities as set out under Rule 19.6.1.1; but

(b) it complies with all rules of 19.6.2.1 Genetically Modified Organisms Field Trials, 19.6.2.2 Bond Requirements and 19.6.2.3 Monitoring Costs below; and

(b) it complies with the relevant standards for permitted, controlled, restricted discretionary or discretionary activities in the zone in which it is located, set out in Part 2 of the Plan - Environment Provisions; and

(c) it complies with the other relevant standards for permitted, controlled, restricted discretionary or discretionary activities set out in Part 3 of the Plan - District Wide Provisions.

The Council may impose conditions of consent on a discretionary activity or it may refuse consent to the application. When considering a discretionary activity application, the Council will have regard to the assessment criteria set out under Section 19.7.

If an activity does not comply with the standards for a discretionary activity, it will be a non-complying activity unless it is a prohibited activity subject to Section 19.6.3 below.

19.6.2.1 GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS FIELD TRIALS

Outdoor field trialling of a GMO (where the proponents of such activities have prior approval of the EPA) shall be a discretionary activity.

Applications must provide:

(a) Evidence of approval from the EPA for the specific GMO for which consent is sought.

(b) Details of proposed containment measures for the commencement, duration and completion of the proposed activity.

(c) Details of the species, its characteristics and lifecycle, to which the GMO activities will relate.

(d) Research on adverse effects to the environment and economy associated with the activity should GMOs escape from the activity area, and measures that will be taken to avoid, remedy or mitigate such effects.

(e) Evidence of research undertaken that characterises and tests the GMO, and the certainty associated with the accuracy of that information.

(f) A management plan outlining ongoing research and how monitoring will be undertaken during, and potentially beyond, the duration of consent.

(g) Details of areas in which the activity is to be confined.

(h) Description of contingency and risk management plans and measures.

19.6.2.2 BOND REQUIREMENTS

Council requires the applicant for the resource consent to provide a performance bond (akin to a bank guarantee) in respect of the performance of any one or more conditions of the consent, including conditions relating to monitoring required of the GMO activity (prior to, during and after the activity), and that this be available for payment to redress any adverse environmental effects and any other adverse effects to third parties (including economic effects) that become apparent during or after the expiry of the consent.

The exact time and manner of implementing and discharging the bond shall be decided by, and be executed to the satisfaction of Council.

Matters that will be considered when determining the amount of the bond are:

(a) What adverse effects could occur and the potential significance, scale and nature of those effects, notwithstanding any measures taken to avoid those effects.

(b) The degree to which the operator of the activity has sought to avoid those adverse effects, and the certainty associated with whether the measures taken will avoid those effects.

(c) The level of risk associated with any unexpected adverse effects from the activity.

(d) The likely scale of costs associated with remediating any adverse effects that may occur.
(e) The timescale over which effects are likely to occur or arise.
(f) The extent of monitoring that may be required in order to establish whether an adverse effect has occurred or whether any adverse effect has been appropriately remedied.

19.6.2.3 MONITORING COSTS
A GMO discretionary activity may require monitoring during, and beyond the duration of consent. Monitoring is to be carried out by either the Council or consent holder with appropriate reporting procedures to the relevant regulatory authority.
A monitoring strategy for a GMO discretionary activity can include the following matters:
(a) Inspection schedules for the site, storage areas and equipment (daily, weekly, monthly, events based).
(b) Testing of procedures (e.g. accidental release response).
(c) Training programmes for new staff, updates for existing staff.
(d) Audits of sites and site management systems.
(e) Sample testing of plants and soils in neighbouring properties for the presence of migrated GMOs.

19.6.3 PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

19.6.3.1 OUTDOOR RELEASE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS
Outdoor release of food-related and non-food-related Genetically Modified Organisms, not otherwise provided for in Rules under 19.6.1 and 19.6.2 above is a prohibited activity.

