

RULE 3

EARTHWORKS

- any earthworks for Parks Maintenance in the Open Space Environment, where the enhancement/improvement to a foot bridge, boardwalk or culvert exceeds 40%.
- any earthworks for Parks Infrastructure where a foot bridge or boardwalk is greater than 15m in length, or for culverts over 10m in length, or for car parks with more than 8 car parking spaces or for parks access roads in the Open Space Environment.

Discretionary Activity applications will be assessed having regard to Assessment Criteria 3(a)-3(s) and other matters which are relevant under section 104 of the Act.

3.4 Non-Complying Activities

Any Activity and any Temporary Activity to which these rules apply which is not a Permitted Activity or a Limited Discretionary Activity or a Discretionary Activity under the above rules shall be deemed to contravene a rule in this Plan and shall be a Non-Complying Activity.

See also Rules 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 1.9, 1.14, 1.20, 2.4, 2.6, 2.10, 3.2, 3.4, 3.5, 5.1, 5.2, 7.2, 7.3, 8.4, 8.5, 8.7, 8.8, 9.7, 9.10, 9.11, 9.12, 9.14, 10.22, 10.28, 11.7, 11.32, 12.23

(Public Section of the Whangarei District Plan)

RESOURCE CONSENT CONDITIONS

In granting a resource consent Council may impose conditions. Conditions may include any one or more of the following matters:

- limiting the scale of earthworks;
- specifying the methods by which work on the site is carried out;
- limiting any vegetation alteration;
- the imposition of a bond to ensure satisfaction of conditions of consent;
- requiring a landscape treatment plan and implementation of that plan within a given time;
- imposition of a charge to cover the costs of monitoring;
- financial contributions in accordance with the Plan;
- requiring on-site or off-site works and services to avoid, remedy, mitigate or offset adverse effects;
- such matters provided for in section 103 of the Act.

Provided that, in the case of Limited Discretionary Activities, conditions may only be imposed in respect of the matters specified above to which the Council has restricted the exercise of its discretion.

coastal natural area

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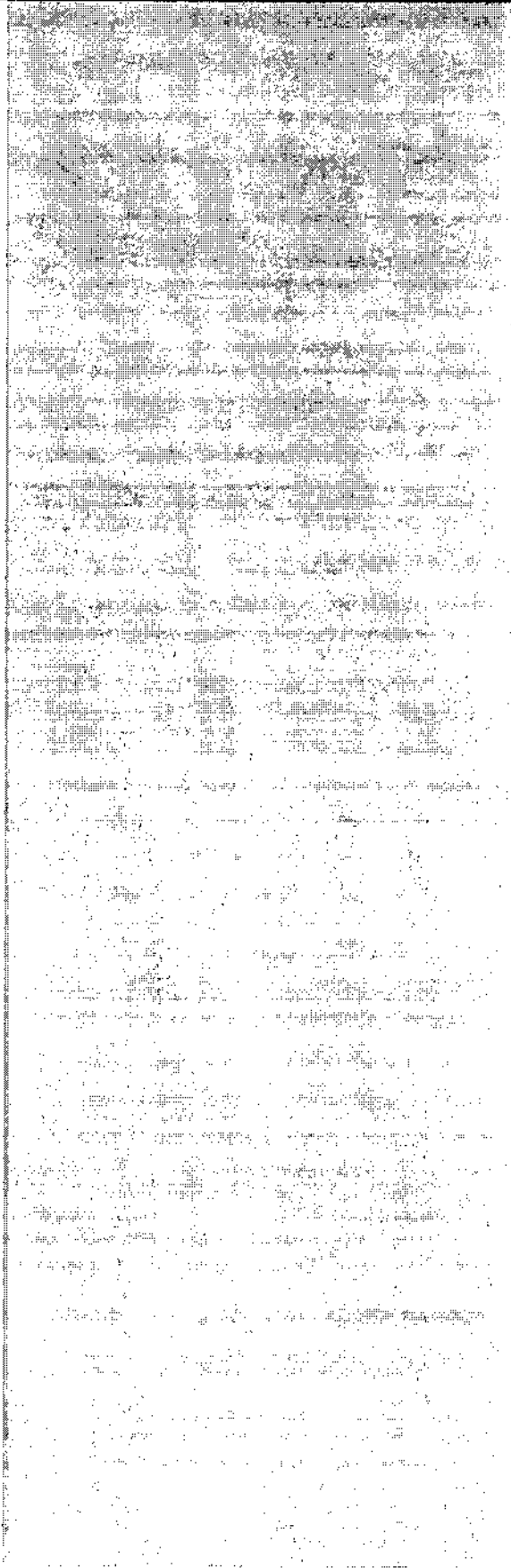
**RULE 2**

