

# WDC Notices

## **RESTRICTED FIRE SEASON**

### **Waitomo District Rural Fire Authority**

Pursuant to the powers vested in Council under the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977, notice is hereby given that lighting of fire in the open air is restricted over all of the Waitomo District as from midnight, January 17 2013 until 31 March 2013 or notified otherwise by public notice.

All fires in the open air are required to have a permit issued by an authorised Rural Fire Officer, except for those activities noted below:

- Barbeques lit in properly constructed containers and fuelled with gas, solid or liquid fuel
- Traditional cooking fires within a pit or confined area and where not less than three metres of ground surrounding the fire is cleared of grass and all combustible material

Any for within 1km of Department of Conservation administered land requires a permit from the Department of Conservation.

Section 23 of the Act states that it is an offence to set on fire, to assist in the setting on fire, or cause or permit to be set on fire, to aid, abet or assist in setting on fire in the open air, any vegetation of combustible material whatsoever, during a restricted fire season except pursuant to an authority or permit from a Fire Officer for the Rural Fire District.

It shall be no legal defence against claims for damage caused by any fire, that such fire was of the type, or lit at the time permitted, by the notice.

Permit applications should be made to the Waitomo District Council, phone 07 8780 800 during the hours of 8am and 5pm Monday to Friday. Permits should be applied for at least three working days (72 hours) in advance of the planned fire to enable site inspections to be made by the Fire Officers.

Permits will not be issued after hours, during weekends, public holidays.

*J CULLIS*

**PRINCIPAL RURAL FIRE OFFICER**

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## **NOTICE OF BIRD CONTROL PROGRAMME**

### **Te Kuiti Wastewater Treatment Plant**

During this time of year there is a large duck and swan population that congregates in Te Kuiti and they settle on any water body that is available. The ponds at the Te Kuiti Wastewater Treatment Plant are no exception. These ducks and swans can become a nuisance by invading nearby farmland, damaging crops and can cause the spread of infectious diseases.

In conjunction with Fish & Game, who have agreed to the use of an acoustic deterrent device, Council will trial a programme to use a gas powered booming machine to discourage the ducks and swans from populating the pond. This will start in the morning and end in the afternoon to minimise any annoyance to the residents of Te Kuiti. The loud bang created by the device may be heard randomly but should not cause concern, as it is harmless. The machines will be switched off overnight and on weekends.

The duck control programme will stop at the end of March, and begin again at the end of November each year.

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## **FEES AND CHARGES - Waitomo District Landfill**

From 1 January 2013, the price of refuse disposal at the Waitomo District Landfill will increase due to the introduction of the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (NZ ETS). WDC's Fees and Charges are reviewed annually and updated when required to better reflect the true cost of providing services, as per Council's Revenue and Financing Policy.

The Fees and Charges document can be viewed on Council's website [www.waitomo.govt.nz](http://www.waitomo.govt.nz) or phone 0800 932 4357 for further information.

*CHRIS RYAN*  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**



Creating a better future with vibrant communities and thriving business.