19.7 NOTIFICATION
All applications for resource consent under rule 19.6.2 must be publicly notified.

19.8 ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
The matters set out in s104 and s105, and in Part II of the Act, apply to the consideration of all resource consents for land use activities.
In addition to these matters, the Council shall also apply the relevant assessment matters set out below.
(a) Site design conditions should ensure GMO sites are designed and managed in a manner that avoids or minimises risks of adverse effects from activities carried out on the site. This shall include provisions to prevent the migration of GMOs beyond the area designated for the activity.
(b) Ensure the transportation of GMOs is carried out in a manner that minimises the risk of adverse effects by preventing the escape of GMOs from the transporting vehicles. Appropriate procedures must be in place to ensure that any vehicle visiting the site is thoroughly cleaned and checked prior to leaving the site to avoid unintentional GMO transportation.
(c) Reporting requirements by the consent holder will be stipulated in the consent conditions.
(d) Where necessary, more stringent measures than those required under the provisions of the HSNO Act may be imposed to manage potential risks. A review clause (pursuant to Section 128 of the Act) may be included in any conditions, where deemed necessary, to address any future changes in technology, and the scope of environmental, economic and cultural effects.
(e) The duration of any consent will be aligned with EPA approval terms.
3 DEFINITIONS

Note: Any words included under this section shall have the meaning as defined here throughout this Plan unless specifically stated otherwise in the text of the Plan. Where the definition of a word is identified as being from the Resource Management Act 1991 (or any other Act), these words have been included in a Glossary.

GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISM FIELD TRIALS (TESTS)

In relation to a genetically modified organism (GMO), the carrying on of outdoor trials, on the effects of the organism under conditions similar to those of the environment into which the organism is likely to be released, but from which the organism, or any heritable material arising from it, could be retrieved or destroyed at the end of the trials.

GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOs)

Unless expressly provided otherwise by regulations, any organism in which any of the genes or other genetic material:

(a) have been modified by in vitro techniques; or
(b) are inherited or otherwise derived, through any number of replications, from any genes or other genetic material which has been modified by in vitro techniques.

For the absence of doubt, this does not apply to genetically modified (GM) products that are not viable (and are thus no longer GMOs), or products that are dominantly non-GM but contain non-viable GM ingredients (such as processed foods).

GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISM RELEASE

To allow the organism to move within New Zealand free of any restrictions other than those imposed in accordance with the Biosecurity Act 1993 or the Conservation Act 19874.

A release may be without conditions under s34 of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996, (HSNO) or subject to conditions under s38A of the HSNO Act.
6. “Eco-sourcing Guidelines” for Native Plants

Reporting officer  Aran Arrieta (State of the Environment Coordinator)
Date of meeting  13 August 2014

Vision, mission and values

This item is in accord with Council’s vision, mission and values statement as the Eco-sourcing Guidelines for native plants represents our unique natural environment.

Background

The Biodiversity Strategy was adopted by Council in 2012 and it has identified under the Objective 3.2: Assist education on the importance of biodiversity to “educate and inform resource users of the need for local sourcing of plant material”.

The idea of eco-sourcing comes from the observation that plants from the same species, but from different localities, vary in their characteristics including plant form, growth rates, time to first flower and tolerance of environmental conditions. Although we may call them by the same name, there are often subtle genetic differences between the same types of plants from different regions. Some plants from the South Island are as alien to Whangarei District a non-New Zealand species.

“Eco-sourcing” Guidelines for Native Plants

Eco-sourcing is seen as a further step in the knowledge and use of native plants. There is a trend towards plantings serving many concurrent purposes, that is, not only having an attractive plant but also having it contribute in several ways to our environment. By using eco-sourced plant material we add to the list contributing to the biodiversity and sustainability of our local wild plant communities.

The main reasons for eco-sourcing in native re-vegetation and restoration projects are:

- to maintain the distinctiveness of Whangarei’s local native flora. For many species the appearance, physiology and genetic make-up vary considerably throughout their range in New Zealand;
- to avoid the risk of planting native species that do not naturally grow in the Whangarei District and which could become invasive;
- to ensure native plants grown from locally collected seeds or cuttings are better suited to local climate and conditions and more likely to survive;
- to improve the habitats of native wildlife, which feed from our native trees, bushes and grass.

These benefits align with Goal 3 of the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy which includes the need to:

"Maintain and restore viable populations of all indigenous species and subspecies across their natural range and maintain their genetic diversity"

This operational guideline offers guidance when proposed re-vegetation projects are to be undertaken in natural areas, such as council parks, stream-side reserves, esplanade plantings, bush regeneration projects, beach, dune or coastal regeneration projects or similar situations. The purpose of the guideline is to encourage eco-sourcing of indigenous plants when possible and provide information on the benefits of using eco-sourced plants when available.