**VEGETATION ALTERATION**

*Discretionary Activity* applications will be assessed having regard to Assessment Criteria 2(a)-2(q) and any other matters which are relevant under section 104 of the *Act*.

**2.5 Non-Complying Activities**

*Any Activity* and any *Temporary Activity* to which these rules apply which is not a *Permitted Activity* or a *Discretionary Activity* under the above rules shall be deemed to contravene a rule in this *Plan* and shall be a *Non-Complying Activity*.



*protected natural area*

## RULE 3

## EARTHWORKS

### RULES

#### 3.0 General

The following rules shall apply only to those activities involving *earthworks*.

#### 3.1 Permitted Activities

Activities meeting the following Performance Standard are *Permitted Activities*:

- *earthworks* confined to an *approved building platform* provided that:
  - there are no *earthworks* on a *sensitive ridge* or headland/cliff/scarp as shown on the *Natural Areas* Maps;
  - the *earthworks* activities are in accordance with the sediment control measures outlined in the Erosion/Sediment Control Measures Appendix;
  - the *earthworks* are not for the purpose of a *Solid Waste Landfill*.
- *earthworks* for *Parks Furniture*, *Parks Signs* and *Parks Maintenance* in the *Open Space Environment* provided that there are no *earthworks* on a *sensitive ridge* or headland/cliff/scarp as shown on the *Natural Areas* Maps; and

#### NOTES

1. If an activity is not controlled or restricted in any way by any part of the *Plan* it is permitted, but may require consents under other legislation/ plans.
2. Where *sites* are situated in more than one *Natural Area* the most restrictive *Natural Area* Rules relating to *land* affected by an activity will apply.
3. *Building platforms* are shown as part of an application for *building consent*.
4. Activities must comply with all other relevant rules of the *Plan* or be the subject of a *resource consent*. Check all other rules in this *Natural Area* also the *Human Environment* Rules and the *City-Wide Rules* and the *Subdivision Rules*.
5. Words in *italics* are defined - see the Definitions part of the *City-Wide Rules*.
6. Words in **bold** are explained - see the Explanations part of the Introduction to the Rules.
7. The Council may have a guideline to interpret this rule - check at the Council Offices.
8. For *resource consents* see the Information Requirements in the *City-Wide Rules*.
9. Activities will also need to comply with the relevant provisions of the Auckland Regional Council's Auckland Regional Plan: Sediment Control.

### ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

#### 3(a)

The extent to which *earthworks* adversely affect the overall resilience, biodiversity and integrity of the Green Network and utilise, where possible, areas of the *site* not within the *Protected Natural Area*.

#### 3(b)

The extent to which *earthworks* adversely affect the potential for restoration or enhancement around the area of *earthworks*.

#### 3(c)

The extent to which *earthworks* adversely affect the mauri (life-force) of the *land* and water.

#### 3(d)

The extent to which *earthworks* adversely affect the water quality of *tatapu* or *maunga matawai*.

#### 3(e)

The extent to which *earthworks* adversely affect the historical, cultural or spiritual significance of any *site* or *wahi tapu* of significance to *iwi*.

#### 3(f)

The extent to which *earthworks* reduce the extent, range and linkages between *vegetation*, fauna habitat and *natural features*.

#### 3(g)

The extent to which *earthworks* adversely affect the significance or landscape value or natural character of *natural landscape elements* and other *natural features*.

