

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2006 IN MEMORIAL HALL SUPPER ROOM, ESPLANADE, KAIKOURA.

AGENDA

1. *Apologies*

2. *Matters of Importance to be raised as Urgent Business*

3. *Matters Arising from the Report of 21/12/2005*

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4. *Minutes Action & Issues List Update*

MEETING	ACTION REQUIRED	BY	DATE ACTIONED
	21 DECEMBER 2005		
Council & Environmental Services	Form a working party with the following representatives to address toilet facilities at Mangamaunu and to the South of Kaikoura: Councillors S Thomas, M McChesney, J Macphail. Council Staff N Sherriff, R Vaughan, M Roberts-Saidy, Environment Canterbury Representative	Nicole Sherriff	In Progress

5. *Environmental Services Reports*

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- *Building*
- *Resource Planning*
- *Monitoring*
- *District Planning*
- *Environmental Development*
- *Environmental Health*
- *Environmental Services Budget Report*

6. *Resource Consent Update*

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7. *Urgent Business*

• Building

Building Report for December 2005 and January 2006

There were thirteen building consents with a combined construction value of \$1,781,000 issued for the month of December. These consents were for:

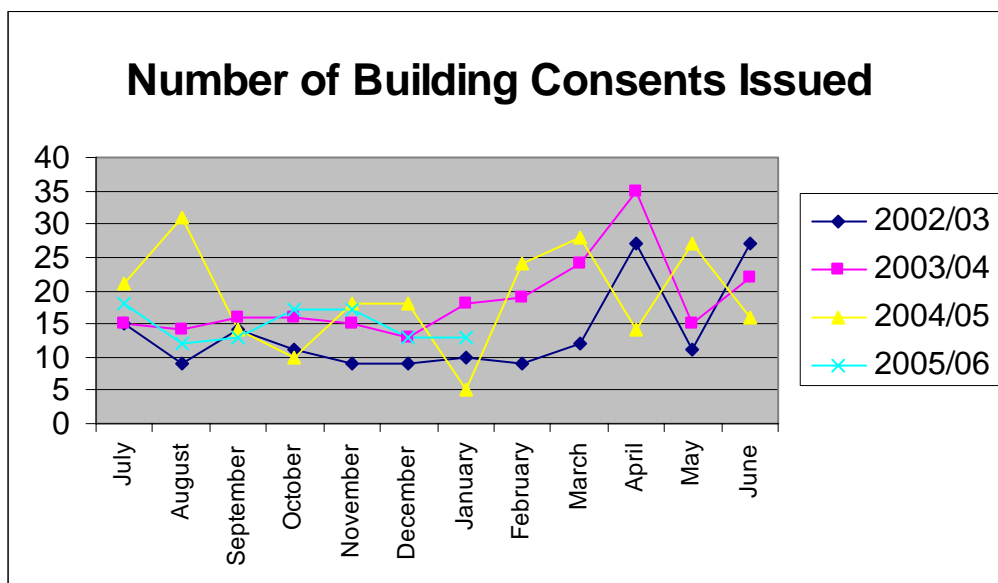
- 5 New Dwellings
- 2 Dwelling Additions and Alternations
- 1 New Visitor Centre
- 1 Retaining Wall Replacement
- 1 Sub-Division Site Office
- 1 New Farm Access Bridge
- 1 Council Water Pump House
- 1 New Sleepout

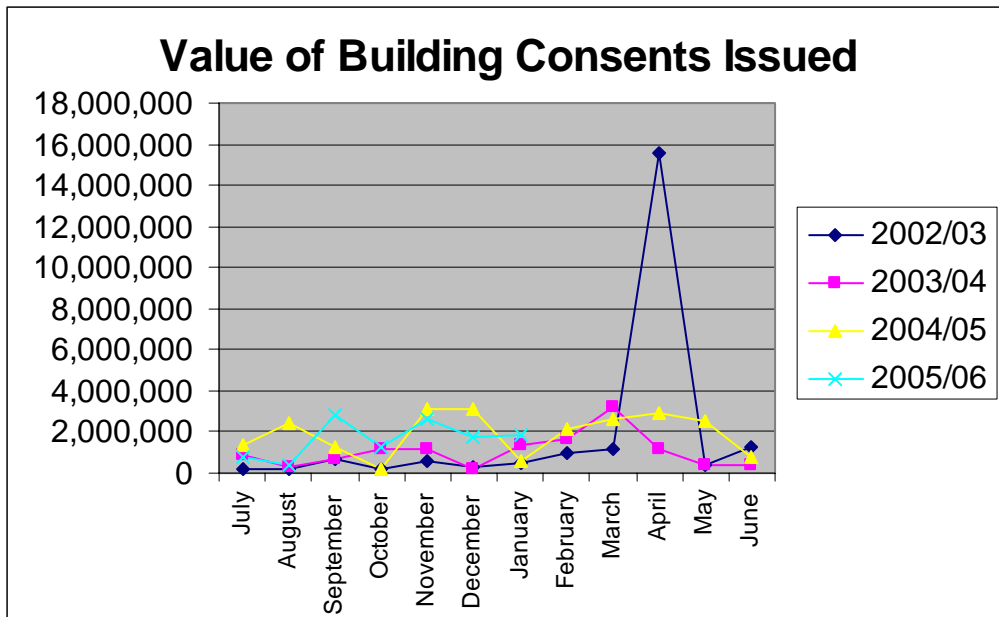
For January 2006 there were also thirteen building consents issued with a combined construction value of \$1,806,052. These building consents were for:

- 4 New Dwellings
- 1 New Farm Shed
- 1 New Public Toilet
- 1 Sign
- 1 Major Boundary Acoustic Wall
- 1 x Four Shop Fit-outs
- 1 Grease Trap Installation
- 1 Council Chlorination Shed
- 1 to Fire Rate an Existing Garage Wall
- 1 Replacement Log Fire Flue

Overall, the Building Control Unit has been very busy over the last two months with the above building consents and has also been receiving a lot of enquiries.

On 26 & 27th January, Neville Burnby and myself attended the “Joint Council Consortium Workshop” on the third stage to attaining “Building Consent Authority” status. Two further sessions have been programmed that will need to be attended before lodging Kaikoura District Council’s application to become a “Building Consent Authority” prior to 31st May 2006.





Housing Boom – Christchurch Press

Kaikoura had it's highest number of new dwelling consents in 15 years with 63 last year compared with 15 in 2000. Attached is a graph which shows a 70.27% increase in new residential consents over the two year period 2003 – 2005.

• **Resource Planning**

Resource Consent Update: 13th 2005 to 2nd February 2006

Twelve new resource consents have been received in this period. These consist of land use and subdivisions. Of these twelve, one new application requires notification: Bradbury Properties Ltd 12 Kotuku Rd which is a 3 lot subdivision and land use to allow for 1 new & 2 existing dwellings.