Recommendation

That the “Eco-sourcing” Guidelines for Native Plants be received.

Attachment:

Eco-sourcing” Guidelines for Native Plants
“Eco-sourcing” Guidelines for Native Plants

2014
Table of Contents

Table of Contents 2
1 Introduction 3
2 Overview 3
3 Legislation 3
4 Wai 262 4
5 Why eco-source? 4
6 What do we need to do? 4
7 How widely should these practices be applied? 6
8 Implementation of the guidelines 6
9 Objectives 6
10 Recommendations 6
11 Where do we get eco-sourced plants from? 7
12 Further information 7
13 References 7
1 Introduction

The idea of eco-sourcing comes from the observation that plants from the same species, but from different localities, vary in their characteristics including plant form, growth rates, time to first flower and tolerance of environmental conditions. Although we may call them by the same name, there are often subtle genetic differences between the same types of plants from different regions. Some plants from the South Island are as alien to Whangarei District as non-New Zealand species.

There is evidence that variation can occur over small distances, and changes in habitat can cause a discernible change in genetic adaptations. A recent example in the New Zealand flora is provided by the Sophora spp. There are three species of Sophora or Kowhai in Northland with Sophora fulvida, (more common in the Waitakere Ranges around Auckland) occurring at Maunganui Bluff, Bream Head and near Mount Manaia on volcanic rock outcrops. Sophora microphylla also occurs throughout the North and South Islands, although it is considered relatively uncommon in parts of the North Island. The most common Northland Kowhai is S. Chathamica which occurs mainly in coastal and lowland sites in Northland, like the Tutukaka coast. The collection of local seed for local plantings retains the integrity of the District’s genotype (e.g. plant form) and maximises survival through best fit to the environment.

Whangarei District Council is involved in some projects of restoration planting involving the use of eco-sourced native plants such as the restoration efforts on Limestone Island and Project Crimson. To date 150,000 plants have been planted in Limestone Island including over 100 different species of native trees and plants, with seeds sourced locally. Project Crimson contracts several community nurseries around the country to grow trees from known eco-sourced seed for distribution to projects. There are also many voluntary initiatives throughout the district such as landcare groups, school groups as well as individual landowners that follow eco-sourcing principles.

While Council supports the use of eco-sourced native plants throughout the Whangarei District, these guidelines are generally concerned with Council activities including Council projects and restoration projects that Council is involved with.

2 Overview

Over 80% of the vascular plant species that are native to New Zealand live naturally nowhere else in the world. But if we look further we can discover diversity beyond the species level, some we can see and some we need to discover by other means. If we follow the patterns we realise that the vegetation, even in large areas of apparently continuous bush, is comprised of populations – i.e. areas of general vegetation where many plants of the same species exist and interact (interbreed) but for one or more reasons (topography, micro-climatic conditions, direction of wind or water flow etc) have very little interaction with plants of the same species in a neighbouring area. Populations are the recommended unit to consider when eco-sourcing. Variety or diversity within populations is what we want to protect and enhance.

Eco-sourcing is seen as a further step in the knowledge and use of native plants. There is a trend towards plantings serving many concurrent purposes, that is, not only having an attractive plant but also having it contribute in several ways to our environment. By using eco-sourced plant material we add to the list contributing to the biodiversity and sustainability of our local wild plant communities.

This operational guideline applies when proposed re-vegetation projects are to be undertaken in natural areas, such as council parks, stream-side reserves, esplanade plantings, bush regeneration projects, beach, dune or coastal regeneration projects or similar situations.

3 Legislation

Internationally, New Zealand is a signatory to the International Convention on Biological Diversity, with a duty to protect our indigenous biodiversity. A main outcome of this was the production of a Biodiversity Strategy for New Zealand (The New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy, 2000). This sets a framework for biodiversity protection and enhancement of biodiversity in New Zealand. Council also has functions in relation to biodiversity under a variety of legislation and national policy, e.g. the Resource Management Act 1991 and the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010. There are also functions relating to biodiversity included in regional planning documents such as the Regional Policy Statement for Northland, Regional Coastal Plan and Regional Water and Soil Plan. Lastly, the Whangarei District Growth Strategy and Biodiversity Strategy, adopted in 2012, along with the State of the Environment Report on Biodiversity, produced in 2011, outlined a range of initiatives that are required to meet statutory obligations in relation to biodiversity protection and enhancement. It is important that these functions are carried out effectively.

