

## **March and April 2015 - Chief Executive's Report**

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**TO** Thames-Coromandel District Council  
**FROM** David Hammond - Chief Executive  
**DATE** 24 April 2015  
**SUBJECT** **March and April 2015 - Chief Executive's Report**

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### **1 Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to present an update of significant projects from the Chief Executive's perspective since the last Council meeting.

### **2 Discussion**

The following outlines major project progress and meetings attended with any pertinent outcomes:

#### District Plan (District Plan Manager)

The hearing of submissions and further submissions on the Proposed District Plan, via the District Plan Hearings Panel, began on 16 September 2014 and are expected to run until 19-20 May 2015.

At the time of writing this report, nine hearings had been held (it is expected there will be eleven hearings in total). Hearings thus far have been held on 16-17 September 2014, 1-2 October, 21-23 October, 18-20 November, 16-18 December, 10-12 February, 24-16 February, 10-12 March and 14-17 April. A wide range of topics have been covered including: settlement development and growth; historic heritage; commercial and industrial zones; rural area and zones; airfield height and noise overlay; transport policies and rules; forestry; noise; festivals and events; tangata whenua; biodiversity; earthworks; mining; structure plans; subdivision; landscape overlay; coastal environment; visitor accommodation; the re-zoning of land; etc.

In the early hearings there was substantial positive feedback about the Proposed Plan and the staff recommendations in relation to submissions that have been made. In the more recent hearings there has however been concerns from a number of rural landowners about the possible effect of 'overlays' on private land and more specifically, the effect of overlays on farming operations.

Topics that remain to be heard include: utilities; designations; subdivision design principles, and; re-zoning requests for Tairua-Pauanui and Whangamata.

At its 4 March 2015 meeting the Council debated the options for amending the natural character rules of the Proposed Plan so that they better align with RPS provisions. The Council resolved to re-notify rules, objectives and policies via a Council variation. A Council workshop is scheduled for 13 May to discuss policy content and the variation process.

- Contact: Leigh Robcke
- Elected Member contact: Peter French
- Next Major Milestone: ongoing hearings of the District Plan Hearings Panel (through until May 2015)

The Coromandel Great Walks Projects (Area Manager Whangamata/Tairua-Pauanui)

The Coromandel Great Walks application to Lotteries Significant Fund was lodged on 5 March. The application seeks \$1.85 million to support Councils \$1.25 million and DOC's \$250,000.

The Area Manager has a meeting with Trust Waikato on 6 May regarding an application seeking \$300,000 which will be determined in June 2015.

The Hahei Stakeholders Group, formed in December 2014 following the public meeting on the Great Walks project is functioning well. Two meetings have been held to date and a facilitated workshop will be held in March to align the new Community Plan to the Ten Year Plan. DOC's Integrated Management Plan for Hahei which focuses on the impact that Cathedral Cove has on the community has also been included in the Community Plan. The Stakeholders Group and Residents and Ratepayers Association have recently combined resources under the Chairmanship of Bill Stead. This is a positive move and should provide a stronger single point of contact with the Hahei Community. The next meeting of the Stakeholders Group is set down for early May 2015 in Hahei.

The Walks Governance Group met on 23 April to workshop the next two phases of the project. The Hahei Community Plan is a high priority together with the Control and Manage agreements with Doc on Grange Road, Hahei beachfront strip and Te Pupuha.

Subject to securing external funding and mitigating the main concerns of the Hahei Community the Coromandel Great Walks project is ready to go.

- Contact: Garry Towler
- Elected Member contact for Phases 1-2: Glenn Leach, with Project Team of TCDC, DoC and Iwi
- Next Major Milestone: Secure sufficient external funding for Stage 1a and 1b. Establish a governance body.

Hauraki Treaty Settlement (Strategic Relationships Manager)

Negotiations between the Crown and the Hauraki Collective are on hold until the cross-boundary issues with the Tauranga Moana Iwi Collective are resolved through litigation. This action is anticipated to be concluded before the year's end.

Staff met in early April with the Hon. Rick Barker, and Ms Lucy Te Moana, who is managing the Claims portfolio on behalf of the Office of Treaty Settlements. Rick and Lucy are using the lull in negotiations to acquaint themselves with the Hauraki Claim landscape, including TCDC specific issue, and to meet with the Collective and various iwi groups.

- Contact: Sam Napia and Peter Wishart
- Elected Member contact: Glenn Leach
- Next Major Milestones: Staff meeting with the newly appointed Hauraki Lead Negotiator; resolution of Hauraki - Tauranga-Moana litigation; anticipated initialling of individual and collective deeds of settlement by the Crown and Hauraki Iwi.