Progress of publicly notified resource consents is following:

- **Kaikoura Developments Limited – (Scenic Circle)** Meeting arranged with developers and Council Staff 20th December 2005 was cancelled by developers. Building consent issued for retaining wall.
- **Kaikoura Adventure Safaris** – Transit New Zealand matters now believed to be resolved however formal response from Transit still required.
- **Kulnine Holdings** – Application went to mediation with the applicant accepting the application be amended by way of a consent order. Consent order has been submitted to Court for acceptance.
- **Global Property Investment** – Application remains on hold.
- **Cedar Properties Kaikoura Limited** – Granted, appeal period closes 23 February.
- **Neumann Real Estate Limited** – Amended roading plan submitted and re-notified, submissions closed 16th December 2005. Hearing re-adjourning on 9th February, 10:00am start.
- **Battersby V J** – Decision released application declined – Appeal received -awaiting court feedback.
- **Robison D-** Granted. Objection lodged and to be heard at February's Environmental Services Committee.
- **Transit NZ (Designation)**-Submissions closed on 19th of September 2005. Hearing date set for 21-22 of February.
- **Addis At & GJ**-Submissions closed no submissions received, decision issued and consent granted.
- **Buffy Limited**- Allotment number reduced and consent granted.
- **Schroder BR** Application withdrawn by applicant.
- **Kaikoura Beach Villas** – 184-206 Beach Road, application reviewed, request for further information sought, notification required.
- **Kaikoura Waterfront Apartments Ltd** – 17 Avoca Street – Application currently on hold seeking clarification on details of the application.
- **Bradbury Properties Ltd**- 5 Kotuku Rd – Applicants seek to create fee simple titles for existing flats and an additional title for balance of property. Application currently on hold given need for service details and archaeological assessment.

• **Monitoring/Biodiversity**

Monitoring of consents & complaints

- Monitoring is on going as is follow up to previous non-compliances.
- Complaints have been few over the last period.

Biodiversity & SNA Project

- Time is being spent liaising with landowners whom have had the ecological survey and property report done through the SNA project, to see if there is any assistance that can be offered now. This will be on going however several have taken up the offer to date.

- The ecologists have just finished a week of survey work in the Clarence Valley area and have a further week lined up for early March. More survey work will be arranged thereafter, most likely in May.
- Seaweek, 6th – 11th March 2006 – the Biodiversity Officer is assisting coordination of activities in the Kaikoura area for Seaweek along with an Environmental Education consultancy (ECAN), DOC, Rio Rossellini (marine artist) and Dolphin Encounter. School groups will be invited to come along to the Memorial Hall and take short lessons with Rio and then display their work in the hall. Various other marine artwork, educational displays and interesting local speakers will be arranged and some great raffle prizes will be drawn on the Saturday. It is hoped to raise the awareness of our local marine environment and give some tips on how we can continue to look after it and/or improve the way we look after it. Watch this space!
- Biodiversity contestable fund – although no applications received to date, the Biodiversity Officer is confident several will come before the closing date - due to attendance of the Lyell Creek Stream Care Group meeting recently, blurbs in paper, announcements over radio and speaking with various others.
- Regional ‘Weedbuster Awards 2006’ – are being run by an agency called Weedbusters (sub group of DOC) and aim to recognise the dedication and commitment for community groups, organisations and individuals in the fight against weeds. Check out www.weedbusters.org.nz . If you know of any group or individual pottering away with weeds on private land, public land, in an educational capacity, through industry/organisations or maybe they fit the ‘excellence’ category – let me know and I can make a nomination. The nominations close 31st March 2006.

• District Planning

The period for Environment Court appeals on the decisions to the Proposed Kaikoura District Plan is now well and truly closed, with a total of six appeals received from various parties. The period is now open for those who wish to be a “*party to proceedings*” to lodge an interest with the court and to notify all other appeal parties and submitters. A *party to proceedings* is someone who wishes to continue to have an input into the matter under appeal. The following persons may be a party to any proceedings before the Environment Court - the Minister, a local authority, a person who has an interest in the proceedings that is greater than the public generally, a person representing a relevant aspect of the public interest, a person who made a submission in the previous proceedings (in this case, a submission on the District Plan) on the same matter.

A person or organization that wishes to become a *party to proceedings* must lodge a notice which must state the proceedings in which the person has an interest, whether the person supports or opposes the relief sought and the reasons for that support or opposition. The period for becoming a *party to proceedings* is open until 22nd February 2006.

With the appeal period closed, matters under appeal have been considered more closely by the Planning Team, and discussions with Council’s solicitor and Stuart will be ongoing to ascertain which matters can be settled through mediation and which matters will require a court hearing. At this stage no firm decisions have been made, although to reduce costs, the intention is to settle through mediation where possible.

A date for the hearing of the alteration to the road widening designation by Transit NZ, for Beach Road has been set for 21st February 2006; the 22nd is also available if required. John Milligan is the commissioner hearing the designation and will be sitting with Pam Sigglekow and Raewyn Solomon.

Anthony van der Byl of Mosiac Mapping has been engaged to update the District Planning Maps. Anthony has previously completed Waimakariri, Hurunui and Selwyn Districts Planning Maps. Planning staff are currently exploring options for updating and printing of District Plan maps.

• **Environmental Development**

December 2005 – January 2006

1. Litter/Signage at Bins

Refer to Signage/Litter Report relating to:

- Signage
- Litter Act/ By-laws
- Enforcement
- Education
- Summer Ranger Position

2. DOC Walkway/ South Bay Toilets

Meetings coordinated by Department of Conservation were held in November and December to update stakeholders on progress of the South Bay Toilet entrance project, each meeting was attended by Environmental Development Officer and the Biodiversity Officer. The development of a communication strategy and an interpretation plan were also discussed. The Environmental Development Officer is part of the Interpretation Working Plan Group and is expecting to advise Council about potential involvement and support for the interpretation plan that will link the walkway with Kaikoura's westend.

3. British Trust for Conservation Volunteers

From December 28- January 11 the first group of BTCV folks had a very successful and productive time working on the QEII Trust at Homewood Hill. A track was created, bridge built and the site made more accessible to the public. There was great community support for the team who participated in many local tours and enjoyed great hospitality at Homewood Hill.

4. Roots Festival

The Environmental Development Officer produced fliers and signs and worked with Innovative Waste for the first afternoon of the Roots festival - distributing leaflets about how and where the recycling stations were located.

Following the Festival IWK provided the following figures and calculated that a 95% diversion was achieved.

