

Voluntary water scheme offered

DETAILS on the Manawatu District Council's offer of a voluntary town water supply for Rongotea are outlined in an information sheet and survey form to be distributed throughout the area this week.

The offer follows a rejection by ratepayers in April of a proposed \$2.9 million

whether or not to connect their household to the new town water supply.

"We are leaving it up to them to decide whether the supply is something they are keen on and able to do," he said. "And if they decide not to join, then they will not have to pay any costs towards the scheme."

ment in Rongotea. And by connecting to the supply, ratepayers can expect to add thousands to the capital value of their property."

Ratepayers who decide to join the scheme early and commit before the construction stage would get a connection to their boundary as part of their \$1950 capital contribution.

"Once the works are complete though, they will be able to join the town supply whenever they are ready, but will have to pay both a capital contribution and a connection fee."

Mr Spencer said because of the way the project was funded, the contribution cost would increase by about \$300 every year, to a projected \$4700 after 10 years.

"It's important to consider that the scheme is worth about \$9500 per property, and even after 10 years, owners get a connection for less than half price."

An information session for ratepayers wanting more detail about the offer is to be held from 3pm to 7pm on Thursday, August 5, in the Rongotea Library.



compulsory water scheme for the town, with 62.5 percent of the 235 eligible voters (out of 297) who responded to the community poll against the proposal and 37.5 percent in favour.

Water Manager, Wayne Spencer, said council's decision to make the scheme voluntary enabled the ratepayer to have a choice on

Mr Spencer said the Ministry of Health's decision to subsidise the voluntary scheme by 80 percent amounted to about \$2.3 million worth of investment in the community.

"The construction of a reliable, safe and accessible town water supply marks a real turning point for future development and invest-

District Plan consultation begins

CONSULTATION on a new Manawatu District Plan, which sets out rules and policies for how people can develop and use land, began this week when the District Plan review's first public Discussion Document was released.

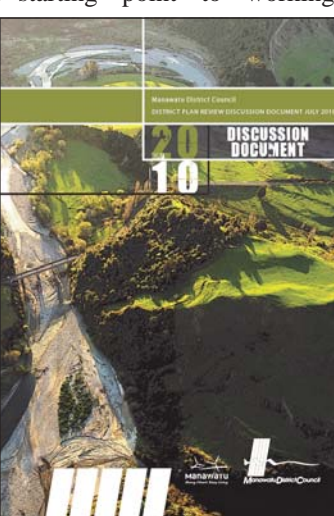
The 54-page document aims to identify what the district's most significant resource management issues might be.

Principal Planner, Wendy Thompson, said the District Plan was a significant legal document that was essentially the day-to-day rule book and game plan for the Manawatu.

"There have been some big changes in the past 10 years since the last District Plan was developed," she said, "and the way we view what is significant has also changed a lot in that time. It is important that we now

work with the community to develop a plan to prepare ourselves for the future."

Ms Thompson said the Discussion Document was a starting point to working



with the community and identifying what they felt required attention as part of the review.

A series of questions designed to encourage com-

ment was included and people could fill in a feedback form in the document. The deadline for comments is Friday, September 17.

Council officers are also taking the Discussion Document to the public by providing information opportunities at the Feilding Farmers' Market Days on August 6 and 20 and September 10.

People interested in the District Plan review can visit the Feilding and District Information Centre from 10am-2pm on those days to discuss the document with council staff.

Copies of the Discussion Document are available from www.mdc.govt.nz/districtplanreview, the council's office on Manchester Street, Feilding Public Library and Makino Aquatic Centre or by phoning (06) 323-0000.

- GST rise on rates outlined -

EFFECTS of the planned GST rise in October - from 12.5 percent to 15 percent - are contained in the Manawatu District Council's 2010/11 Annual Rates Assessment form to be sent to ratepayers next week.

Revenue Team Leader, Vicki Wills, said two annual rates totals appeared on the assessment, outlining the differing amounts required if

a full payment of rates was made either before or after October 1.

She said the 12.5 percent GST rate would apply to rates payable on invoices issued before October 1 and 15 percent for any issued on or after that date.

Ms Wills said ratepayers should note that: * For the first rate instalment in August, the GST rate

would be 12.5 percent. * For the second instalment in December and the third instalment in May 2011, the rate would be 15 percent.

Ratepayers with a direct debit payment plan in place with council need not change any arrangements, but those with an automatic payment need to change the amount they pay.

Briefing session for candidates

PROSPECTIVE candidates for the Manawatu District Council's 2010 elections have a chance to learn about the nomination and election processes involved at a special briefing tonight.

The session begins in the council's administration building, 135 Manchester Street, Feilding, at 7pm, and will also look at the roles of local authorities and elected members.

Nominations for this year's

local body elections opened last Friday, with the nomination period running until noon on August 20.

Deputy Electoral Officer, Janine Hawthorn, said candidates could be nominated for the position of District Mayor or as one of 10 councillors representing the Feilding, Kairanga and Kiwitea-Pohangina wards.

Electors will receive their voting documents from Fri-

Local Elections 2010
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day, September 17, with completed forms to be returned by noon on Election Day, Saturday, October 9.

Nomination forms are available from the Manawatu District Council office, 135 Manchester Street, Feilding, or from the council website, www.mdc.govt.nz.

District briefs

Waste Management Plan consultation

MDC has released its Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan for public consultation. The plan outlines how council want to manage waste in the district for the next six years and into the future. The public have until August 30 to provide feedback. A questionnaire will also be circulated throughout the district requesting people to complete and return. Copies of the plan are available on request from the MDC office in Manchester Street, Feilding.

Roadshow sessions beneficial

MANAWATU District Mayor, Ian McKelvie, was pleased at the response to the council's information-sharing roadshow presentations at Bunnythorpe, Kairanga and Longburn last week. About 200 people attended the meetings to discuss proposals on boundary adjustments with Palmerston North, amalgamation of district and city and future regional roading plans. "There was certainly an acceptance of what the meetings were about and we seemed to get good communication out into the communities." He said the issues were quite complex and the more that people understood them the better off everyone would be. "It was a very good exercise."



Dog fees due tomorrow

SIXTY percent of the 7000-plus dogs in the Manawatu District Council area have been registered for the 2010/11 financial year. Owners have until 5pm tomorrow to pay their annual registration fees. The cost for neutered, spayed and working dogs over three months of age, and preferred owners, is \$40 and for all other dogs \$90. Penalties for late payment are \$20 and \$45.



Artistically Creative Need Financial Help?

Creative Communities Scheme

Applications for the above are now being called for.

Applications for arts and culture purposes only can be made by groups or individuals within the MDC area.

Application forms and further information are available from:

Manawatu District Council
Private Bag 10-001
Feilding 4743
Telephone: (06) 323-0000



**Applications close 4pm,
Friday, August 27, 2010**

