



MEDIA RELEASE

Ruapehu District Council

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COUNCIL LISTS 18 MORE ABANDONED LAND PROPERTIES FOR SALE

Ruapehu District Council (RDC) is about to start advertising of the next lot of land sales under its abandoned land sale programme.

RDC Chief Executive, David Hammond, said that the next lot of abandoned land sales represents 18 lots spread throughout the district including high value tourism and lifestyle areas such as Raetihi, Owhango, Manunui and Taumarunui.

"Council is expecting this real estate to be in strong demand based on the interest in the previous abandoned land sales held so far where demand has always outstripped supply," he said.

"Since 2007 council has had an active rate arrears recovery programme that targets properties where the rates have not been paid for at least six years."

"Council has successfully sold over 40 properties that were in rate arrears and legally deemed to be abandoned since the start of this programme."

Mr Hammond stated that the sale of real estate due to unpaid rates is always council's last step in the rate recovery process.

"For districts such as Ruapehu which have small rating bases it is vital that we have good ratepayers who will ensure their properties are maintained and who pay their rates on time," he said.

"The alternative is for the remaining good ratepayers to cover non-paying landowners which is not equitable or sustainable."

Mr Hammond added that council will always 'bend over backwards' to work with ratepayers to see how we can set up a mutually agreeable rate payment schedule.

"Where this doesn't work we are unfortunately forced to go through this process with the penultimate stage being the sale of the abandoned property," he said.

Anyone interested in this lot of properties can access information on them including the Tender documents via the RDC website; www.ruapehudc.govt.nz from Wednesday 9 February 2011.

DAVID HAMMOND
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CJH : PRW