- 23.5 cubic metres of material was collected on site. Of this amount:
- 22 cubic metres was diverted away from landfill – 8 cubic metres was composted and 14 cubic metres was recycled plastic.
- 520 kg of glass was collected
- A total of 1.5 cubic metres of rubbish was not recycled.

5. Freedom camping

Refer to the Tourism and Development Committee Report on 8 February 2006 on page 38

Cloth Nappies

Commitment was allocated at the Social Services Committee in July 2005 for \$2000 to be spent to develop a voucher system to distribute cloth nappies to local Kaikoura parents.

Arrangements have been made with two cloth nappy suppliers to provide nappies to Kaikoura District Council at discounted wholesale prices. (GreenBums- local supplier and FuzziBunz Wellington based supplier).

Vouchers are being created and it is planned that they will be distributed through the local midwife, the marae, hospital and there be associated promotions in the Kaikoura Star and radio. Arrangements are in place for nappies to be provided to KDC in early March (as one supplier has run out of stock!) and the promotions shall be initiated in mid/late February.

Parents will be able to obtain the nappies from the midwife and also by popping into the KDC office with proof of their residency. Each new baby shall be allocated two nappies- one from each supplier and will also receive appropriate information regarding washing, care, additional nappy suppliers, benefits for the baby, the environment and finances.

February 2006

6. “Finding solutions to tourism waste” Meeting

The national Tourism Waste Working Group also has some interest in pragmatic solutions which may be developed on the Coast and could be applicable elsewhere in New Zealand. Kaikoura District Council has been invited to be involved in the Working Group, with the first meeting to be held at Hokitika on February 15th, involving a number of organizations that have identified tourism waste is an issue on the West Coast and expressed interest helping to find integrated solutions.

7. British Trust for Conservation Volunteers

Another group of volunteers are scheduled to work at the Oaro wetlands, working with the Takahanga Marae and Department of Conservation from the 28 February until the 12 March.

8. International Student Volunteers

The ISV are scheduled to spend a month from May 28th working on community/conservation projects in the District. ISV programs combine conservation, community development, recreation and education.

It has been suggested that work take place on one of the following areas, and suggestions from council for additional work sites that have a conservation/community outcome would be appreciated.

- Constructing a walkway from Jimmy Armers to the Seal Colony:
- A walkway would be partly gravel and boardwalk and would take in to consideration the sensitive dune areas, road safety and care of the small wetland areas. This project would also involve the removal of the willows and other weed species - enhancing the wetland and the beach front in general.

- Weed eradication and track enhancement on Toms Track:
- Removal of gorse and old mans beard in the gully and replanting native species while repairing steps and sections of track that require maintenance. The work would tie in with Trees for Travelers.

- Enhancement of South Bay Road:
- Planting native plant along the road reserve between the beach and the road, would enhance the visual features and the overall biodiversity of South Bay.

9. Managamauna Toilet Working Group

Tuesday February 7th, the first working group meeting to determine stakeholder commitment and progress towards options for the development of toilet facilities in the Mangamaunu area.

10. CCP: Community for Climate Protection

The Environmental development officer is working to finalise the Local Action Plan to reduce greenhouse pollutions by late February- this achievement would make Kaikoura the first district in New Zealand to achieve Milestone 3.

11. Coastal Litter and Rubbish Cleanup

Following reasonably low numbers of participants at previous Coastal Cleanups the decision was made to have the clean up mid-week, after school and business hours. The Cleanup is scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday 23 February 2006 from 4-6pm. Requests to the community have been made to determine the most appropriate locations and a final decision will be made on Monday 13 February and advertised in the Star for two weeks and on the radio. Fliers shall be distributed to schools, backpackers and community notice boards available throughout the town centre.

It would be fantastic to have councilors support this community initiative and any suggestions of sites to be the focus of the clean up would also be appreciated.

SIGNAGE/LITTER REPORT

Following the Environmental Services Council Meeting (December 2005), signage at rubbish and recycling stations and litter/dumping were raised.

The Environmental Development Officer has researched and contacted a number of District Councils throughout New Zealand to determine their management successes, issues and recommendations relating to signage, the Litter Act, by-laws, and enforcement.

The issue of litter/dumping is very closely linked to a number of other areas, which include:

- education,
- signage,
- LitterAct/By-laws,
- enforcement.

As such this report addresses each area outlining issues to be considered, options and recommendations.

Education

Planning and delivering information sessions, increasing publicity (signs, brochures, posters and website information) that highlight and explain why and how Kaikoura deals with its recycling and waste is seen as playing an integral role in reducing the amount of littering/dumping by both locals and visitors.

Such a program should be engaged all year with a central focus in the summer months. The program would be targeted towards varying user groups including local businesses (tourism and others), visitors, residents and children with the aim of informing them of Green Globe, Zero Waste and other reasons that Kaikoura is unique in its approach to waste management and recycling.

To ensure the success of such a program some positive incentives could be considered (i.e. showcasing a 'best case example' of a business, student and tourism operator who are recycling easily and cost effectively).

Summer Ranger Position

To extend the education program and enforcement (refer to section below) opportunities during the summer months it is suggested that *summer ranger* positions be considered for Kaikoura during the busy summer periods. This positions could be potentially funded by Department of Conservation, the Visitor Centre, the Marae and Kaikoura District Council with the role including litter wardens duties, education/interpretation and generally providing information. The role could have the scope to run educational activities at key locations such as the seal colony, Managamaunu and South Bay with the intention of increasing awareness of the natural and cultural values and discouraging littering through awareness with the backup of enforcement if necessary.

Signage

Currently the Kaikoura District has many signs relating to litter, bin use and over night camping and walking tracks that vary in design and effectiveness. There is the very real danger that the District is becoming inundated with signage which will impact on the scenic beauty of Kaikoura while not altering the behavior of the targeted audience.

A documented review of the current content, location and design of signs should be compiled and a brief but strategic approach documented to ensure the future placement of signs is relevant, effective and cost effective. Such an investigation would complement the Sign Strategy (2004) which identified a potential design and style for future Kaikoura District Council signs.

Recommendation

It is suggested that prior to the development and placement of additional signs throughout the District an investigation and review of existing signs should be completed. Such a report could locate, photograph and prioritise the relevance/effectiveness of the various signs throughout the District. The report would include recommendations relating to the relocation, removal and creation of signs with an understanding of what is already in place, its effectiveness and purpose. A staff member at Kaikoura District Council would need to be allocated responsibility for developing additional signs throughout the district.

Litter Act

From discussions with numerous District Councils throughout New Zealand the issue of dumping and littering is not unique to Kaikoura, and nor are solutions likely to be simple or fast!

