



## STAFF REPORT

**TO:** Environment & Planning Committee

**FROM:** D C Bush-King, Environment & Planning Manager

**REFERENCE:** S611

**SUBJECT:** **MANAGER'S REPORT– REPORT EP08/0/11** - Report Prepared for 28 August Meeting

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### 1. TE WAIKORPUPU SPRINGS

Councillors from the previous term may recall the debates over the management of Te Waikoropupu Springs. As a reminder the issue centred on a call to better management public access to the waters of the Springs. Council manages the water but the land (except for part of the car park) is Scenic Reserve managed by the Department of Conservation (DoC). In the course of previous debate it was determined that DoC could use the Reserves Act to bring in new management controls rather than Council having to look at resource management or bylaw controls. DoC has released a draft Management Plan and submissions close 12 September. If a submission is to be lodged, the Committee may wish to authorise the Chairman and Ward Councillors to work with staff in finalizing a submission before close off date. A copy of the management plan summary is attached as Annex 1.

### 2. TASMAN TB NEWS

I am taking this opportunity to acquaint the committee with details of this year's Tb control programme. Attached as Annex 2 is the latest newsletter from TBfree Tasman, the Regional Animal Health Board Committee, on which Cr Borlas is our representative.

### 3. THE IMPACT OF REGULATIONS ON HOUSING COSTS

Earlier in the year we, along with Whangarei, Rodney, and Tauranga District Councils and applicants, participated in a survey conducted by Ministry for the Environment looking at the impact of regulatory costs associated with the Building and Resource Management Acts on housing affordability. The Executive Summary of the report is attached as Annex 3. What the report shows, admittedly on a small sample base, is that council charges are a very low proportion of total direct costs of developments. It is understood that further work is now being undertaken in Auckland which has been the source of alternative anecdotal evidence.

### 4. ECOFEST

Ecofest has now come and gone for another year. This year 34 pre-Expo events were held throughout the Tasman District from August 4 right up to the Expo weekend of 16 and 17 August. Highlights include:

- The launch of the Nelson branch of the Sustainable Business Network
- Four fully booked home tours in Nelson, Upper Moutere and Golden Bay
- A Funky Fashion Show featuring creations from students at five secondary schools
- The 'Sustainability Challenge', featuring a local radio personality and his family and their efforts in reducing their 'footprint'
- The Ecofest political debate including a most welcomed contribution from Deputy Mayor Tim King.

Most events were well attended, with several over subscribed. Profile this year has been excellent, in both print and radio media.

The Expo this time was held at Founders Park due to renovations being carried out at the Trafalgar Centre. This shift brought extra challenges including some additional costs, security issues, and less available space. As Founders is mostly an outdoor venue, the success or otherwise of the event was always going to be weather-dependent. Thankfully, after a stormy and rainy two weeks, the 2 days of Expo were fine and mostly sunny. Highlights include:

- Over 6000 people attending, including many family groups
- A survey showed nearly half were new attendees
- Stall spaces were over-subscribed, attending stallholders feedback was that they had successful outcomes
- The 'village' atmosphere was appreciated, and the room for kids to roam in a safe environment
- Great engagement with children, thru Kids Corner, competitions and activities
- Thanks to the Nayland College enviorgroup recycling team, bar one bag of rubbish to landfill, Ecofest made it as a zero waste event. Approximately ten 120 litre wheely bins worth of food waste went to the Nelmac nurseries for composting, with the remaining cardboard, paper, cans, plastics and bottles all being successfully recycled.
- For TDC, a successful collaboration and shared stall with Nelson City Council; that delivered high profile, feedback on the LTCCP, engagement with many adults and children, and active discussion with public regarding displays and community concerns

My thanks go to Jo Reilly our contract event organiser, Rob Francis, our pest management team, and all the other staff who help at with the programme.

## **5. CONTAMINATION RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Council, in conjunction with Nelson City Council, has been successful in obtaining Ministry for the Environment funding to work with landowners who volunteer to be involved in investigating contamination risks with historic sheep dips. Historically farmers had to dip their sheep for lice every year, and the residues of the old arsenic, copper and dieldrin sprays remain around the plunge dips used at the time. These persistent chemicals may pose a health and environmental risk for the farmers or the future land owners. Nowadays safe chemicals are used for lice control.

Once the farmers know the extent of the plume from the old sheep dips and how much residue remains in the soil they can protect their livestock and streams from these potentially toxic chemicals. This joint council project will be using a mobile soil testing machine based on X-ray technology to give instant readings for metals such as arsenic and copper. We expect to be able to map the plumes from about 20 dip sites in the 2 weeks we have this machine. This is far more efficient than taking a series of soil samples for ordinary laboratory testing, especially when we can do a number of dips while we have the machine. As a part of this project we will write up the project to assist other councils who may wish to use this methodology for managing the potential risks from these sources.

We currently have about 13 farmers with old plunge dip sites that have agreed to be part of this project.

## **6. VEHICLES ON BEACHES**

We have again received correspondence regarding vehicles on beaches, this time from a resident at Ruby Bay. I have advised of Council's current policy but Mrs Timmins has asked that I draw her concerns to the attention of Councillors. I will speak to this at the meeting.

## **7. AQUACULTURE LEGISLATION**

The Government introduced a Bill to fix up some technical issues concerning aquaculture and gave us over a week to make submissions. A copy of the submission lodged on behalf of Council is attached (Annex 4). Neil Jackson attended the Select Committee hearing on 20 August to reinforce the need for the Bill to be enacted. Doing so will avoid the need for one High Court action involving the Council and may encourage parties to dispense with the other.

## **8. HEART OF NELSON**

Nelson City Council has embarked on developing a central city strategy, which is being called Heart of Nelson. It will look at the City Centre and the surrounding area, from the Marina to Victory Square, from Washington Valley to the Botanic Gardens and all the bits in between. It aims to better co-ordinate development and to deliver good and sustainable urban design outcomes. Deputy Mayor Rachel Reece and Project manager David Jackson will be in attendance to acquaint the Committee of the work programme. Steve Markham has been involved at staff level.

## 9. NATIONAL INITIATIVES

Annex 5 is an update listed of Government sponsored submission requests. As can be seen there are several opportunities coming up. Councillors may wish to identify interests if you wish to be involved as it may not be possible to align with a meeting date.

## 10. RECOMMENDATION

**It is recommended that this report be received.**



D C Bush-King  
**Environment & Planning Manager**