

Council completes review of animal control services

A WAITOMO District Council review of its animal control services has found "there is scope for improvement".

The review came following a presentation to the council in July where Te Kuiti man Graham McKenzie raised his concerns regarding the number of stray and unregistered dogs in the town.

Mr McKenzie approached council after his friend's Pekin bantam hens were allegedly killed by a rogue dog or dogs (*Waitomo News*, July 4).

He claimed several provisions under the Dog Control Act 1996 were simply "not happening" under Waitomo's animal control officer Rod McLeod.

REVIEW FINDINGS

The independent review completed last month by Chopra Consulting director Vibhuti Chopra stated "most" of the requirements of WDC's Dog Control Policy bylaw were being met.

"When comparing statistics (complaints, impounding and infringements) with a range of councils of a similar size, WDC compares well," stated the review.

It identified areas for improvement including:

- performance-based reporting and monitoring to assist a sound understanding of the match of service delivery to statutory responsibility;
- improved maintenance and use of the dog registration database;
- improved overall monitoring and follow-up by both WDC and the contractor (Mr McLeod) in regard to service requests and/or complaints;
- a review of key documents to ensure they are fit for purpose and align with legislative requirements.

"As outlined, there is scope for improvement," stated the review.

"Findings of the review need to, and will, be addressed promptly."

Mr McLeod was the preferred bidder when WDC



REVIEW COMPLETE: Waitomo District Council has completed a review of its animal control service following a complaint by Te Kuiti man Graham McKenzie. FILE PIC

tendered for an animal control officer in 1998.

His three-year contract has been renewed four times with the current contract due to expire in March 2014.

In a business paper presented to council in July, WDC regulatory services manager John Moran stated Mr McLeod has been involved in animal control at a local level for more than 25 years and a review of dog statistics indicated that the roaming and unregistered dog problem is no worse than it has been in the past.

IN BRIEF

Bilingual WRC information

SNAPPY animation in either te reo Maori or English pointing people to election information is now available on Waikato Regional Council's website. Thirty-eight people are contesting seats in the general and Maori constituencies in this year's local body elections. The bilingual information reflects the fact that for

the first time two Maori constituency seats - Nga Hau e Wha and Nga Tai ki Uta Maori - are being voted on. The website link takes people to information about which candidates are standing where in the Maori seats. There is also information on the candidates in the six general constituencies. For more information, visit the website - waikatoregion.govt.nz

WDC to help fund youth programmes

WAITOMO District Council is joining forces with the Otorohanga District Development Board to support Otorohanga's youth employment programmes.

Following project leader and Otorohanga mayor Dale Williams' decision to retire from council and reduced Ministry of Social Development funding, WDC has committed to providing the board's Youth Support Programme with \$45,000 for three years (2014-2016).

The money will come from the council's Long Term Plan funding.

Established in 2005, Otorohanga's youth employment programmes have successfully achieved zero youth unemployment in the Otorohanga district becoming a blueprint for other districts to emulate nationwide.

Waitomo mayor Brian Hanna says it's for this reason and that Waitomo's youth also benefit from the programmes that the council agreed to support a Service Level Agreement.

"Basically we wanted to show our support for Ray Hayley (ODDB youth co-ordinator), because he has done a huge amount of work which benefits not only young people in both districts but the businesses they work for as well.

More than 10 Waitomo-based apprentice/trainees benefit from the pro-

gramme every year employed by local businesses such as The Lines Company, McIndoe Group and Greg's Auto Repairs.

"In the past, the ministry provided more funding and with Dale Williams retiring there was concern that Ray needed extra support so we were more than happy to agree to a Service Level Agreement."

The agreement sets the frame work and working relationship between Waitomo's council and the board to provide youth with access to education, training and work opportunities; to support the economic sustainability of local businesses; and retain young people within the or North King Country.

"When the development board set up the Youth Support Programme apprentice pass rates were about 35% - now it's about 95%," says Mr Hanna.

"Although we've (Waitomo) benefited from the programme throughout, this is the first time we've been approached for financial support. So we'll be matching Otorohanga District Council's contribution because we are very committed to seeing the programme continue to flourish into the future."

SLA progress updates will be reported to both councils twice a year.

Community Update

Monthly news from Waitomo District Council

Te Kuiti Swimming Pool

Jump into summer at the Te Kuiti Swimming Pool, Hinerangi Street Te Kuiti. The pool is now open for the summer season. Come down and chat to the lifeguard crew who will be organising the pool's timetable and activities for the summer season. The pool complex has lane swimming, learn to swim classes and aqua aerobics classes.

You can download a copy of the schedule for 2013/14, from our website or collect one from the pool, i-SITE or WDC Office Queen Street, Te Kuiti.

Waitomo District Library

Take part in the Spring Holiday Reading Programme 'The Great Outdoors'.

Children who are library members, can take out two books from the library during the school holidays and receive a pack, full of crafts and fun activities. Make your own toy boat, a bird feeder and try your hand at knot tying. **Packs are now available at the Library, Taupiri Street Te Kuiti.**

Request a service online: fixmystreet.org.nz

Fix My Street is an online database where you may report local issues like (but not limited to) graffiti, litter, street repairs or street lighting to Waitomo District Council. You can include photos of the issue and use your iPhone or Android smart phone.

New requests and request updates are sent to and from the Fix My Street website to the Waitomo District Council's service request system.

To report an issue in your area visit fixmystreet.org.nz

Te Kuiti Visitor Information Centre i-SITE

With the weather being so changeable this spring, the i-SITE Team recommend that you check out track conditions before attempting any walks such as the Timber Trail at Pureora. Department of Conservation (DOC) maintain a site called 'Waikato Notices' which provide up to date information about any closed or flooded walking tracks in our area.

For more info visit www.doc.govt.nz/waikatonotices

The Waitomo Society of Arts will be holding their annual exhibition, from 18-19 October 9.30am to 4pm, at the Waitomo Cultural and Arts Centre.

The exhibition will showcase the talent we have in Te Kuiti. The entry fee is \$4.00 per person and children free with a fee paying adult.

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