In Kaikoura the dumping/litter issue can be looked at as two areas:

Issue One: dumping rubbish in riverbeds/roadsides etc

Issue Two: dumping beside rubbish bins

The Litter Act 1979 makes it illegal for any person in New Zealand to deposit rubbish of any kind onto any land without the prior approval from the owner.

To clarify exactly what is litter/rubbish

“...casting, placing, throwing or dropping litter and allowing litter to be cast, thrown, dropped or without reasonable excuse, to escape from any motor vehicle or trailer.”

Illegally dumped rubbish is litter which has been deposited onto public or private property (whether inadvertently or not) without the prior consent of the owner of that property.

In relation to **issue one** identified above- the Litter Act allows Kaikoura District Council to impose penalties on people who dump litter on the road side/river bed etc. Many District Councils throughout New Zealand do enforce the Litter Act and have seen some reduction in dumping. To date there has never been a prosecution/infringement given relating offenses under the Litter Act in the Kaikoura District.

Bylaws

There are times when litter or rubbish is not regarded as being illegally dumped and these times are considered to be **issue two** in Kaikoura. Such times that litter/rubbish is not classified as being illegally dumped include: overflowing public rubbish bins and wind blown rubbish (referenced from Dunedin City Council).

For Kaikoura District Council to reduce the amount of rubbish being placed beside bins throughout the district a by-law would need to be introduced and enforced.

For example:

*Northshore Litter By-law: **Public Litter Bins and Recyclable Waste Collection Bins***

4.98 No person shall:

- (1) place any Household Waste, Green Waste, Inorganic Waste, Commercial Household Waste, Commercial Waste, Prohibited or Hazardous Waste in any public litter bin or public Recyclable Waste collection bin; or
- (2) put or attempt to put any waste into a public litter bin or Recyclable Waste collection bin if the bin is already full; or...

Enforcement

The Litter Act has proven to be effective when enforced and it is suggested that action be taken to enforce the Litter Act in Kaikoura prior to or while developing a specific by-law relating to dumping rubbish beside public bins.

The following table has been compiled outlining advantages and disadvantage associated with some options for enforcement aiming to reduce the amount of dumping taking place throughout the Kaikoura District.

<i>Option</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Advantages</i>	<i>Disadvantages</i>
Enforcing the Litter Act			
Identify offenders (by sorting through the rubbish)	Send an invoice to offenders for cost of collecting rubbish.	No personal contact required	Time and cost for IWK to identify owners of rubbish.
		Likelihood that invoices will be paid by guilty offenders	Likelihood of offenders removing all identifiable articles from dumped rubbish
		Invoices are likely to cover the cost of identifying offenders	Costs associated with chasing unpaid invoices.
			Difficulty in 'proving' who dumped the rubbish.
Setting a roster for infringement duties for relevant KDC staff.	Allocating litter warden responsibility to KDC staff.	Infringement notices given out 'on the spot' to offenders	Low likelihood of 'catching' offenders.
			Placing staff in conflict situations.
			Low likelihood of 'catching' offenders in the act of dumping.
No action	KDC have not issued an infringement or prosecution relating to the Litter Act/dumping in the District.		No incentive for offenders to stop dumping.
			Continued dumping and collections at rate payers expense

			Continued environmental degradation and pollution
			Low commitment towards continuing to achieving Zero Waste/ Green Globe Certification
Develop a Bylaw	Research and develop a bylaw, publicly notify and introduce appropriate enforcement.	Opportunity to enforce a relevant bylaw	Costs associated with enforcement
	Alter signage to specify bylaw	Public awareness that action is being taken by KDC	Likelihood of 'catching' offenders in the act of dumping.
			Expected to take 6 months to complete
Overlap	Active enforcement of the Litter Act and new by-laws. Public education (through the Star, the radio and a summer ranger- <i>refer to education section</i>).	Public awareness that action is being taken by KDC Action and commitment to Zero Waste and Green Globe	Costs associated with staff time to enforce

● Environmental Health

1.0 General Environmental Health Issues:

1.1 A number of enquiries were received during the period. All have been investigated and satisfactorily completed. These ranged from infectious disease notifications, food safety and food premises, nuisance conditions, and public health issues.

2.0 Liquor Act & Gaming Act:

2.1 The following licences were completed during the period:

- Two (2) General Manager Licences received and processed.
- Seven (7) General Manager Renewals received and processed.
- Two (2) Special Licences received and processed.
- Two (2) New On Licence applications received and processed.
- Two (2) Renewal of on licence applications received and processed.

2.2 In terms of the Sale of Liquor Act, the reporting agencies raised no opposition to the issue of the licences and managers certificates.

2.3 I will be conducting unannounced 'out of hours / evening' visits on licensed premises to determine overall compliance with the Act, focussing on the service and sale of liquor, food availability, managers on duty and the level of intoxication / age requirements of the patrons. I will report my findings as they become available.

3.0 Infectious Diseases:

3.1 Two notifiable infectious disease was reported in the Kaikoura District during December 05 & January 06. These were:

- 1 case of Yersiniosis
- 1 case of Campylobacter

3.2 The standard questionnaire was completed and a telephone interview conducted. The causal routes pointed towards animal handling and insufficient hand washing practices prior to food handling. Advice was given regarding effective hand washing and separation between clean dirty re-emphasised. The Medical Officer of Health has been advised.

4.0 Environmental Noise:

4.1 No environmental noise complaints were received in the Kaikoura District during December 2005 and January 2006.

5.0 Registered Premises:

5.1 Fifteen (15) unannounced food premises were visited and assessed during the period. A generally acceptable standard was noted throughout, in all cases some minor contraventions were brought to the attention of the proprietor. All remaining food premises will be assessed before the 31st May 2006.

5.2 One new food premises was assessed for food safety in terms of supplying members of the public with food. Generally the standards were acceptable, and some minor improvements were required.

5.3 So far, I am pleased with the general level of compliance of food premises within the District, noting again an improvement of standards on last years assessments, some revisits have been undertaken. As previously reported I have focused my attention this year has been on outside dining and the risks of cross contamination from birds, rodents and other wildlife. A summer issue of the NZFSA Food Publication "4°C", ran with my article on the issue of outside dining and the associated risks.

5.4 All Wineries and wine processing premises are currently being assessed in line with the Wine Act and Food Hygiene Regulations. I will report my findings in the next report.

5.5 One mobile food premises was visited before Christmas, following a series of complaints from colleagues in other Districts where that trader was attending shows and events. A number of critical elements were found to be lacking, including a general basic understanding of food safety. These matters were raised and addressed at the full audit of the mobile unit. Subsequent re-assessments have been undertaken where a dramatic improvement has been noted. A close eye will be kept on the mobile trader and performance will be closely monitored.

