



MEDIA RELEASE

Ruapehu District Council

Contact: Paul Wheatcroft, Communications Manager, 027 24 33 064

Date: Wednesday 31 August 2011.

NEW DISTRICT DOG SHELTER ON TRACK

Construction of Ruapehu District's new dog shelter inside Council's Huia St Depot in Taumarunui is well underway with development due to be completed within six to eight weeks.

Ruapehu District Council (RDC) Team Leader Compliance, Brenda Ralph, said that the new dog pound will be a significant improvement on Council's current kennel facilities and meet new, improved standards of care required for housing animals.

"Once completed the new dog shelter will have 22 individual dog pens including two quarantine pens, and a special 'pup only' area," she said.

"The individual dog pens are all 1.2m wide and 2.7m long providing plenty of space for the largest dog we may have to care for."

"The shelter has also been designed to make daily operations as easy as possible with features such as the kennel floors having a slight fall to allow water run-off and assist with cleaning and maintaining hygiene."

Ms Ralph added that the new dog shelter has also been built with a view to keeping the neighbours and local community happy."

"To reduce traffic noise and congestion and other issues, the new shelter will not be open to the public and anyone needing to pick-up a dog or conduct any other dog shelter business will need to do so up the road at Council's main office at 59-63 Huia St."

Ms Ralph said that the conversion of the Huia St depot was the best of three potential options that were finally identified as acceptable sites for a new District dog shelter.

"Finding a suitable site for a new District dog shelter that satisfied the requirements of Council and the concerns of local communities has been an extremely difficult and time consuming process," she said.

"Council believes however that the new dog shelter is an excellent solution that meets the requirements of all stakeholders and will serve the community well for many years to come."

DAVID HAMMOND
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CJH : PRW

Building contractors; Alastair McKenlay (L) and Phil Hawthorne (R) on-site at the new Ruapehu District Dog Shelter in Huia St, Taumarunui.

