

REPORT

TO: Motueka Community Board Members
FROM: David Ogilvie
DATE: 2 October 2009
SUBJECT: **Rural Fires - Report to meeting of 13 October 2009**

Purpose of Report

To consider further the issues surrounding rural fires.

Discussion

I attended Mr Bruce Reid's Motueka High School Community Issues class when they presented their report on the "burn-off" issue. They conducted 423 interviews during August 2009.

Their report is included in the Information Pack, but their conclusion was: "Finally the class believed there was room for compromise on the issue. To reduce burn-offs, the Tasman District Council need to be more proactive by promoting cost-effective alternatives, such as providing for hire mulching machines capable of processing large stumps and wire, making growers more aware of their responsibilities as good neighbours and making fire permits weather-conditional".

I suggest the Board arrange a meeting with orchard and Council representatives with possible local invitations to Ian Palmer, Andrew Drummond, Bruce Reid, Paul Gray and Boris Leegwater, as part of the initial consultation process.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Motueka Community Board arrange a meeting with orchard representatives and the Environment and Planning manager to resolve the issue.

David Ogilvie
Chair
Motueka Community Board