5.6 I am attending the NZ Institute of Environmental Health Officers Conference in Dunedin, where the main papers being delivered focus attention of the way forward to New Zealand's food safety legislation. I will report my findings to Council in my next report.

6.0 Water Quality Monitoring:

6.1 Please refer to the schedule of monitoring for December 2005 & January 2006.

6.2 The PHRMP covering all community drinking water supplies in the Kaikoura District are progressing well. The supplies comprise of three categories, namely,

- Council owned and operated
- Council owned with delegated operational management
- Community owned and operated.

Meetings have been held with Gallo & Marlene, Mike and MOH. It is agreed that while the health assessments of each supply continue over February, the Council owned and operated supplies are taking precedence starting with Kincaid and Kaikoura Urban. The Health Officers will work very closely with all stake holders including the Councils asset managers. Contingency plans and priorities for urgent action will be determined as the PHRMP's progress. This information will also enable the Council to apply to the Ministry of Health in the future for certain Government subsidies to upgrade supplies.

6.3 The Drinking Water Standards New Zealand 2006 are now effective. As previously reported, there have been a number of changes to the standards, which will become mandatory once the Water Act is ratified. These changes include Plumbosolvency testing, Cryptosporidium & Giardia testing of source water, testing criteria and frequencies, and the introduction of Public Health Risk Management Plans (PHRMP's).

6.4 I have recently spoken with the Medical Officer of Health and the Ministry who advocates caution and continued awareness with regard to adverse events, potential terrorist alerts, and general site security. The Council has a responsibility to ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to maintain potable water and site security of its locations. Clearly, the emphasis must be on preventing access to rural schemes and supplies were these types of attacks can be made. Naturally these associated risks will be addressed in the site specific risk assessments that are an integral part of the PHRMP process.

6.5 E. Coli has throughout the period been monitoring the 'approved locations' for recreational water quality. As discussed in my previous report, recommended changes have been made to signage requirements "*advising no swimming for two days in the locations after heavy rainfall*". This signage will ensure that people do not swim in certain areas where very high elevated levels of E. Coli may cause illness.

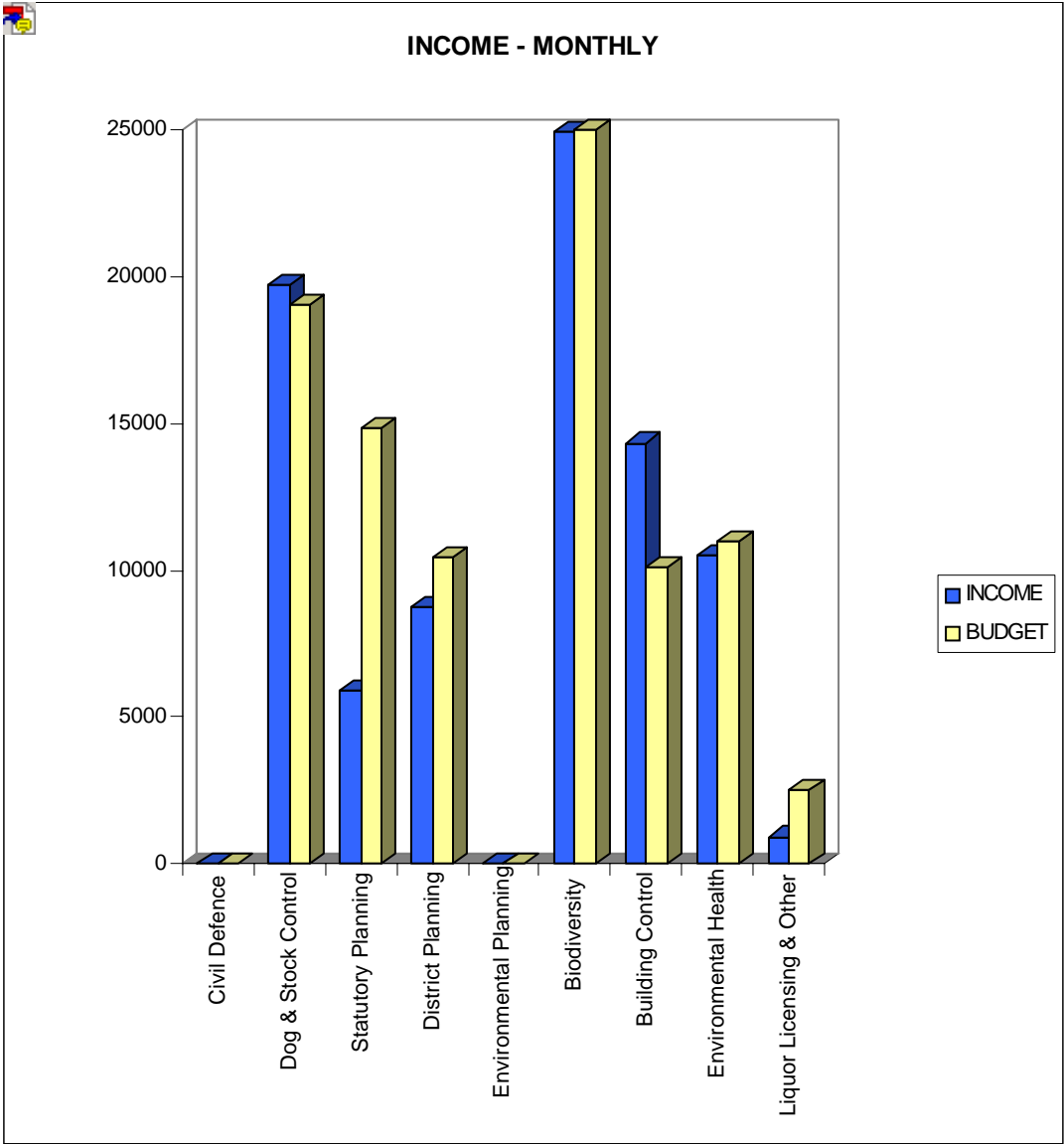
6.6 A meeting has been arranged with CPH regarding the annual survey and quarterly water meeting, the purpose of which is to discuss the annual survey and monitoring undertaken over the year. At the meeting recreational water monitoring, actions and transgressions will be discussed, along with the annual grading of water supplies - I will report to Council the outcome of that meeting.