#### 3(h)

The extent to which *earthworks* exacerbate or contribute to flooding, erosion or instability of *land* or the potential for flooding, erosion or instability of *land*.

#### 3(i)

The extent to which *earthworks* exacerbate or contribute to degradation of natural watercourses in a way that destroys or reduces their ability to support in-stream *vegetation* and fauna, or ability to be used as a healthy food source, their clarity, quality or flow or their suitability for swimming.

protected natural area

## RULE 3

## EARTHWORKS

- the *earthworks* activities are in accordance with the sediment control measures outlined in the Erosion/Sediment Control Measures Appendix, and
- are undertaken using environmental best practice methods.

### 3.2 Limited Discretionary Activities

Activities meeting the following Performance Standard are *Limited Discretionary Activities*:

- *earthworks* not meeting the standards in Rule 3.1 (that are not on a *sensitive ridge* or headland/cliff/scarp as shown on the *Natural Areas Maps*) provided that *earthworks* are for the purposes of a *driveway* or *infrastructure construction* and do not exceed 30m<sup>3</sup>.
- *earthworks* on a *sensitive ridge* or headland/cliff/scarp as shown on the *Natural Areas Maps* confined to an *approved building platform* or for the purposes of *driveway* or *infrastructure construction* and do not exceed 30m<sup>3</sup>.
- the *earthworks* are not for the purpose of a *Solid Waste landfill*.
- *earthworks* for *Parks Infrastructure* in the *Open Space Environment* provided that there are no *earthworks* on a *sensitive ridge* or headland/cliff/scarp as shown on the *Natural Areas Maps*;
- *earthworks* outside a *building platform* for *park facilities* provided that they do not exceed 30m<sup>3</sup>.

Assessment of *Limited Discretionary Activity* applications will be limited to the matters of scale, location, method, *design* and *landscape treatment* and will be considered in accordance with Assessment Criteria 3(a)- 3(s).

### 3.3 Discretionary Activities

- *earthworks* for *Parks Maintenance* where the enhancement/improvement to a foot *bridge*, *boardwalk* or *culvert* exceeds 40%, in the *Open Space Environment*.
- *earthworks* for *Parks Infrastructure* where a foot *bridge* or *boardwalk* is greater than 15m in length, or for *culverts* over 10m in length, or for *car parks* with more than 8 *car parking* spaces, or for *park access roads* in the *Open Space Environment*.

#### 3(j)

The extent to which *earthworks* adversely affect the visual amenity of the *site* or *adjoining sites*.

#### 3(k)

The extent to which *earthworks* may harm the health and safety of residents.

#### 3(l)

The extent to which more than minor adverse effects can be adequately avoided, remedied, mitigated or offset through provision of works and services on or off the *site* and/or through payment or provision of a *financial contribution*.

#### 3(m)

The extent to which proposed *earthworks* are necessary to accommodate *development* otherwise permitted by the *Plan*, or to facilitate the appropriate use of land in the *Open Space Environment*.

#### 3(n)

The extent to which *earthworks* are avoided.

#### 3(o)

The extent to which unavoidable *earthworks* are minimised.

#### 3(p)

The extent to which the duration of *earthworks* is minimised.

#### 3(q)

The extent to which the proposed *earthworks* are for development proposed in a relevant *Operative Reserve Management Plan*, *Parks Concept Plan*, current *Waitakere City Parks Strategy* and avoids any species known to be threatened or endangered.

#### 3(r)

The extent to which the proposed *earthworks* in an *Open Space Environment* avoids significant *vegetation* and any species known to be threatened, endangered or uncommon.

Note: See also Policies 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 1.9, 1.14, 2.4, 2.8, 2.10, 3.2, 3.4, 3.5, 5.1, 6.2, 7.2, 7.3, 7.5, 8.4, 8.5, 8.7, 9.6, 9.7, 9.12, 9.14, 10.13, 10.27, 10.28, 11.7, 11.32, 12.9 A3

(Policy Section of the Waitakere District Plan)

protected natural area

RULE 3

EARTHWORKS

*Discretionary Activities* applications will be assessed having regard to Assessment Criteria 3(a) - 3(s) and any other matters which are relevant under section 104 of the Act.

