

WDC to review its dog control policy

WAITOMO District Council's animal control policy is being reviewed following an impassioned submission to the council by a Te Kuiti resident on Tuesday.

Graham MacKenzie, whose friend's Pekin bantam hens were allegedly killed by a rogue dog(s) last month, claimed several provisions under the Dog Control Act 1996 are simply "not happening". (*Waitomo News*, July 4)

Mr McKenzie said the act states that all owners of dogs shall not let their dogs in public places, dogs are to be kept under control at all times, secured at night and owners of more than one dog be inspected annually.

"This is your own act sir and it's not happening," he told mayor Brian Hanna.

"And your inaction is causing considerable trauma to those who have to pick up the mess."

Mr MacKenzie also alleged that rogue dogs are causing a major problem on rubbish collection days by breaking into rubbish bags at night and spreading the waste – which he said could be prevented by enforcing the law.

He suggested policy amendments to help council

staff control the roaming dog "epidemic".

They included making it mandatory for all dogs to have a registration tag attached to its collar, impound all dogs with no tag and that are on the street at night, and all impounded dogs be micro-chipped before release.

"I implore you to take action now because roaming unregistered dogs have become an epidemic in Te Kuiti," said Mr MacKenzie.

"But it's not the dog's fault, it's the owner's fault, and I'm here today to tell you directly – there is no dog control in Te Kuiti."

CALLS

When the council receives calls alleging there are stray dogs

in a particular area, the matter is referred directly to Waitomo's animal control officer Rod McLeod to investigate and in most circumstances the request is actioned within an hour.

More than 170 dogs were impounded last year.

Mr McLeod also carries out a minimum of two full patrols of Te Kuiti per week looking for stray dogs – one on rubbish day.

If stray dogs are seen, they are either impounded or their owners issued with a \$200 fine.

In response to Mr MacKenzie's plea, the council decided to review its policy and present a report at its next meeting on August 27, to address its delivery of animal control in Te Kuiti.

IN BRIEF

Mokau redevelopment revised

A MAJOR redevelopment to turn Mokau's Seaview Holiday Park into 31 three-story residential units and a 50-seat restaurant is being cut down to size. In May 2012, Waitomo District Council received a resource consent application from Mokau Sands Ltd seeking approval to redevelop the camp ground. Recently, the applicant met with WDC staff to revise the proposal, which will still include the same number of units however, the buildings will be one level, capable of relocation and be designed to "blend in with the coastal environment" rather than intrude on it. WDC regulatory services manager John Moran said the revised proposal is due to ongoing erosion in Mokau.

Storms cost ratepayers

STORMY weather in June is expected to cost Waitomo District Council \$600,000 in roading repairs. A storm damage report was presented to the council on Tuesday highlighting what amount of damage had occurred as a result of the heavy rainfall, and where immediate repairs would be needed. The affected roads are Beach Rd (Mokau), Walker Rd, Mangarino Rd, Kumara Rd, Taharoa Rd, Te Anga Rd and Gribbon Rd. Chief executive Chris Ryan said the \$600,000 estimate is only a "rough order of cost" and a more accurate figure is still being calculated.

World Cup matches

HAMILTON'S Seddon Park will host three matches as part of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2015. Matches will be between South Africa and Zimbabwe (February 15) India and Ireland (March 10), and Bangladesh and New Zealand (March 13). All three are day-night games.

Red cross warning

NEW Zealand Red Cross is warning the public to be on the lookout for a fake email asking people to donate to Syria. The email, under the heading 'Donate to the emergency appeal for Syria', uses text identical to that on New Zealand Red Cross' website Syria appeal page. It contains a link for people to follow, and most spam filters will block access but the link is a fake. NZ Red Cross knows of four cases of people receiving the fraudulent emails and has referred the matter to the Department of Internal Affairs. People can donate to the genuine appeal for Syria by visiting the website - redcross.org.nz

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