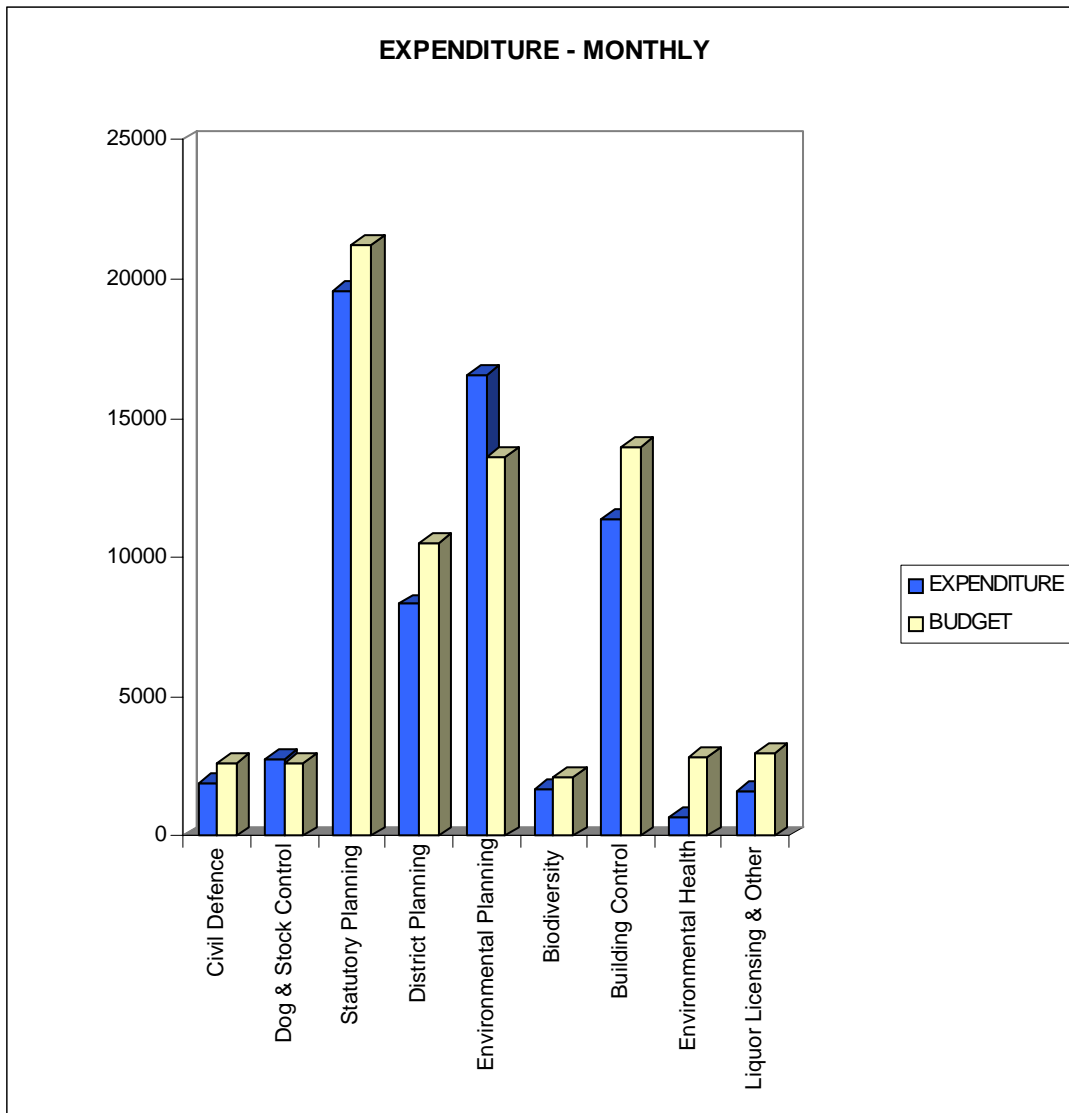
6.7 Swimming pool assessments have been undertaken in many of the public and school pools. I will report my findings in the next report.

7.0 Nuisances & General

- 7.1 The complaint relating to potential bed bugs in a motel unit was investigated. No other complaints have been received, and the motel in question has been extremely busy over the holiday period.
- 7.2 A food related complaint was received from Community and Public Health. The complaint related to a food premises serving a hot dog with a fly in the batter. The matter was discussed with the proprietor and actioned accordingly. A recent food premises assessment has been undertaken, identifying a few minor contraventions. A revisit will take place in the near future.
- 7.3 Again I can report that a steady number of general enquiries were received during the period relating to food premises, and necessary changes that would be required to meet the potential changes in Legislation.
- 7.4 The complaints regarding men urinating in the doorways of premises late at night along West End. The matter was investigated, and referred to the police to address under public indecency.
- 7.5 A complaint has been received regarding maggots and odour from a fish truck spilling liquid whilst parked outside a residential dwelling. The matter was investigated and the appropriate action taken.
- 7.6 I have received a complaint regarding overcrowding of a number of camp sites along the shore line particularly over the Christmas holidays. The complainant refers to a general lack of provision for toilets and handwashing facilities particularly in terms of their loading. The matters will be raised with all camp grounds as part of their annual assessments process.
- 7.7 The matter of transient campers and health issues that arise from roadside camping i.e. effluent and rubbish has been discussed with Council.
- 8.0 Shows and Events:**
- 8.1 Roots festival was attended again this year. All food premises were noted to be of a good standard, with adequate food for the number of attendees and liquor was controlled to a good standard. Overall, the event was extremely well managed, and the overall organisation was recognised.
- 8.2 In all cases the events are assessed from a food safety, liquor licensing perspective, and public health perspective. In some cases I am involved prior to the event and assist in the overall planning, food safety advice / guidance and event management.

Environmental Services Budget Report





- **Resource Consent Update**

**RESOURCE CONSENT UPDATE LIST FOR THE PERIOD OF
FROM THE 13th OF DECEMBER 2005 TO THE 8th OF FEBRUARY 2006.**

Resource consents decisions issued:

Type of Consent	Applicant	Address of Activity	New Lots Guest No.
Land Use Build Info Shelter and toilets	DOC	South Bay reserve	
Land Use relocate dwellings	S & S Jones	Inland Rd	
Land Use relocate dwellings	Kazette Ltd	Postmans Rd	
Subdivision consent boundary adjustment, build dwelling	Docherty Family Trust	219 Beach Rd	
2 lot subdivision, build dwelling	Dunfoy GW & DC	373 Shwy 1, Hapuku,	1
Subdivision consent: 3 Lots, Retain Building	RD Hughes	SH 1	2

Land Use-Build shed in set back area	M & P Cleall	28 Ti Toki Dr	
Land use: Extend dwelling & outbuildings, convert shed for staff accommodation, build 3 outbuildings	Robinson D,	SH1 Mangamaunu	
Utilise existing shed for engineering workshop	WD and BA Getz	94 Red Swamp Rd	
Subdivision and Land Use – 27 Lots	Cedar Properties Kaikoura Ltd	State Highway 1, Mangamaunu	26
Subdivision 2 lots, Build dwellings	AT & GJ Addis	Mill Rd	1
Subdivide into 8 lots, vest road	Austin Developments	Austin St	6
Subdivision- 2 Lots	Buffy Limited	256 Schoolhouse Rd	1