3.4 Non-Complying Activities

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RESOURCE CONSENT CONDITIONS

In granting a *resource consent* Council may impose conditions. Conditions may include any one or more of the following matters:

- limiting the extent of earthworks
- specifying the methods by which work on the site is carried out
- limiting any vegetation alteration
- requiring that a bond be entered into to ensure compliance with conditions of consent
- requiring provision of a landscape treatment plan and implementation of that plan within a given time
- the imposition of a charge to cover the costs of monitoring
- requiring financial contributions in accordance with the Plan
- requiring on-site or off-site works and services to avoid, remedy, mitigate or offset adverse effects
- such other matters provided for in section 108 of the Act

Provided that, in the case of *Limited Discretionary Activities*, conditions may only be imposed in respect of the matters specified above to which the Council has restricted the exercise of its discretion.

protected natural area

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## Public Notices



*Waitakere City Council*

*Te Tutao o Waitakere*

**THE LITTER ACT 1979  
INTENTION TO INCREASE THE LITTER  
INFRINGEMENT FEE**

In 1995 Waitakere City Council adopted by way of Special Order the litter infringement notice provisions contained in the Litter Act 1979. The infringement fees were set at \$50 for depositing garden waste and allowing litter to escape from a motor vehicle and \$100 for all other offences of depositing litter.

In accordance with section 13 of the Litter Act 1979 as amended by the Litter Amendment Act 2006, Waitakere City Council now gives 14 days notice of its intention to increase litter infringement fees for all offences to \$400.00, the maximum permitted by the Act.

**H V O'Rourke**  
*Chief Executive Officer*

**"SUSTAINABLE, DYNAMIC, JUST"**

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**Litter Amendment Act 2006 024**  
Commenced: 28 June 2006

**ANALYSIS**

Analysis

Title

- 1 Title
- 2 Commencement
- 3 Principal Act amended
- 4 Interpretation
- 5 Territorial authority may require occupier of private land to clear litter
- 6 Territorial authorities may adopt infringement notice provisions
- 7 New section 14A inserted
- 8 Deposit of litter in public place or on private land
- 9 Wilful breaking of bottles or glass
- 10 Offences in respect of Officers
- 11 New sections 19A and 19B inserted

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**Litter Amendment Act 2006 024**  
**Commenced: 28 June 2006**

The Parliament of New Zealand enacts as follows:

**1 Title**

This Act is the Litter Amendment Act 2006.

**2 Commencement**

This Act comes into force on the day after the date on which it receives the Royal assent.

**3 Principal Act amended**

This Act amends the Litter Act 1979.

**4 Interpretation**

Paragraph (b) of the definition of depositing in section 2(1) is amended by omitting "dropped or, without reasonable excuse," and substituting "dropped, or".

**5 Territorial authority may require occupier of private land to clear litter**

(1) Section 10(10)(a) and (b) are amended by omitting "or neglects".

(2) Section 10(11) is amended by---

(a) omitting from paragraph (a) "\$50" and substituting "\$500"; and

(b) omitting from paragraph (a) "or neglect"; and

(c) omitting from paragraph (b) "\$200" and substituting "\$2,000"; and

(d) omitting from paragraph (b) "or neglect".

**6 Territorial authorities may adopt infringement notice provisions**

Section 13(4) is amended by omitting "\$100" and substituting "\$400".

**7 New section 14A inserted**

The following section is inserted after section 14:

"14. A Entitlement to infringement fees

A territorial authority may retain the infringement fee received by it for an infringement offence if the infringement notice was issued by a Litter Control Officer appointed by the territorial authority."

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**8. Deposit of litter in public place or on private land**

- (1) Section 15 is amended by repealing subsection (1) and substituting the following subsections:

"(1) Every person commits an offence and is liable, in the case of an individual, to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or, in the case of a body corporate, to a fine not exceeding \$20,000, who deposits any litter or, having deposited any litter, leaves it---

"(a) in or on a public place; or

"(b) in or on private land without the consent of its occupier.