An objective relevant to Whangarei District Council in the Proposed Regional Policy Statement for Northland is to “safeguard and enhance the life-supporting capacity of Northland’s indigenous ecosystems”.

TRIM 14/16657
Policy 4.4.1 of the Water, Land and Common Resources Chapter, “seeks to protect important indigenous ecosystems and habitats and maintain the diversity of indigenous species”.

Objective 3.2: Assist education on the importance of biodiversity for Whangarei District Council in the Biodiversity Strategy is to “educate and inform resource users of the need for local sourcing of plant material”

4 Wai 262

The Wai 262 claim is a claim by six tribes throughout New Zealand (Ngati Kuri, Ngati Wai, Te Rarawa, Ngati Kahungunu, Ngati Porou and Ngati Koata) to the Waitangi Tribunal for recognition and protection of the cultural and intellectual heritage rights in relation to indigenous flora and fauna and their Matauranga, or traditional knowledge, customs and practices related to that flora and fauna.

New Zealand’s Biodiversity Strategy states:

Objective 7.4 Matauranga Maori

“Recognise and respect the role of Matauranga Maori in biodiversity management and provide for its retention and protection”.

It includes all native species in New Zealand covering “the protection, control, conservation, management, treatment, propagation, sale, dispersal, utilisation, and restriction on the use and transmission of the knowledge of New Zealand indigenous flora and fauna and the genetic resource contained therein”.

It is important to recognise that the implications of this claim will in many senses be determined by individual hapu and iwi at a local level. Hence, the importance of having an open working relationship with tangata whenua.

5 Why eco-source?

The main reasons for eco-sourcing in native re-vegetation and restoration projects are:

- to maintain the distinctiveness of Whangarei’s local native flora. For many species the appearance, physiology and genetic make-up vary considerably throughout their range in New Zealand;
- to avoid the risk of planting native species that do not naturally grow in the Whangarei District and which could become invasive;
- to ensure native plants grown from locally collected seeds or cuttings are better suited to local climate and conditions and more likely to survive;
- to improve the habitats of native wildlife, which feed from our native trees, bushes and grass.

The first bullet point ties in with Goal 3 of the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy which includes the need to:

“Maintain and restore viable populations of all indigenous species and subspecies across their natural range and maintain their genetic diversity”.

6 What do we need to do?

I. Eco-source all plant material to the greatest extent possible

Eco-sourcing is a tool for conserving the natural character of the vegetation of our region/district by sourcing native plants from wild grown local seed for local use. It is an attempt to represent the range of genetic diversity within the local biodiversity preserving a location’s ecological history by recognising the diversity of species within an area or population and reflecting that diversity in any planting.

When plants have not been eco-sourced, the natural patterns of plant distribution are mixed and the genetic character of the local population changed over time reducing biodiversity at a regional, national and global scale.

One of the difficulties with eco-sourcing is defining the boundaries of the local populations. Physical landscape features such as water catchment boundaries, remnant bush areas, habitat boundaries (e.g. wetland, dry land, exposed) ecosystem boundaries or the Department of Conservation Ecological Districts can be used to define those boundaries for seed collection.

An Ecological District is defined by the topographical, geological, climatic, soil and biological features producing a characteristic landscape and range of biological communities. There are four Ecological Regions (Eastern Northland, Poor Knights, Western Northland and Kaipara) and eight Ecological Districts (Fig. 1) (Whangaruru, Whangarei, Manaia, Taranga, Waipu, Poor Knights, Tangihua and Tokatoka) which are contained entirely or partly within the Whangarei District.
Growing from seed rather than cuttings ensures wider genetic diversity as cuttings can be all exactly the same as the plant the cutting was taken from.

II. Avoid planting indigenous weeds

The problem with indigenous plants becoming weeds is completely avoidable if eco-sourcing principles are followed. Some indigenous species can become quite invasive like karō (*Pittosporum crassifolium*) and Pohutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa*) which were introduced to the Wellington area and now they are becoming invasive in some locations like the South Coast.

