

YOUR WAIKATO

Issue #21 - May 2015

YOUR REGIONAL NEWS UPDATE FROM WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL

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COUNCIL MEETINGS

MAY 2015

[Lake Taupo Catchment Committee](#)

Taupo
Friday 1 May 2015 -
10am

[2015-2025 Long Term Plan Hearings](#)

Putting on a show for boaties



Our maritime services team has headed to Auckland this week for New Zealand's largest boat show, being held at the ASB Showgrounds in Greenlane East.

We've joined with harbourmasters from Northland and Bay of Plenty regional councils, as well as Auckland Council, to provide boating information to keep people safe on the water.

Waikato's stunning waterways are popular with people from our neighbouring regions, which makes it essential our local boating information is available to enthusiasts attending the Hutchwilco show, which started on Thursday and runs until Sunday (14-17 May).

You'll find our team at the harbourmaster stand at **Site 564**. There are competitions people can enter at the stand, with donated prizes including a VHF radio and lifejacket up for grabs.

At our MarineMate shack at **Site 438** you can find out more about this award-winning smartphone application. If you have the MarineMate app on your smartphone or tablet, just show it to the team on the stand and you'll be in the draw to win an iPhone 6.

Monday 4 May to Friday 8
May 2015 (if required) -
10am

[Aka Aka Otatau Drainage Subcommittee](#)

Waiuku

Friday 8 May 2015 - 9am

[Central Waikato Catchment Committee](#)

Tuesday 12 May 2015 –
10am

[Chief Executive Employment and Remuneration Committee](#)

Tuesday 12 May 2015 –
3pm

[Hearings Appointment Subcommittee \(if required\)](#)

Wednesday 13 May 2015
– 9.30am

[Finance Committee](#)

Wednesday 13 May 2015
– 10.30am

[Waikato Spatial Plan Joint Committee](#)

Te Awamutu

Monday 18 May 2015 –
9.30am

[Upper Waikato Catchment Committee](#)

Tokoroa

Tuesday 19 May 2015 –
9am

[Lower Waikato Catchment Committee](#)

Tuakau

Thursday 21 May 2015 –
10am

[2015-2025 Long Term Plan Deliberations](#)

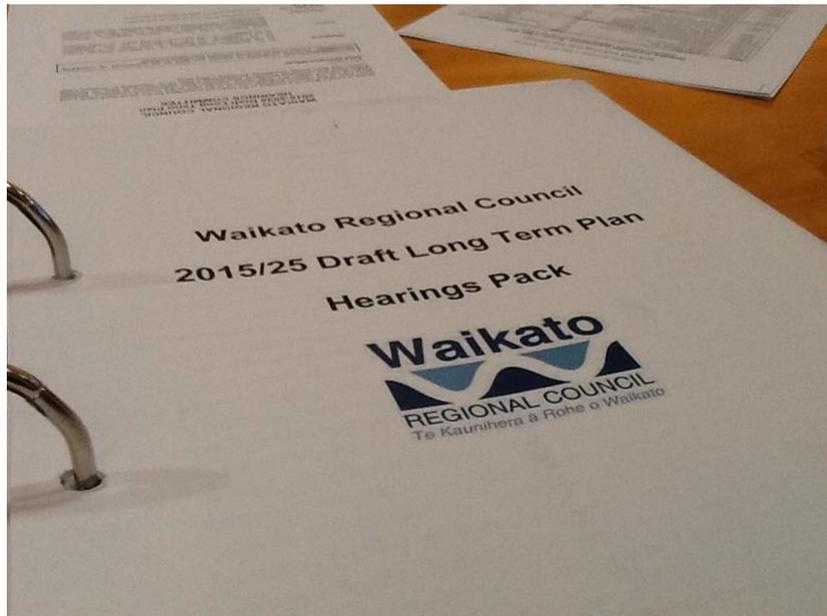
Monday 25 May to Friday
29 May 2015 (if required)
– 10am

[Contracts Subcommittee](#)

Tuesday 26 May 2015 –



Councillors hear from submitters



Councillors are due to begin deliberations on the 10 year plan later this month, after hearing from almost 90 submitters over four days last week.

Almost 90 individuals and groups appeared in person at our Hamilton office and in Thames as well as via teleconference to canvass a range of topics, including:

- our proposed regional development fund
- funding for TBfree New Zealand
- public transport
- funding for Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust
- water quality
- energy use
- river maintenance and flood management.

Consultation on the [2015-2025 Long Term Plan](#) ended on 14 April, with more than 430 submissions being received.

Deliberations are due to begin on Monday 25 May at 10am, with up to five days set down for final decisions to be made on the long term

9am

Council

Thursday 28 May 2015 –
10.30am

plan, which will be adopted at the end of June.

For farmers



We're hiring



Farm planning and environmental sustainability focus of field day



About 35 farmers turned out in wet weather on Tuesday to attend a Waikato Regional Council field day focused on farm planning and environmental sustainability.

The event, supported by Beef + Lamb New Zealand, was held at Andre and Doreen De Haan's sheep and beef farm at Honikiwi, near Otorohanga and in the Moakurarua Stream catchment.

The De Haans' involvement in the field day came after they attended a council drop in day last year and expressed interest in being involved in a farm plan process. A council staff member subsequently visited and they came up with some agreed actions.

This week's field day showcased what the couple has done since and what they plan to do in the future.

