



MEDIA RELEASE

Ruapehu District Council

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COUNCIL COMMENCES RATING SALES OF PROPERTIES

The next stage of Ruapehu District Council's (RDC) bad debt recovery of unpaid rates is about to get underway with the advertising for sale by tender of three freehold properties in the Taumarunui area via 'rating sale'.

RDC Deputy General Manager, Peter Till, said that as opposed to the abandoned land process in these cases the owners of the land are usually known to Council but as with abandoned land the rates have not been paid for some time.

"In some rating sale cases people are either working or living on the land, even if they do not own it, or the land is owned jointly by others," he said.

"Some people mistakenly believe that council is unable to recover rates in these situations."

"The reality is that council has many legislated remedies available to it to recover unpaid rates depending on the situation."

Mr Till said that these included abandoned land sales, rating sales, getting back rates off the mortgage holder if there is one on the property, and in the case of Maori land obtaining orders from the Maori Land Court.

"Council has a responsibility to Ruapehu property owners who pay their rates on time to ensure 'bad payers' do not put undue strain on the rating system."

"The recently completed round of abandoned land sales was extremely successful with most all of the properties sold in locations that were spread across the Ruapehu District."

"Because of the high degree of interest shown during the abandoned land sales we anticipate strong interest in the Rating Sale properties with many people having registered their interest in being notified of future rate recovery land sales."

Mr Till noted that besides the ownership situation one of the differences between rating sales and abandoned land sales was that rating sale properties are sold by the High Court which handles all tenders as opposed to Council.

"Tenders for the properties must be lodged with the High Court in Hamilton by 4:00pm on 30 September 2011."

"Anyone interested in the rating sales should watch local papers for the tender advertisement on how to obtain the 'Particulars and Conditions of Sale' or go to RDC's website; www.ruapehudc.govt.nz for details."

DAVID HAMMOND
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CJH : PRW