The term weed in this context refers to a plant that interferes with the natural process of creating and maintaining self-sustaining locally representative ecosystems. Some indigenous species can behave as weeds transforming ecosystems and landscapes, threatening the survival of other native plants by smothering or out-competing them or reducing the availability of preferred foods and lessening the availability of desirable habitats for native animal populations. These species are not endemic to the region or they do not occur naturally in the area.

III. Avoid the spread of pests and diseases

Invasive pests and diseases such as Argentine ant (*Linepithema humile*) and Kauri dieback (*Phytophthora taxon Agathis* (PTA)) respectively, are major threats to New Zealand’s economy, environment and way of life.

The Argentine ant is listed as one of the world’s invasive species and it is a problem in an increasing number of towns and cities throughout New Zealand.
It forms super-colonies of immense size threatening the region’s environment, economy and the lifestyle Northlanders enjoy. An aggressive species, Argentine ant bites are not poisonous but can be irritating and cause allergic-type reactions in some people. From one area to another, Argentine ant hitch rides in freight, potted plants, rubbish, vehicles and other such goods.

Kauri dieback or PTA is a microscopic soil-borne invader threatening the health and survival of kauri trees (Agathis australis) in Auckland and Northland. This soil-borne species spreads by soil and soil water movement, plant to plant transmission through underground root-to-root contact and human and animal vectors.

Transportation of plants has obvious potential to assist pests and diseases to spread. Great care should be taken to ensure that none of these and other pests and diseases are spread into currently unaffected areas.

For more information on how to avoid the spread of pests and diseases go to www.nrc.govt./Environment/Weed-and-pest-control

7 How widely should these practices be applied?

Where a re-vegetation project is to be undertaken in a natural area, such as a council park, scenic reserve, stream-side, esplanade planting, bush regeneration projects, beach, dune or near coastal regeneration projects or similar type of situation, the above practices should be applied. However, whenever native plantings are undertaken Council should adopt the “precautionary approach” in order to “do no further harm” and keep options open for future restoration efforts.

In some rare instances the local seed source for a particular species has been reduced to only a few plants or even a single individual. This often means the population has an extremely limited gene pool. In these situations it may be better to supplement the seed collected from the local populations with seeds from further afield. This could be advantageous to future proof the planting against environmental changes or diseases that would otherwise impact detrimentally on populations sourced from plants with a narrow gene pool. In these instances, it is also recommended to seek the advice of an ecologist when dealing with rare plant populations or when reintroducing plants that are no longer present in the area.

At present, and in most cases Council does not specify that eco-sourced plants be used as part of resource consent conditions to ensure the character of an area is retained. Although, it is not a requirement for contractors to use eco-sourced species for parks and esplanade plantings, Council recommends and encourages eco-source principles. If the recommended practices above are adopted there would be implications for the plant procurements practices of Council to align with these practices.

8 Implementation of the guidelines

It is recommended that the timing of implementation be left to respective Department Managers as there will be variability in the speed with which Departments within Council will be able to implement these guidelines due to existing contractual arrangements. Eco-sourcing of native plants should be a practice adopted in the Whangarei District area restoration and re-vegetation projects.

Whatever the scale of how close the source should be, it can be argued that if an ecologically valid guideline is not followed then the objectives of sustainable management (including ecological, social, cultural and economic components) will not be achieved and very little significant restoration of species, habitats and ecosystems will ever take place.

9 Objectives

9.1 To encourage the eco-sourcing to Ecological District level of indigenous plant material that is used in planting projects.

9.2 To follow the objectives of sustainable management (including ecological, social, cultural and economic components) and to achieve a significant restoration of species, habitats and ecosystems.

10 Recommendations

10.1 Require eco-sourced plants when available as a component of the organisation’s purchases through orders or contracts.

10.2 Use eco-sourced plants when available in preference to other plant material whenever local native plant species are being used.

10.3 Use eco-sourced plant material when available for plantings in any natural areas such as stream-side, or esplanade plantings, bush regeneration projects, beach, dune or coastal regeneration projects.
10.4 Require eco-sourced plant material to be used when possible to satisfy resource consent requirements.

10.5 Adopt as Council policy whenever possible, the eco-sourcing to Ecological District level of indigenous plant material used in planting projects.

