



**BAD BEND:** Emergency services responded to the first of three road crashes on SH4 last week (top right) where each driver lost control on a corner on SH4, south of Kopaki. A second car rolled on Thursday (above).



## Three road crashes on SH4

STATE Highway 4 has been the scene of three road crashes in the past week keeping local emergency services busy.

Piopio firefighters responded to the first crash on Wednesday at lunchtime when a female driver rolled her car, just south of Kopaki Rd.

The 58-year-old woman was travelling north from Taumarunui when she lost control on a corner, rolling her vehicle on to its roof.

Te Kuiti St John Ambulance officers treated her for minor injuries before transporting her to Te Kuiti Hospital.

In the earlier hours of the following day, another driver lost control less than 100m up the road from

the previous day's crash.

Highway Patrol Officer Karen Eivers attended, but no action was required as the driver was uninjured.

A couple of hours later, another female driver (33) lost control of her car around the same corner, coming to rest in a paddock on the opposite side of the road.

The vehicle came to rest on its side but the driver was able to get out with only minor injuries. She was treated by Te Kuiti St John Ambulance officers.

Piopio Volunteer Fire Brigade attended the scene and supervised traffic.

# WDC almost ready to adopt gambling rules

WAITOMO District Council is set to debate the final version of its gambling policy.

An approved draft was released in May outlining changes including capping the total number of gaming machines in the Waitomo district to 77 (currently 68) while also limiting the Te Kuiti urban area to five gaming venues.

The policy is reviewed every three years with WDC's last reviewed in 2011.

The council also decided not to adopt a relocation policy (where a closing business can relocate all of its gaming machines to another location), but they have increased the number of machines a new class 4 gambling venue can install from five to nine if the total number of machines does not exceed 77.

Four submissions were considered by the council on Thursday with all requesting amendments to the policy.

### SUBMITTERS

New Zealand Racing Board solicitor Jarrod True urged the council to include a relocation provision.

"It enables venues to move away from high deprivation areas where the risk of gambling related harm is more prevalent, particularly for Maori and Pacific peoples.

"Allowing relocation also prevents artificially inflated rentals being charged and would enable venues to re-establish after an earthquake or flood."

New Zealand Community Trust communications manager Angela Paul submitted the council should maintain its 'open' policy.

"If the council places limits on the number of gambling venues and machines it also, by default, places limits on the amount of funding available for the Waitomo community.

"Many of your local community and sports groups depend on gaming grants to get by.

"With alternate funding options difficult to find, why would the council wish to limit this legal, well controlled funding system."

The Lion Foundation compliance and operations support manager Emma Lamont-Messer wants the council to increase the capping number from 77-90.

### COMMUNITY FUNDS

"The Lion Foundation has a lengthy history in the Waitomo district and we strive to support our operators and the local community through grants funding.

"In the year ending March 31, 2014, funding of \$229,426 was provided to the district by the Lion Foundation and we wish to ensure the continuation of this community benefit."

Coastguard New Zealand chief executive Patrick Holmes "strongly urged" the council to consider the benefits charitable gaming societies provide by way of funding.

"Charity gaming organisations are a key provider of funds for the replacement of our designated rescue vessels that our separate local units throughout the country are responsible for operating.

"Without this source of funding it would be virtually impossible for our local units to raise the necessary funds required for replacement vessels and other capital items for the benefit of their communities."

Mayor Brian Hanna says the proposed changes to the draft policy were made to draw a balance between reducing the social harm of gambling and financial viability for venue operators.

"We are charged with minimising the amount of gambling associated harm in our community and we have to shape our policy around that.

"So now that we've heard all the submissions, we will take into account all the evidence and information before adopting our final gambling policy."

Deliberations on finalising the gambling policy are on August 12.

It is expected to be fully adopted at WDC's meeting on August 26.

### IN BRIEF

#### Generous response

THE Otorohanga community gave generously to Alzheimers Waikato's annual appeal last month. Local volunteers collecting outside Otorohanga Countdown raised \$687, up on the 2013 appeal. Local co-ordinator Chris Everitt

says: "The Otorohanga community has been incredibly generous towards this worthy cause. Their donations will go towards the support of local patients and their carers." He is also grateful to the volunteers who gave their time and to Countdown for its support.

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