



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Ruapehu District Council**

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#### **WHANGANUI RIVER AND PIPIRIKI – RAETIHI ROAD USERS URGED TO BE ALERT TO LOGGING TRAFFIC**

For the next eight months from September 2011 through to May 2012 a massive logging project will see around 30,000 tonnes of Pinus Radiata harvested from a plantation on the Morikaunui Station located near Ranana on the Whanganui River.

The logging contractor Ernslaw One Ltd is planning to send 20,000 tonnes of the harvest from Ranana up through Pipiriki to their processing plant at Karioi, with the remaining 10,000 tonnes heading south along the River Road to Wanganui.

Ruapehu District Council (RDC) Team Leader Land Transport, Warren Furner, said that users of the Pipiriki – Raetihi Rd and the Whanganui River Rd will need to be alert to logging trucks over the harvest period.

“Around eight truck and trailer loads per day each carrying 27 – 28 tonnes of logs will be on the Pipiriki – Raetihi and Whanganui River Roads during the week with the possibility of some truck movements over weekends in order to clear any build-up of logs that may occur,” he said.

“With roughly two thirds of the harvest heading up through Pipiriki and the other third heading down river to Wanganui it will mean around 800 truck and trailer load movements on Ruapehu District roads over the harvest period.”

“Signage will be placed at the intersection with SH4, the Gentle Annie, Parakino, Atene, Koroniti, Ranana, Jerusalem, Pipiriki and Huikumu advising road users of the increased traffic.”

“In addition a radio-telephone (RT) link will be placed with the Awa School in Ranana to allow the truck drivers to communicate about on-coming traffic and other road safety information.”

Mr Furner noted that the Pipiriki – Raetihi Rd that was sealed earlier this year was vulnerable to the heavy logging truck traffic.

“Council will be closely monitoring how the new seal performs and will be standing-by to undertake repairs and maintenance to the road as required over the harvest period.”

“Anyone requiring more information on the logging project or any trucking issues can contact Ernslaw One Ltd at their Bulls Office on 06 322 1558.”

DAVID HAMMOND  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

CJH : PRW