

SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL

22 APRIL 2015

AGENDA ITEM D1

REPORT ON COASTAL RANGING ACTIVITIES - 2014/15 SEASON

Purpose of Report

To update councillors on coastal ranging activities for the 2014/15 season and planning for the 15/16 season.

Recommendations

Officers recommend that the Council:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Consider undertaking community engagement processes with Ngawi Community leaders to enable discussion about coastal ranging for next season.*

1. Executive Summary

A new staff member was appointed to the role of Bylaws Officer (part time) this last summer (Brodie-Anne Simmons). As part of this role she was charged with undertaking Council's coastal ranging activities throughout the 2014-15 summer season.

Generally the season progressed with few significant issues, although there was some angst in the Ngawi community about the enforcement of the Dog Control Act and Council's dog related bylaws and policies.

In addition it was reported by locals at Te Awaiti that some campers were concealing dogs on free camping areas when the Bylaws Officer checked the area and so avoiding detection by the Bylaws Officer.

2. Background

Council has resolved to provide a "coastal ranging" service to monitor and control the use of Council's "free camping sites" along the south and eastern coasts of the district.

This service operates between 1 December and the end of Waitangi weekend, and over Easter and Labour weekends each year.

The free camping sites covered by the Bylaws Officer this year included a number of inland locations (near or on Lake Wairarapa) and two DoC sites by agreement with DoC (on a trial basis).

Attendance at the sites was scheduled on a two/three day roster basis, with the southern coast being treated as one zone and the east coast as the second. Attendance at the lake sites was alternated with the southern and east runs. This schedule was used to ensure regular checks were made.

In addition to the ranging activity, Council's property management team provide for waste collection services and cleaning of toilets.

3. Discussion

The season (from December 1, 2014 to February 8, 2015) was relatively unaffected by weather, unlike the previous season.

The Xmas New Year period had the heaviest number of campers at all sites, with Ngawi (total campers present for season on inspection days 112) and Te Awaiti (71) followed by Ngawi Surf Break (24) having the most campers of the coastal sites. The Lake Wairarapa site also had large numbers (65). Other sites had lesser numbers as follows; The Diversion (9), Lake Ferry (1), Cape Palliser (2), Sandy Bay (0) South Tora (12) and North Tora (6).

Campers were generally well behaved; with numbers about what could have been expected at Ngawi and the Diversion (both full at key times). Ngawi was also the busiest site for Wellington Anniversary Weekend.

Overall, the sites were maintained in a tidy state with the only difficulties occurring at the peak time with waste. This arose at Te Awaiti, North and South Tora and as might be expected at Ngawi. Likewise the odd difficulties with toilets (cleanliness/breakage) also occurred at Ngawi.

At Ngawi, roaming dogs (two) caused some issues early in season (not campers dogs but locals) and late in the season Council received a report from a resident at Te Awaiti of other dog owners breaching the "no dogs" rule of Council and concealing their animals from detection when the Bylaws Officer was present.

As part of preparation for the season staff produced a new information brochure on the free camping sites and these were widely distributed to enquirers to Council and campers on site.

4. Conclusion

In conclusion SWDC's Coastal free camping sites were greatly appreciated. The vast majority of campers were considerate and took pride in this resource. They were generally respectful and appreciative of the council's service, and took great pains to keep things tidy and pleasant.

5. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Coastal Ranging Report Graphs

Contact Officer: Murray Buchanan, Group Manager Planning and Environment.

Appendix 1 – Coastal Ranging Report Graphs





