

# **Hearing of submissions to the proposed Fires in the Open Bylaw**

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<b>TO</b>	Thames-Coromandel District Council
<b>FROM</b>	Emma Wright - Senior Strategic Planner and Policy Analyst
<b>DATE</b>	16 May 2016
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>Hearing of submissions to the proposed Fires in the Open Bylaw</b>

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## **1 Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to present the submissions received to the proposed Fires in the Open Bylaw for hearing. The purpose of the hearing is to give submitters an opportunity to present their submission verbally and answer any questions from elected members.

The Judicial Committee will make its decisions for recommendations to Council on the proposed bylaw at the deliberations meeting scheduled for 14 July 2016. It is proposed that Council will receive these recommendations at their meeting scheduled for 17 August 2016 and adopt a new bylaw.

## **2 Background**

At its meeting on 6 April 2016 Council adopted the proposed Fires in the Open Bylaw for public consultation. The proposed bylaw was open for public feedback from 11 April to 11 May 2016.

During the consultation period the opportunity to make a submission was advertised on Council's website and through media including in radio news bulletins, newspaper, e-newsletters and social media including Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. Additionally, emails explaining the proposal and encouraging feedback were sent before the consultation period started to key stakeholders which included:

- Hauraki tangata whenua groups
- New Zealand Fire Service, Eastern-Waikato Area
- Hauraki and Matamata-Piako District Councils
- Thames Valley Rural Fire Authority Committee Chair
- Rural fire forestry representative
- Department of Conservation
- Waikato Regional Council

### **Scope of proposed bylaw**

The proposed bylaw is limited to the urban fire districts in the Thames-Coromandel district as gazetted by the New Zealand Fire Service, as the rural fire districts are regulated by the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977 and managed by the Thames Valley Rural Fire Authority and the Department of Conservation.

It is proposed that the bylaw provide regulation in the urban fire districts within the Thames-Coromandel District until such time that any changes from the New Zealand Fire Service reform relating to the role of councils in open fire regulation take effect. The proposed bylaw regulates fires in a similar way to the previous bylaw which was revoked in 2015, with the following two significant differences:

- inclusion of a compliant fire device definition

- an exemption for fireworks from needing permits in restricted and total fire ban seasons, subject to other conditions in the bylaw.

The statement of proposal, which includes the proposed bylaw, is provided as **Attachment A**.

### **3 Issue**

Six submitters to the proposed Fires in the Open Bylaw have indicated that they wish to present their submissions verbally to the Council.

### **4 Discussion**

Council received 18 submissions to the proposed bylaw. All the submissions are contained in the hearing pack provided as **Attachment B**.

#### **Referencing the hearing pack**

The hearing pack (**Attachment B**) has two different indexes at the beginning of the document to help with referencing submissions. The first index is ordered by page number, and the second index is sorted by submitter last name or the name of the submitter organisation or company.

### **5 Suggested Resolution(s)**

That the Thames-Coromandel District Council:

1. Receives the 'Hearing of submissions to the proposed Fires in the Open Bylaw' report, dated 16 May 2016.
2. Receives the submissions made to the proposed Fires in the Open Bylaw.

#### **References-Tabled/Agenda Attachments**

**Attachment A** *Statement of proposal - proposed Fires in the Open Bylaw*

**Attachment B** *Hearing Pack - Submissions to the proposed Fires in the Open Bylaw*

*Attachment A*

Attachment A: Fires in the Open Bylaw - Statement of Proposal

**Attachment B**  
**Attachment B: Fires in the Open Bylaw - Hearing Pack 4293701**