Active consent applications currently in process:

Type of Consent	Applicant	Address of Activity
Subdivision 2 Lots	L & R Allison	21 South Bay Parade
Land Use - Build 7 unit apartment	100 Torquay St	100 Torquay St
2 Lot subdivision, create 19 unit titles on Lot 1	Alpine Pacific Developments Ltd	154 Beach Rd
Subdivision 2 lots, Build dwellings	Bay Paddock Ltd	Inland Rd
Subdivision and land use consent, development of 24 unit hotel and unit titles – 44 visitor beds	Neumann Real Estate Ltd	72 Beach Road
Subdivision and Land Use – create allotments for each dwelling Lot size 4700m ² .	Petersen TW & BM	Mill Road

Consent applications awaiting receipt of further information requested from applicant or on hold:

Type of Consent	Applicant	Address of Activity
Subdivision- 40 Lot subdivision, Build dwellings	Kaikoura Beach Villas	184-206 Beach Rd,
Build and operate a pre-school	Little Tamariki Montessori Pre-School	47 Ludstone Rd
Subdivide lot 11, construct dwelling	MJ and JR Hunt	26 Bayview St
Subdivision and land use-subdivide one lot and amalgamate the remainder	LW Kearns	8 Kiwi St
Land Use-build dwelling	M Holmes	142 South Bay Parade
Subdivision -3 Lots	I Bradshaw & JM Wadsworth	Kincaid Rd

Land Use – Construction of 5 apartment buildings	Waterfront Apartments Ltd	17 Avoca Street
Sign Consent	Diesel Engineering	Beach Road
Sign Consent	The Woolshed - Davidson	Beach Road
Sign Consent	The Joiners Shop*	Beach Road
Signs Consent	Wilson*	State Highway 1, Hapuku
Land use: Additions to sleep out within a flood hazard area.	Case	Peketa Road
Subdivision- Separation of existing title	Matariki Farms	State Highway 1 Clarence
Land Use – Four wheel motor bike tours	Kaikoura Adventure Safaris	State Highway 1 Goose Bay
Land Use – Visitors Accommodation 12 Chalets	Mac Farlane	Kekerengu
Subdivision and Land Use – Create 3 lots and erect dwellings.	Harnett Estate A.M	205 Bay Paddock Road
Subdivision – Create one additional allotment	A & T Flavell	102A Torquay Street
Subdivision, create one additional allotment	Reader	State Highway 1, Meriburn
Land Use – Holiday house in archaeological area	Hitchon	Paia Point
Subdivision & Land use – Rural subdivision in Hapuku	Global property Investments Ltd	State Highway 1, Hapuku
Signs Consent	Kaikoura Hire Company	200 Beach Road
Subdivision 2 Lots- Boundary Adjustment	EJ MaKenzie	SH1 Magamaunu
Subdivision: 2 lot subdivision & dwellings	Reardon SJ & AR	19 Old Beach Rd
Subdivision and Land Use – Create three allotment from one existing allotment	A & M Watts	Athelney Road (State Highway 1)

Consent applications subject to appeal under sections 120 and 358 of the Resource Management Act:

Type of Consent	Applicant	Address of Activity
Subdivision & land use – Create 3 lots retain dwelling and allow for new dwellings	Battersby	Crn Athelney & School House Roads

Consent applications subject to objections under section 357 of the Resource Management Act:

Type of Consent	Applicant	Address of Activity
Land Use-Extend Dwelling	D Robinson	SH1 Mangamaunu

Consent Applications declined:

Type of Consent	Applicant	Address of Activity
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Subdivision & land use – Create 3 lots retain dwelling and allow for new dwellings	Battersby	Crn Athelney & School House Roads
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Consent applications subject to application for declaration under section 311 of the Resource Management Act: Nil

* Denotes Retrospective Consent

*¹ Denotes Retrospective Consent Signage Aspect Only

Report to Tourism & Development Committee 8 February 2006

FREEDOM CAMPING

This report provides detail and direction for Council to formulate an official position relating to freedom camping by:

- examining freedom camping as an aspect of tourism in New Zealand,
- highlighting the main aspects of freedom camping specifically in Kaikoura,
- summarising some approaches taken by other councils,
- considering both the potential positive and negative aspects and
- including recommendations to council.

Freedom camping and NZ tourism

Unlike other accommodation users, the numbers of freedom campers are difficult to measure. But the general picture in New Zealand is that freedom camping is popular with both domestic and international travellers. As with other forms of tourism activity, freedom camping takes place throughout the year and experiences the same peaks and troughs.

A range of age groups and professional backgrounds are represented by freedom campers including retired people and those referred to as “empty nesters”. These latter categories are part of the classification known as F.I.T – Free Independent Travellers – F.I.T is one of the markets identified as a strong growth market in New Zealand.

Freedom Camping in Kaikoura

Within the Kaikoura District there are sites where freedom camping takes place frequently. A wide range of owners and managers take legal and voluntary responsibility for many of these sites – private owners, K.D.C, Transit New Zealand, Ngai Tahu, D.O.C and E-Can, and groups such as the Marine & Coastal Protection Society and the Kaikoura Coastal Guardians (Kaitiaki).

In addition, strategies such as the Coastal Management Strategy and District Plan exist to ensure careful management of the natural and social environment that is unique to Kaikoura. Furthermore, as a Green Globe community striving towards Zero Waste, environmental protection should always be at the very core of Council and community actions and policies.

There are designated areas within the district where camping is prohibited and this is governed by a bylaw.¹ It is for Council to decide if or how such regulations should be enforced.

¹ KAIKOURA DISTRICT (TRAFFIC CONTROL) BYLAW 1995.

2.1 Reserves

2.1.1 No person shall on any reserve:

(b) Camp in an area not set aside for that purpose. In this context camping shall include the use of any vehicle whether or not it is specially fitted out for sleeping;

- 2.1.4 It shall not be a defence to any charge that an offence has been committed against this part of the Bylaw (other than where compliance with a sign, notice or road marking is an ingredient of the offence) if no sign, notice or road marking was in place at the time such offence was alleged to have been committed

Action has been taken by Council in South Bay where improvements to the toilets have been made and a dump station is also planned. Clearly the South Bay improvements have been carried out for the benefits of all users, whether local people or visitors to the district.

Concern over waste issues at Mangamaunu have been expressed at a recent Environmental Committee meeting. These concerns have been addressed by Council through the formation of a working group. This group has representatives from Council Mangamaunu Marae, DOC, E-Can and other stakeholders. The outcomes of this workshop will be extremely relevant to other areas of the coastline. The possibility of constructing additional public toilets to the north of the town is also being investigated.

