

# Future of caravan park in jeopardy

■ by Amy Patterson

West Auckland's only blue-collar motor camp that provides accommodation for homeless and hard-up people has seven months left on its lease.

Tui Glen Motorcamp's lease to its operators will expire by February, and councillors will discuss options for the eight hectares over the next few months.

The operators, David and Joyce Gauntlett-Gilbert, have managed Tui Glen for 17 years.

During this time they have spent around \$1 million improving and repairing the site. There are 77 permanent caravans, eight tourist flats, and 13 cabins.

West Auckland residents have had their chance to say whether they want the country's first registered motor camp to stay, go, be downsized or upgraded. The consultation was part of the Annual Budget proceedings.

The first eyebrow to be raised at Tui Glen Motor Camp was that of Henderson Community Board.

The members agreed "there is no place in the Henderson ward for caravan and cabin accommodation in public parks, and that they be removed from Tui Glen at the earliest opportunity".

Because the motor camp is located on a reserve, it is thought to come under the draft Henderson Creek Reserves Management Plan.

Among those who use Tui Glen for accommodation are: swim clubs visiting the Henderson Aquatic Centre, youth groups, schools, and caravan clubs.

The Salvation Army visits the motor camp twice a week to refer people on to suitable accommodation and services.

The Social Welfare Department calls each month to check that residents are receiving their proper benefits.

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