10.6 Encourage the local nursery and garden industry to supply and market eco-sourced plant material.

10.7 Encourage community projects to use eco-sourced plants.

10.8 Avoid indigenous plants becoming weeds.

11 Where do we get eco-sourced plants from?

Several nurseries nationwide grow only local plant materials for local restoration. If this became the norm in New Zealand there could be a significant economic gain to the local community. Knowing that the local nursery has certified local plants of high genetic value is important to conservation advocacy and education and gives the customer a choice of using local plants.

There are nurseries in the Whangarei District that will be able to say what eco-sourced plants they have available for a given site.

Following is a list of Northland nurseries that provide eco-sourced plants as well as information about eco-sourcing:

- Alter-Natives - 101 Kioreroa Road, Whangarei. Ph – 09 974 8733
- Tawapou Coastal Natives - 606 Matapouri Road RD 3, Whangarei. Ph – 09 434 3971
- Forest Floor - 50 Mangakahia Road, Maungatapere, Whangarei. Ph – 09 434 7216
- Waimarie Nursery - 131 Draffin Road, Poroti 179. Ph – 09 437 3627
- He Kakano Nursery - kim@whitebaitconnection.co.nz
- Natural seeding - www.naturalseeding.co.nz
- Kauri Park - State Highway One, Kaiwaka, North Auckland. Ph – 09 431 2125
- Oratia Native Plant Nursery - 625 West Coast Road, Oratia, Auckland. Ph – 09 818 6467

12 Further information

For further advice or information about eco-sourcing, native restoration or revegetation projects go to:

Northland Regional Council
www.nrc.govt.nz
Ph: 09 470 1200
Email: mailroom@nrc.govt.nz
Address: 36 Water Street, Whangarei

Department of Conservation
www.doc.govt.nz
Ph: 09 470 3300
Email: whangarei@doc.govt.nz
Address: 2 South End Ave, Raumanga, Whangarei

Whangarei District Council
www.wdc.govt.nz
Ph: 09 430 4200
Email: mailroom@wdc.govt.nz
Address: Forum North, Whangarei

13 References


Eco-sourcing Guidelines for Nelson City


7. Wandering Stock at Mokau

**Reporting officer**  M R Henehan (Bylaw Co-ordinator)

**Date of meeting**  13 August 2014

**Vision, mission and values**

*This item is in accord with Council’s vision, mission and values statement as it seeks to manage Council’s roading network in a manner which ensures motorists and the public are safe on our roads.

**Introduction**

For many years, there have been repeated incidents of wandering cattle and horses on Council road reserves in the Mokau area at Whangaruru South. Council’s bylaw contractor, ENL, regularly responds to complaints from the public; however the problem persists despite a range of actions taken.

There have been anecdotal reports of crashes caused by wandering stock in this locality and there is potential for a serious crash to occur particularly involving tourists or other persons not familiar with the risk of wandering stock on these roads.

The underlying issue and the principle cause of this problem is that in this area poor fencing and gates left open allow stock to wander. The properties concerned are sometimes multiply owned Maori land and establishing ownership is difficult as stock do not have tags.

A principal cause of the problem is that the gate to the one property (refer property 1 in the attached map) which is adjacent to the Mokau marae is often left open allowing stock to wander.

Since March this year, individuals from a community group from Oakura have begun ringing Council or ENL at every opportunity to report incidents. ENL responds to all complaints and any wandering stock are placed in paddocks and more recently shot.

**History**

A search of Council records shows this issue was raised in 1992, when elected members considered an agenda item relating to the employment of a part time pound keeper who was a resident in this locality.

In 2003, the matter was again the subject of an agenda item prepared by the Compliance Manager. Significant matters raised in the report included:

- 312 trips to the locality by enforcement officers in the previous six years.
- Three mail drops undertaken.
- Two public meetings organised. These were attended by one local resident on the first occasion and two residents at the second meeting.

Since this date, the following action has been taken:

- Ongoing enforcement by destroying stock or returning stock to paddocks (records show 98 stock including horses have been destroyed since 2009).
- Communication with appropriate occupiers of land.
- Public meetings
- New warning signs erected in the Punuruku area, additional to current signs in Mokau.
- Identification of local persons to assist Council to engage with the community (unsuccessful).
- Visits to the chairman of the Mokau marae and monthly letters.