"(1A) Subsection (1) is subject to subsection (2)."

- (2) Section 15(2) is amended by---

(a) omitting from paragraph (a) "\$750" and substituting "\$7,500"; and

(b) omitting from paragraph (b) "\$5,000" and substituting "\$30,000".

**9. Wilful breaking of bottles or glass**

Section 16 is amended by omitting "\$750" and substituting "\$7,500".

**10. Offences in respect of Officers**

(1) Section 17(1) is amended by omitting "\$500" and substituting "\$1,500".

(2) Section 17(1)(b) is amended by omitting "Without lawful excuse,".

**11. New sections 19A and 19B inserted**

The following sections are inserted after section 19:

"19A Strict liability for certain offences

"(1) In prosecuting an offence against a provision of this Act (other than an offence against section 16 or 17(1)(a)), the prosecution does not need to prove that the defendant intentionally committed the offence.

"(2) This section is for the avoidance of doubt.

"19B Defences to strict liability offences

"(1) It is a defence in any prosecution referred to in section 19A if the defendant proves---

"(a) that the act or omission of the defendant was due to an event---

"(i) beyond the defendant's control (including natural disaster, mechanical failure, and sabotage); and

"(ii) that could not reasonably have been foreseen or provided against by the defendant; or

"(b) that---

"(i) the act or omission of the defendant was taken or occurred in an emergency and was reasonably necessary for---

"(A) protecting the safety and welfare of a person; or

"(B) preventing serious damage to property; and

"(ii) after the emergency, the defendant took all reasonable steps to remove the litter or, as the case may be, comply with any notice or requirement in relation to the litter.

"(2) The defences set out in this section are the only defences available to a defendant."

### Legislative history

21 June 2006	Divided from Local Government Law Reform Bill (Bill 32-3) as Bill 32-4B
22 June 2006	Third reading

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## LITTER AMENDMENT ACT 2006 - SUMMARY OF INFORMAL SUBMISSIONS

Informal Submissions from all sources (Western Leader, Herald on Sunday, Phone calls and emails):

**POSITIVE = 26**

**NEGATIVE = 5** (includes two Letters to the Editor)

Whilst the positive feedback submissions are generally consistent with officer's recommendations to council for increasing the level of the fine, the negative feedback, where it was able to be recorded, is outlined below. This will give the committee an insight into the nature of the submitter's objections.

June 15 2007; Mr Griffin says...

"It's stupid that smokers are being targeted, and that it's ridiculous a lady was fined \$400 for throwing a cigarette butt out, when cigarette's are made of natural fibres and disintegrate. He said council should be targeting the school kids as they walk home from school, throwing their litter on the roads and into people's property, and that more litter bins should be put up around Waitakere where people walk?"

June 15 2007; "Zena" says...

I would like to question the wisdom of trying to introduce a litter law with a \$400.00 fine. How are you planning to police this if the offender refuses to give their name? Will there be one law for those who comply and one for those who refuse to? When are council employees going to be given black uniforms and swastikas? I suggest you have a think about it before passing a law you can't police.

June 19 2007; Nicola Mason says...

"My concerns are as follows:- I think this law is absolutely ridiculous. If council don't want smokers to put their cigarette butts out on footpaths or streets then where would they like us to put them? I know in Henderson there are a couple of ash tray bins in the square outside Westfield but other than there I haven't seen any anywhere!!! Council may respond by saying that people can put the cigarettes out and then place the butts into the rubbish bins that are around the township - however if someone doesn't put a cigarette out properly then the rubbish bin will end up in flames causing a heck of a lot of damage! And then causing the fire brigade to come out to put the fire out - what a waste of resources and taxpayers money!

And how about drivers? If they chuck a cigarette butt out the window surely this is safer than trying to put it out in the car ashtray - where by they would have to reach over to the centre of the car, stub it out and this will cause drivers to take their eyes off the road so that they can ensure that the cigarette is out properly - sounds dangerous to me!!!

As for the fine being \$400 I feel that this is totally over the top - how do they justify that sort of fine?