In particular, the day focused on keeping soil on your farm with content on farm planning, riparian management, management options for risk areas and funding assistance.

[Keep up to date with news, events and publications for farmers.](#)

Water quality information at your fingertips

Would you like information on water quality in the Waikato and Waipa rivers?

Recently updated monitoring results for these two rivers, as well as other rivers in the region, are available on [Waikato Regional Council's website](#).

The [Land, Air, Water Aotearoa](#) (LAWA) website also presents information on freshwater quality in the Waikato region, as well as other regions around New Zealand.



Stakeholders and public give valuable feedback



A wide range of stakeholders and the general public have provided feedback which will inform decisions to improve the water quality of the Waikato and Waipa rivers.

From late March to early May 2015, the [Collaborative Stakeholder Group](#) (CSG), supported by the [Healthy Rivers/Wai Ora](#) team, ran a large workshop, drop in sessions and an online survey.

CSG chairperson Bill Wasley said: "The CSG wanted to let people know about water quality issues and their causes in the Waikato and

Waipa river catchments. We also asked for feedback on some of what we've been working on. It's important to test our thinking and the direction we're taking."

The areas the CSG asked for feedback on included:

their preferred option for freshwater management units (areas a catchment is divided into for the purposes of setting objectives and limits and determining quantities of contaminants) attributes (what will be measured to fulfil people's values and uses for fresh water).

Over 130 stakeholders came to a workshop at Hamilton Gardens on 25 March (pictured above). The workshop was followed by five drop in sessions in April and early May. An online survey was available for people who could not attend a drop in session.

"We had in depth, robust discussions with well over 100 people at our drop in sessions around the catchments, and around 250 people have provided us with their thoughts via the survey.

In late 2015, the CSG will present stakeholders and the general public with a range of possible options for the proposed plan change. Potential impacts of each option on a range of factors, such as farm businesses and the regional economy, will also be available. The CSG will use feedback on these options to finalise their recommendation to the Healthy Rivers Wai Ora committee, comprising River iwi governors and regional councillors.

If the Healthy Rivers Wai Ora committee approve the CSG's recommendation, they will in turn recommend a draft plan change to Waikato Regional Council.



Stakeholders provided feedback at the workshop at Hamilton Gardens in March.



More than 100 people attended drop in sessions, including this one in Tuakau.

The great DDT muster is on!

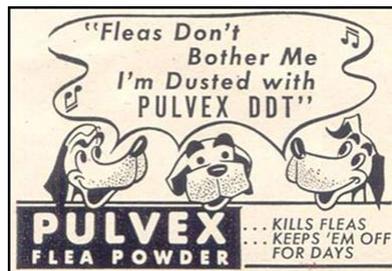
A nationwide collection is on to clear the country of harmful, banned pesticides - and it's free!

DDT and other pesticides containing persistent organic pollutants (POPs) haven't been sold or used in New Zealand for many years, due to known long term impacts on health and environment.



However, some properties still have POPs stored and the 'Great DDT Muster' is a great chance to find and get rid of these banned harmful pesticides.

The Great DDT Muster is free, confidential, and only available for a limited time, so [visit the website](#) to book a collection or find out more.



Effluent management - It doesn't stop at the farm gate



Pauline Kean owns an 80 hectare dairy farm near the foot of the Kaimai Ranges. She knows the value and benefits of taking a proactive and careful approach to the environment and animal welfare.

Cows produce 60-80kg of effluent on a normal day, but Pauline is aware the stress animals face when being herded into the race for transport on Gypsy Day on 1 June can lead to even more effluent than normal.

Gypsy Day is when thousands of cows will be transported from one farm to another, increasing the potential for effluent to spill on to roads and create hazardous driving conditions.

To help reduce the amount of stock effluent produced in transit, Waikato Regional Council stresses the importance of preparing animals prior to transport, including not giving them green feed for 4 to 6 hours before their journey.

Before transporting her cows, which happens about four times a year, Pauline stands her stock off green feed in an adjacent special holding paddock before transferring them to her padded cow yards.

By standing off the stock, she says, animals “are more comfortable and travel better with an empty stomach” while “cleaner roads is a better image for the dairy farmers”.

Less effluent on the road is also better for the environment generally and lessens road safety and health risks associated with spilt effluent.

Make sure your stock are prepared for transport on Gypsy Day.

For advice, contact Waikato Regional Council’s Isy Kennedy on 0800 800 401 or email isy.kennedy@waikatoregion.govt.nz.



Lance McLaggan milks 700-plus cows at Taupiri. With such a large number of cows, Lance will prepare his cows at least seven times throughout the year for transport off his property. before transporting stock, Lance stands them in a paddock with minimal green feed and gives his cows hay and water if standing for longer than four hours. “It’s for the stock’s own benefit,” he says.



Andrew Lennox knows effluent management doesn’t stop at the farm gate. The Tirau and Waotu dairy farmer operates two dairy farms with a collective total of 1000 milking cows plus replacements. Nowadays he keeps his stock in a holding paddock overnight prior to transporting the next day. For a longer trip he will feed the cows hay with water. Andrew says that

“They don’t have a big belly trying to walk up the race onto the truck, making it easier to load them.” Also, with less green feed in their belly, they are easier to work with and move better, says Lance.

apart from “wanting a good image for my industry, keeping effluent off the road is a road safety issue”. He also notes that his stock travel better with less in their gut.

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