**Current situation**

ENL continues to respond to complaints. Additionally, random patrols have been instigated and as a result five cattle have been destroyed in June and July. For safety reasons Police have been assisting enforcement staff when carcasses are recovered. Staff have recently met with a local landowner and are planning to meet with others as soon as possible.
Statutes and Bylaws

In attempting to resolve this problem, the following statutes and bylaws have been considered:

**Fencing Act 1978**

The Fencing Act deals with neighbour to neighbour agreements and disputes and is not applicable in circumstances where the fence borders on a road as in these circumstances.

**Impounding Act 1955**

The Impounding Act deals with establishing pounds, appointing pound keepers, and impounding and destroying stock. The act, being 45 years old, can best be described as out of date and impractical. For example, the penalty for wandering stock is a $100 fine.

**Crimes Act 1961 and Summary Offences Act 1981**

The Crimes Act includes provisions such as, Criminal nuisance (S145), Duty of persons in charge of dangerous things (S156) and Duty to avoid omissions dangerous to life (S157) and related provisions.

**Transport legislation**

Not of assistance except for a provisions in the Land Transport (Road User) Rule 2004 relating to riding or leading of animals on a road. Breaches of the rule are punishable by an infringement fee of $55.

**Public Places Bylaw 2005**

Clause 18 of the bylaw contains provisions whereby council can require a landowner to repair or construct a fence of an appropriate standard, where any land abuts a public place.

**The Keeping of Animals, Poultry and Bees Bylaw 2007**

Clause 10 of this bylaw provides that no person being the owner of, or having the care or custody of, any animal shall permit such animal to wander or be at large without proper control in any public place.

**Local Government Act 1974**

Section 353 provides that “Council shall take all sufficient precautions for the general safety of the public …. And, in particular, shall …whenever public safety renders it expedient, require the owner or occupier of any land… to enclose the same by a fence to the satisfaction of the council.”

**Options**

We have received legal advice which principally discusses the construction of cattle stops (whether on private property or Council road reserve) as a potential solution.

This concept is assessed in the table below along with previously considered ideas.

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Comment</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cattle stops</td>
<td>Can be installed whether on private property or on road reserve. There would be a requirement to also construct a standard gate and entrance to allow movement of stock, and also a “kissing gate” for pedestrians. There is some doubt that co-operation of locals would be forthcoming ie; the standard gates could still be left open unless padlocked and managed by the owners.</td>
<td>$20,000 per unit (subsidy availability has preliminary approval) Funding through minor improvements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S353 LGA 1974 (requirement to fence land)</td>
<td>This section (details above) is only partially appropriate as it cannot be used to require owners to shut gates. Could be used to require improvements to fencing.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shooting</td>
<td>In recent months seven cattle have been shot, following which carcasses are recovered with the assistance of the police. Some reduction in the number of cattle wandering has been subsequently noted.</td>
<td>Cost for removal and disposal of carcass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communicating with the community</td>
<td>Staff have regularly met with the chairman of the Marae Board of Trustees. Letters detailing incidents attended are sent monthly. Other residents have been spoken to.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Building a small stock yard (for 3 – 4 animals) | There is a suitable location on road reserve in the vicinity. Operations involving several staff could be organised and wandering stock could be impounded and driven to the yard. Stock would have be guarded until a truck or trailer removes the stock. | $6,000 approx plus staff time. Removal costs may be recovered through selling stock.

Mobile stock yards | Requires a crew of skilled personnel to assist with proactive patrolling. Stock can then be loaded on a truck. Difficult with large, skittish animals. | $1,000 per half day approx

Accommodate enforcement staff locally | Staff (two minimum) could be accommodated locally to respond to complaints in addition to proactive patrolling. May be some risk to the staff involved. Could be implemented in conjunction with shooting. | $5,000 per week

Political involvement | High level involvement may put pressure on local leaders. | 

Iwi liaison | Iwi liaison staff have been consulted but have not been involved in this matter to any degree. | 

Prosecution | The penalty under the Impounding Act is $100 per beast. Bylaw prosecution may result in a more significant penalty (maximum $20,000) but a sizable fine is highly unlikely. Difficulty in proving ownership. Unlikely to generate a change in behaviour. | $1500 approx

Spraying grass on road reserve | Stock may not enter on road reserve from paddocks if there is no feed. Worthy of further investigation. Risk to contractors and their equipment who operate in the area. This could include roading contractors. | Low cost

Community involvement | Engagement with interested persons to assist ie; to close gates. Possibility of warranting a local resident as an enforcement officer. | 

Where is the problem?

