

# Southlink



News from the South Taranaki District Council

## Proposal to set up combined Taranaki Rural Fire District

Just over a week remains for public input on proposed changes to the way Taranaki's rural fire services are governed, managed and administered.

The three District Councils within Taranaki and the Department of Conservation (DoC) have agreed to merge their existing rural fire districts to form a single Taranaki Rural Fire District, effective from 1 July 2013. South Taranaki District Council (STDC) chief executive, Craig Stevenson, says the aim of the proposal is to create a more focussed and co-ordinated service for the Taranaki region. "The proposed new entity, governed by a Board of seven directors and managed by a full time Principal Rural Fire Officer, will undertake all rural fire functions previously carried out by

the Councils and DoC. At an operational level there will be little change except that training and support for rural fire volunteers will be enhanced," says Mr Stevenson. Details of the "Proposal to Establish an Enlarged Rural Fire District in Taranaki" are available from any of the Council Service Centres, the STDC LibraryPlus facilities and the DoC office in New Plymouth. Alternatively it can be found on the STDC website [www.southtaranaki.com](http://www.southtaranaki.com). Submissions should be sent to the National Rural Fire Authority, PO Box 2133, Wellington before 4pm on Thursday 31st January 2013. Anyone requiring further information should contact the Transition Project Manager, Des Beaven (06) 278 3262.

### Upcoming Meetings

~~CANCELLED~~  
Environment Hearings Committee  
Monday 28 January, 4pm

Iwi Liaison Committee  
Wednesday 30 January, 10am

~~CANCELLED~~  
Policy Development Committee  
Monday 29 February, 1pm

Special Council meeting  
Liquor Control Bylaw Hearing  
Monday 25 February, 3pm

Ordinary Council  
Monday 25 February, 7.30pm

*Unless specified, meetings are held at Council Chambers, Administration Building, Albion St, Hawera*

## Tell us what you think

Council is seeking public input on **proposed changes to speed limits** across the district.

STDC Roading Manager, Vincent Lim, says the Council is proposing to reduce the speed limit on four roads (Fairfield Road, Larlin Drive, Mid-Parihaka Road and Ohangai Road) and in six designated areas: (Wai-inu Beach, Opunake Beach, Middleton Bay, Mana Bay, Waihi Beach and TSB Hub carpark).

"We recently reviewed these areas and found that due to changes in the conditions of these sites, for example – more housing, increased traffic use and in the interest of public safety, we needed to reduce the speed limits."

Mr Lim says consultation on the proposed speed limit changes closes on Friday 8 February 2013. Copies of the proposed speed limit changes are available at the Hawera Administration Building, all LibraryPlus centres and [www.southtaranaki.com](http://www.southtaranaki.com). A copy of the proposal can also be obtained by ringing the council toll free on 0800 111 323.



### Fire Season Status

Apart from the Eltham Drainage Committee area - which has a year round restricted fire season, the remainder of the District currently has an Open Fire Season. However, dry weather and lack of rainfall continues, it is likely that a Total Fire Ban will be introduced for the rural areas in the Eltham, Egmont Plains, Tangahoe and Hawera Wards. Keep an eye out in upcoming Southlink editions for more information.

**Just a reminder – burning household rubbish or greenwaste is already banned on sections less than 5000 square metres in urban areas of Taranaki.**

### Take Care with Fires this Summer

STDC principal rural fire officer, John Gunn, reminds residents to be particularly careful with lighting open air fires over the Summer period. Council's rural fire officers attended a sizeable fire on Katotauru Road, Okaiawa on 9 January. This fire was the result of a controlled burn of tree material which then spread into three gullies and an adjoining property. More recently on Tuesday rural fire officers had to attend a forestry slash fire that got out of control on Otauto Road near Patea.



### Building Consents on rise

We have made a good start to the New Year with a total of 21 accepted building consent applications, an increase of 7 consents based on this time last year.

### Patea temporary liquor ban

The South Taranaki District Council would like to inform you that under the Council's Liquor Control Bylaw a temporary Liquor Ban will be enforced in Patea for the specified public areas of:



- Chester Street; between Egmont Street and Derby Street.
- The grounds of the Hunter Shaw Building.
- The entire area of Memorial Park.

The temporary ban will start at 6am **Wednesday 6 February 2013** and end at 6pm **Wednesday 6 February 2013**.

This ban makes it illegal to drink, possess or transport opened liquor in the areas and during the times specified above. The Police have powers of search, seizure and arrest if you are found to be committing an offence under this bylaw; refuse to leave the area or refuse to surrender the liquor when requested. A person convicted of an offence against this bylaw could be fined up to \$20,000. For more information please refer to the South Taranaki District Council Liquor Control Bylaw available on our website [www.southtaranaki.com](http://www.southtaranaki.com), any of our LibraryPlus Centres or by phoning 0800 111 323.

### Adopt-a-dog

If you are interested in adopting a dog from the pound - be sure to join the South Taranaki District Council's Facebook page! Each Thursday we'll be posting a photo and description of a dog who's ready to be adopted onto our Facebook page. You can also look out for the new 'Dog of the Week' feature in your South Taranaki Star or check out our website [www.southtaranaki.com](http://www.southtaranaki.com) and simply ring our Animal Control team on 0800 111 323 if you are interested in adopting a pet.