Also - how are the council going to go about fining people? Will they have police patrolling the streets catching people? If so then this is a total waste of police time and as a tax payer I would much rather see my tax dollars being spent on catching criminals rather than trying to catch smokers!!"

# Litter and the law

## Follow Singapore

Re: No butts, you're nicked.  
This is the best thing after sliced bread.  
Good on you.  
Follow Singapore.  
Be firm.  
No excuses.

**FRED HARMSEN**  
Waitakere city

## Firm move excellent

Re: No butts, you're nicked.  
Excellent!  
Great to see some firm consequences put in place.  
It's the attitude of those who think they live on this planet alone and can throw what they like out on to the streets - whether wilful or just thoughtless.  
It starts with the small things doesn't it?

Some might feel \$400 is a bit steep for littering, but it seems the current \$100 fine is not enough to deter bottles, cigarettes or packets being thrown out of car windows or on to the sidewalk.  
And there doesn't seem to be any shame either.  
Good move, I say.

**MIRIAM HALLIE**  
Henderson

## Long overdue

Re: No butts, you're nicked.  
Long overdue I say.  
Come on west Auckland, shouldn't we be portraying the best image of a clean and green country?  
Do something about it and use rubbish bins provided, not the streets.  
Everyone should be doing their bit.  
If you're not doing your bit then you should get nicked.

**EUGENIE DERVIN**  
Waitakere city

## A fair fine

I am thrilled to hear that the Waitakere City Council is finally taking notice of the cigarette butts that line the streets of Henderson.

It's disgusting and the rule should have been enforced ages ago.

Not only do they fill our gutters, pavements and streets, but I have also seen drivers throw their butts out the window instead of their ashtrays.

It sickens me.  
\$400 is a fair fine and could wake up people who are inconsiderate, lazy and don't care about our Earth.

If the fine was lower, people's attitude would be "who cares".  
Hopefully now they will think before they 'drop'.

Singapore has had a litter law for years and their streets are shiny clean.

New Zealand is supposed to have the reputation of being clean, so let's try and keep it that way together.

**TRACY SWANEPOEL**  
Waitakere city

## Driven mad

Re: No butts, you're nicked.

This is well overdue.

I am a motorcyclist and commute to work each day through Auckland traffic.

I have very strong feelings about people who smoke while driving and disposing of their cigarette butts out the window while driving right into the path of vehicles and motorcycles following them.

On a number of occasions I have collected unextinguished cigarette butts after drivers had disposed of them.

It's dangerous and damn right inconsiderate.

These drivers obviously don't use their rear-view mirrors.

**ANDREW TOLMAN**  
Waitakere city

## Now for the taggers

Re: No butts, you're nicked.

Congratulations Waitakere council.  
Do people realise that if everybody threw just "a small item out of a car window" we would be walking around in a rubbish dump on the streets?

I hope that the fines are handed out then maybe people like Ms Brabet and her mother might start to get the message that every little bit makes a difference.

I am sick of seeing people throw take-away leftovers and cigarette butts out of their car windows when driving.  
That's what rubbish bins are for.

Now let's get tougher on the taggers and make Waitakere the clean green city it's meant to be.

**CHRIS CLARKE**  
Glen Eden

## YOUR OPINION

Letters must have full name, residential address and phone number. Hard copy letters must have a legible signature. Only your name and suburb are published. Initials, pen names or e-mail addresses are not accepted. We prefer letters about local issues. Open letters and poetry are seldom used. We discourage personal attacks - try to advance the debate. All correspondence to the editor is assumed to be for publication unless marked otherwise. The editor reserves the right to abridge or withhold any correspondence without explanation. Letters may be edited for clarity, style, brevity, good taste and to protect the rights and reputations of individuals and groups. Opinions expressed must be genuinely held by the letter writer. Letters may be referred to others for right of reply before publication.

Write to The Editor at:

Mail: Western Leader, PO Box 21-157, Henderson

erson

Fax: 837-1760

Email: wletters@stl.com

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## Thai style

With respect to the draconian and Thai police style approach to the discarded cigarette butts fine I would like to register my displeasure and outrage over the proposed fines being considered by the council.

