



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Ruapehu District Council**

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

**Date:** Monday 12 December 2011.

#### **CATS AND DOGS DOMINATE SUBMISSIONS**

Cats and dogs have dominated the submissions received so far in Ruapehu District Council's (RDC) Bylaw and Policy Review.

The current consultation is seeking submissions on five Bylaws and three Policies including; Water Supply, Trade Waste and Stormwater, Animal Control, Dog Control, Land Transport, Public Places, Freedom Camping and Public Places Event Management.

RDC Policy Planner, Jo Tocker, said that out of the 18 submissions received to date 16 are on the Animal Control Bylaw and Dog Control Policy review.

"Of the two remaining submissions one supports the draft Trade Waste and Stormwater Bylaw and one is against certain elements the draft Freedom Camping Policy," she said.

"The eight submissions received so far on the Animal Control Bylaw review were generally in favour of the proposals regarding the keeping and controlling of cats."

"This proposal resulted from a request by the SPCA with the purpose of ensuring that cats do not create a public health nuisance or problem to anyone or any animal, conservation wildlife or property."

Mrs Tocker noted that in addition to supporting the cat control proposal the submitters made a number of other suggestions.

"These included; the need for cats to be registered and micro chipped, restricting cat numbers per household to less than the proposed six, compulsory de-sexing of cats, and Council to have a role in rounding up and euthanizing feral cats."

"In addition to these 'cat specific' suggestions there were a range of ideas submitted on animal control and welfare issues."

Mrs Tocker said that a similar number of submissions have been received on the Dog Control Policy review relating to dog prohibited areas, leashing of dogs and dog exercise areas.

“Submitters have also put forward a range of ideas around dog control, management and welfare,” she said.

“Council is very pleased with the submissions received so far and urges anyone with any comment, thoughts or ideas on any of the Bylaws or Policies under review, or any other matter, to put in a submission.”

“Putting in a submission provides the opportunity for you to be heard by Council and allows the your elected representatives to consider your comments and opinion during the decision making process”

Mrs Tocker added that although making a submission may seem a bit daunting it is really very easy with a number of options available including making a submission on-line which is getting more and more popular with every consultation Council undertakes.”

“Information on the Bylaws and Polices can be obtained from your elected representative, any Council office or library or from [www.ruapehudc.govt.nz](http://www.ruapehudc.govt.nz)

If you have any questions whatsoever please call Jo Tocker via your nearest Council office.”

“Submissions sent to Council’s Taumarunui office must be received by 5.00pm on Tuesday 24 January 2012, however, to make allowance for Wellington Anniversary public holiday on Monday 23 January, submissions will be accepted until closing time on Wednesday 25 January 2012 at Council’s southern offices (Ohakune – 5:00pm, Raetihi – 3:00pm).”

DAVID HAMMOND  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

CJH : PRW