It is important to remember that many of the areas popular with freedom campers are also used by surfers, fishermen, walkers, car & truck drivers and so on. This is a particularly important point to be aware of when discussing the freedom camping issue.

Interested parties

Camp site owners - Gerald Nolan and his colleagues met with Mayor Heays, Nicole Sherriff and Ann Paterson (12th January 2006) Main issues raised by this group

- Provision of toilets and bins by Council at various sites did not help to improve the condition of the environment.
- Freedom campers use and abuse free facilities resulting in litter, waste and general spoiling of the environment.
- Considerable investment has been, and continues to be made by the campsite operators to upgrade and maintain facilities and to meet council regulations.
- Freedom campers are free-loaders making no financial contribution to the upkeep of this environment and making very little contribution to the local economy.
- Suggested solution is to have a complete ban on freedom camping in Kaikoura District.

(Summary of this meeting in Appendix 1)

East Coast Community Organisation (E.C.C.O) – representatives of ECCO. met with Mayor Heays, Nicole Sherriff and Ann Paterson. Main issues raised by ECCO concerned the Black Millar site which was dominated by one large group of freedom campers for 3 weeks

- Significant noise pollution and visual impact issue
- Waste and litter issues
- Obstructed access to beach – for both residents and visitors
- Occasional abusive and insulting behaviour by some freedom campers towards residents.
- Over-fishing concerns
- ECCO have no objection to overnight campers but believe the group at Black Millar (transit land) abused the privilege of being able to freedom camp in the District

(Summary of ECCO concerns in Appendix 2 & 3)

Kevin Genet (South Bay resident) – letter to Kaikoura Star

- Support for freedom camping with appropriate facilities

(Refer to Appendix 4)

Paul McGahan – Secretary of KM&CPS

Summary of a report sent to Mayor Heays 18th January 2006 (report appears in full in Appendix 5)

- Calls for an immediate management response regarding freedom campers with no self-contained human waste disposal facilities – achievable through use of “patrols” and enforcement of signage
- Employ a “ranger” for an educational and rule enforcement role
- Development of a low cost information strategy
- Introduce a bylaw relating to freedom camping as soon as possible
- Medium term measures – camping policy and strategy

Researched Outcomes

- Measures taken by other Councils:

Gisborne District Council - G.D.C allow freedom camping in designated freedom camping areas between Labour weekend and Easter. Campers must have permits to use these areas and permits are available from G.D.C office and from several shops and the i-site. This season, a charge of \$25 was introduced which covers the cost of 8 rubbish bags which are given out with each permit. Inspectors check the camps every day. There are various rules governing “approved structures” - importantly, each van/tent/caravan must have its own chemical toilet. (www.gdc.govt.nz)

Central Hawke’s Bay Council – freedom camping is permitted in designated areas. There are fewer rules than Gisborne. Campers are required to notify the Council’s Bylaw Officer where they are intending to camp and for how long - payment is not required. (www.chbdc.govt.nz)

Marlborough District Council – no camping is permitted in any M.D.C reserve area unless permission has been granted by Council. Permission usually only granted in relation to specific groups for an organized event. Currently an agenda item is being worked on which will introduce a new policy on camping allowing camping for limited stays (2days) in areas designated for self-contained campervans and caravans. (www.marlborough.govt.nz)

Tasman District Council – T.D.C owns several camping grounds (run under lease by private operators) and there are a number of reserves on which camping is allowed. These reserves have an honesty box or a caretaker who collects fees. T.D.C has a policy for allowing camping by self-contained motorhomes only. In addition, there are areas where camping is expressly prohibited. (www.tdc.govt.nz)

- Transit

A site inspection by Transit of the long term camp at Black Miller in January 2006 -revealed there were no health, safety or environmental concerns. The campers had toilet facilities, recycling containers and were conscientious of the welfare of the site they returned to each year.

Discussions with Transit New Zealand have revealed that there is no bylaw/policy regarding camping on road reserves managed by Transit. As a safety precaution Transit do actively encourage drivers to pull over and rest on road verges.

- Food and Health

The environmental health officer inspected the Black Miller camp site and acknowledged there were no concerns with this site. The Health inspector also stated that faecal contamination of the coastal area where campers were frequenting was a potential concern dependant on the amount of contamination taking place.

- Survey results

For a 10 day period in mid January 2006 surveys were conducted at both Mangamanu and South Bay in order to gather an accurate figure of freedom campers using each area.

South Bay	Kiwa Road	
12	19	People per night
8%	9%	cars
57%	18%	motor homes
34%	33%	vans
0	40%	tents

Summary

- One of the crucial aspects highlighted by this report is the fact that freedom camping is a passionate topic – not unique to Kaikoura - many issues and many stakeholders are involved nationally and locally.
- Council must be careful to consider the varied issues and stakeholders not in isolation, as a successful outcome will only be achieved by considering the whole picture and not just one aspect of it.
- Clearly there are many potential positive and negative, real and perceived aspects associated with freedom camping.

Potential positive aspects include:

- Allowing visitors to experience New Zealand in a truly independent way – “getting away from it all”
- Enabling visitors to stay in an area even when all camping grounds are fully booked – e.g. at Christmas time
- By saving money on accommodation costs, campers contribute significantly to the local economy through participating in the activities and attractions of a particular area and by using local shops, restaurants and bars.

Potential negative aspects include:

- Environmental impacts involving a range of issues such as litter, sewage and damage to the natural environment
- Reduced opportunities for local businesses to receive economic gain from overnight visitors
- Fire safety, road safety and access issues

Recommendations

Given the fact that Kaikoura District Council has recorded concerns regarding freedom camping since 2004, Council needs to resolve the debate relating to freedom camping in the District.

Possible directions for Council

Recommended action	Role of Council	Consequence
Specific sites and limited stay allowed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocate appropriate sites to allow freedom camping • Determine an appropriate length of stay. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefits for all stakeholders (including freedom campers), • Achievable management of environmental issues.
<i>Overlap between limited stay & total ban</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Agreement of management of freedom camping on lands owned by Transit, DOC, Ngahi Tahu and KDC needs to be reached in combination with agreement as to how such management will take place.</i> • <i>Enforcement, signage, awareness need to be developed.</i> 	
Total ban	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforcement needs would be greater. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased income of holiday parks, • Potential decrease in income for other local businesses, • Is the active enforcement achievable? • Reduction in environmental impacts.
Take no action		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ignoring stakeholders concerns • Increasing impacts associated with this increasing sector of visitors.

REFERENCES

Kaikoura District Plan, 2005

Coastal Management Strategy, 1998

Tourism Industry Association of New Zealand

Ministry of the Environment

Numerous councils throughout New Zealand (refer to websites included)