

MEDIA RELEASE

Ruapehu District Council



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Date: Monday 14 March 2010

RUAPEHU DISTRICT PLAN HEARING DATES & OPERATIVE RULES

Ruapehu District Council (RDC) has set the Hearing dates for submitters who want to present to council in support of their submission on the proposed changes to the Ruapehu District Plan.

RDC Policy Planner, Kate Dahm, said that the hearings are starting in mid-April and run through to mid October, with each hearing taking up to three days per month.

"The first Hearings, starting in mid April, will cover the Chapters addressing Heritage, (including the Schedule of Heritage Buildings and Sites), Heritage Character Areas (which are the proposed rules for development around the railway cottages in Ohakune), and the Special Activities Chapter (which covers the proposed rules for activities such as the Karioi Pulp Mill and the Outdoor Pursuits Centre)," she said.

"Council will send a letter to all submitters who requested to be heard before each Hearing confirming their presentation arrangements."

Ms Dahm said that interested parties should be aware that the Hearing dates after April are subject to change and may be amended due to resource constraints.

"The Hearing dates for each section as currently scheduled are published on Council's website: www.ruapehudc.govt.nz and any changes to the proposed programme will be shown here at least a month before hand", she said.

Ms Dahm added that some sections of the proposed changes to the District Plan are already being treated as operative.

"Two examples of the proposed rule changes that are now being treated as operative include some small scale renewable energy generation now not requiring resource consent and the 'boundary setback' required for non-residential buildings in rural zones from side and rear boundaries has now been reduced by half to 10m," she said,

"Changes to the rules around small renewable energy generation will make it easier for people wanting to reduce their reliance on the National Grid, or wanting to reduce their carbon footprint while the reduction in the 'boundary setback' should hopefully give farmers more flexibility in where they locate rural buildings, and reduce the need for resource consent and associated costs."

Ms Dahm noted that most of the rules in the Industrial Zone and the Urban Settlement Zone are now being treated as operative.

"More information on what District Plan rules are now being treated as operative is available on council's website or people can contact me directly via your local council office," she said.

DAVID HAMMOND
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CJH : PRW