### Roading Term Maintenance Contracts (Infrastructure)

The tender process for each of the three new Roading Maintenance contracts (starting 1 July 2015) is progressing in line with the project programme, with updates (as at 24 April) for each tender as follows:

- General Road Maintenance (roads, footpaths, drainage, bridges, structures)
  - tenders closed 14 April with 6 tenders received
  - evaluation of non-price attributes completed 23 April
  - tender recommendation presented for award decision by mid-May
- Traffic Services (signs, markings and vegetation control)
  - tenders closed 21 April
  - tender recommendation presented for award decision by mid-May
- Street lighting (maintenance, renewals and improvements)
  - tenders close 28 April
  - tender recommendation presented for award decision by mid-May
- Contact: Matt Busch
- Next Major Milestone: Contract Award - Mid-May 2015

### Bluff Road - Matarangi (Infrastructure)

An options report was presented to the Infrastructure Committee on 22 April who resolved that the local community's view should be canvassed and included in a report to the Mercury Bay Community Board. The Board's view is then to be included a subsequent report back to the Infrastructure Committee's 28 May meeting for a recommendation to Council on the preferred remedial option and funding approach.

- Contact: Matt Busch
- Next Major Milestone: Mercury Bay Community Board meeting - 19 May 2015

### Manaia Road Causeway - Tairua (Infrastructure)

This project is currently at a hold point awaiting TCDC and WRC resource consents for the WRC component of the project. Physical works cannot commence as a condition of the MOU states that all resource consents are obtained prior to any work commencing. TCDC's causeway bridge resource consent was obtained from WRC on 23 March. The WRC floodway improvement and stop bank consents are expected to be granted soon. The expected timeframe for WRC obtaining resource consents, will likely result in the manufacture of the bridge components and completion of bridge extension work being completed in the 2015/16 year. The majority of the capex budgets for these works have therefore been forecast for carry forward to 2015/16.

- Contact: Matt Busch
- Next Major Milestone: Regional Council obtaining resource consent

### Water Conservation and Demand Management Strategy (Infrastructure)

A draft was presented on 30 September 2014 setting out a number of high level strategies and options across the district. The next phase of this work is to translate the draft work into a number of specific strategies and directions for our various townships, based on need and benefit. As part of this, further work will also be undertaken confirming and quantifying water efficiency options for new developments. A meeting with the Consultant has been set for early May. The timeframe for completion of this document is 30 June 2015.

- Contact: Ian Smith
- Next Major Milestone: 30 June 2015

### Bio solids Composter (Infrastructure)

The composting plant was shut down prior to Christmas. A review of previous sensitivity analysis has been undertaken along with a preliminary investigation of viable markets. A report will be presented to Council on 24 June 2015 outlining the findings with regard to confirming viability of restarting the plant with the view to a fixed term trial.

- Contact: Ian Smith
- Next Major Milestone: 13 May 2015

### Consultation and deliberation of policies for psychoactive substances and gambling venues, and cemeteries bylaw (Strategic Planning)

Hearings for the draft Psychoactive Products Retail Location Policy, draft Class 4 Gambling Venue and Board Venue Policy and draft Cemeteries Bylaw were held on Wednesday 15 April 2015 at a regular meeting of Council. Submitters to all three documents spoke on a wide range of issues for Council to consider. The main issues raised were:

- Gambling: the merits of a sinking lid policy versus capped numbers of gaming machines, and extension of the relocation provision.
- Psychoactive: concerns about residential properties in the pedestrian core zone of town centres and concern about the impact on the community of the products.
- Cemeteries: advocates for natural burial.

All submissions are available to view on our consultation portal at <http://haveyoursay-tcdc.objective.com>. The draft Cemeteries Bylaw will be deliberated on at the 13 May Council meeting. Due to tight timeframes in the Long Term Process, the deliberations for the draft Psychoactive Products Retail Location Policy and the draft Class 4 Gambling Venue will be held at the 24 June Council meeting.

- Contact: Angela Jane and Scott Summerfield
- Next Major Milestone: 24 June 2015 Council meeting.

### Meetings held 2 March - 24 April 2015

Date	Meeting	Pertinent Outcomes
11/3/15	Tourism Forum	Forum established and a list of some 50-60 tourism related issues that local councils are being refined into a smaller action list of priorities. Partnership with LGNZ in this work stream has been established and the CE leads the Forum.
12-13/3/15	Rural & Provincial Sectors Meeting	Notes distributed to councillors after each day.
24/3/15	Graeme Colman, Principal and Grant McInman, Manager of Horizon Research - How to Attract People to Thames	Presented research on the factors of why people would or would not move to Coromandel and to Thames through a survey of 2600 people nationwide. Being considered as part of a strategy for increasing properties on the Coromandel.
27/3/15	Local Authority Shared Services and Chief Executive Forum	Largely monitoring the region-wide collaborative projects.
31/3/15	Veolia - Signing of Water Service Contract	Joint signing.
1/4/15	Kopu Business Public Meeting	Outlined progress on fast broadband to

Date	Meeting	Pertinent Outcomes
		Kopu and discussed a wider development approach.
7/4/15	Hauraki Rail Trail Trust Meeting	Attended to listen in on the agenda discussion.

### 3 Suggested Resolution(s)

That the Thames-Coromandel District Council:

1. Receives the Chief Executive report, dated 24 April 2015.