Most wandering stock complaints originate from four properties in Mokau:

Table 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 NA132C/719 (adjacent to marae)</td>
<td>Fencing is poor and gates are invariably left open. Resident states the cattle belong to others.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 CT 367035</td>
<td>Fence needs maintenance and repair. Of late the gate is being left open. Some repairs and maintenance has recently been undertaken.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 CT NA 49B/879</td>
<td>Fencing needs maintenance but is acceptable. Gate sometimes left open.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 CT 366984</td>
<td>A recently fenced property, however fencing is now degraded.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A map showing the numbered properties is attached.

If the option of installing cattle crossings is considered, this may be appropriate for property number one. Further cattle crossings could be considered for the second and third properties.
Oakura stock problem

In past winters there has also been a related wandering stock problem at Oakura beach. When feed becomes scarce, stock wander through unfenced multiply owned Maori land onto properties situated at the rear of Rapata Road, which runs parallel to the beach. In the process lawns and gardens are damaged.

The Fencing Act deals with neighbour to neighbour stock wandering and this in itself is not an issue that involves Council. However these stock invariably cross the road, albeit often briefly, and consequently the community look to Council to resolve this problem.

These incidents occur in the middle of the night and ENL responds to all complaints. Fortunately this winter has been quieter than the previous two years with considerably fewer incidents reported.

The stock concerned, which probably originate from the Mokau area, do not have ear tags and may be feral or semi-feral.

Unlike the situation at Mokau, the road concerned is a quiet residential side street and accordingly this is not a road safety issue.

Summary

Wandering stock and horses on roads in the Mokau area has been a problem for at least 22 years. There is a high risk of a serious crash in this area.

There is also a lesser problem of stock wandering from multiply owned Maori land at Oakura, however this is not a road safety issue.

Efforts to resolve these matters have to date not found a lasting solution. The problem has varied in its intensity over time and at present is considered to be significant. It has been extremely difficult in the past to engage with those responsible and others in the community to accept there is a problem and to resolve the issue. Staff believe a more holistic approach to resolving the problem is required and are focused on engaging the community to try and find a lasting solution. Until such time as this is in place Council contractors will continue to undertake patrols, respond to complaints and take the appropriate action to ensure road safety.

Currently some individuals from the local community make complaints on all occasions they witness stock on roads. The frequency of these complaints is placing additional demands on Council’s contractor’s resources.

Recommendation

1. That the information be received.
2. That staff will report back on progress

Attachment

Map
8. New Road Name – Resource Consents

Reporting officer  Linda Wheeler – Team Leader (Support)
Date of meeting  13 August 2014

Vision, mission and values
This item is in accord with Council's vision, mission and values statement as it supports clear and unambiguous property addressing for emergency and utility services, contributing to community safety and wellbeing.

Application for the naming of a new road – resource consent
Cato Bolam Consultants – Lakeside Business Park Ltd – SD1100032

Private Road – Proposed road names
- Lakeside Park Road
- Lakeside Road
- Lakeside Crescent.

Recommendation
That the new private road at Marsden Point Road be named Lakeside Park Road

Attachments
New road name applications and map for subdivision at Marsden Point Road Ruakaka
Application for the naming of a new road

Subdivision at Marsden Point Road, Ruakaka, Lakeside Business Park Ltd – SD1100032

Below is a summary of the road name submissions from the developer in order of preference

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposed status &amp; class of road</th>
<th>Proposed road name</th>
<th>Reason and relevance</th>
<th>Accepted/Rejected</th>
<th>Local Māori consulted &amp; evidence supplied</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private Road</td>
<td>Lakeside Park Road</td>
<td>This name is proposed after the geographical feature of the Dune Lake which forms the central part of this development. The road has been referred to as Lakeside Business Park Road for the past 5yrs since its creation; this also falls under the historical feature.</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakeside Road</td>
<td>Lakeside Crescent</td>
<td>This maintains some of the current name to provide a reference to the central lake in the property.</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Consultation
N/A

Recommendation
That the private road at Marsden Point Road be named Lakeside Park Road.

Document References
TRIM 14/61149 Original road name application received on 16 July 2014.
TRIM 14/62164 Acceptable road names received 21 July 2014.