Anyone unfortunate enough to be caught by the Thai police for such an offence will know such fines are done as a means of revenue gathering and not for overall city cleanliness.

I dispute the rationale the council has used and intend to reciprocate with similar action against them for less than satisfactory behaviour against the very people who provide their income.

I am a fairly environmentally aware smoker and as such I take issue with the council's punishment by tax approach to the problem. I am now aware of the law and will adhere to it so long as I can fine them for infractions I deem important to me.

For instance, ratepayers should now be able to fine the council for every stone chip to vehicle paint caused by lack of cleanup after road resurfacing.

Further, more fines will be issued by ratepayers who have to spend time removing the excess stones from driveways, house entries and home hallways. If the council wishes to become pedantic about the bad behaviour of its constituents it first needs to consider the imposition on them for poor service after completing road resurfacing projects.

Ratepayers should also fine the council for every evening without street lighting. In the last three weeks we have had six nights lit and the rest unlit without explanation.

If the council intends on enforcing this law they must provide a means of disposal or they will have to ban smoking in public altogether. This I'm sure is on the master plan but for now the law and indeed the council do not allow for an alternative means of disposal.

Need I continue? Who do these people think they are?

I say let them try and fine me and find out exactly what it is like to catch a tiger by the tail!

**DOUG STURGIN**  
General manager  
Group3 Technology Ltd

## Good fines

I agree totally with a high fine to those that drop their butts in the streets, and any other rubbish for that matter.

Maybe steps up in fines for re-offenders.

No, the fine doesn't reflect the nature of the offence; it should be much higher in light of the pollution level it creates.

These lazy litterers show a total lack of respect, for their fellow persons, the environment and even to themselves as obviously they have no moral standards to live by.

Very high fines were enforced in Singapore and now, I believe it is a very clean city. We are far too soft on offenders for many things in this country, especially stealing!

If those caught, plead poverty and refuse to pay the fine, maybe five days of cleaning the streets, waterways and parks should be the result.

Yet people who smoke must be able to pay the fine because they can afford cigarettes.

I would like to see this fine extended to those who think spitting in the streets is also acceptable behavior.

No, I am not trying to be highly moralistic but it's so sad to see many of the citizens of this city have no regard for anyone but their own selfish attitudes towards rules and regulations, often imposed because of the negative actions of these very same people towards society.

**DIANA HOLT**  
Massey

# Pick up your mess

**G**OOD ON the Waitakere City Council for upping the ante in the war on litter.

A public notice in the paper this week advised that the council intended to raise the fine for littering from \$100 to \$400, the maximum it can charge by law.

A couple of litterbugs got a nasty fright last week when they were handed \$400 infringement notices for throwing their cigarette butts on to the foopath, but they got a let-off. They won't actually have to pay the fines, as the bylaw doesn't come into effect for a couple of weeks, but it's a sign of things to come.

One of the litterbugs thought the fine was too steep, given that the fine for littering is the same as that for not having a current driver licence or warrant of fitness. And her mother agreed, saying it wasn't fair that the fine was the same whether you threw an entire rubbish bag of litter or one cigarette butt on to the road.

I reckon it's fair enough — after all, it's the same mindset. Don't want this, don't need this, someone else can pick up after me. Would that more councils followed Waitakere City's example.

How many times have you gone for a walk in a park only to see the dress of someone's tawdry night out spoiling the beauty of the landscape? If you want to sit and drink beer and eat your rakesways on a grassy knoll in the centre of the city, go ahead. It's a simple and affordable pleasure. But for heaven's sake, pick up after yourself. The attitude that someone else will take care of your rubbish is so breathtakingly arrogant that a \$400 fine seems somewhat inadequate.

I have no idea where that attitude comes from. It's like some people haven't progressed past the age of 4. If you don't want the



**A FINE MESS:** There's now a hefty price to pay for dropping rubbish in Waitakere City.

march them back to their rubbish and rub their noses in the mess they've made. But that's just a fantasy and, like my other fantasy involving George Clooney, it's unlikely to ever happen.

The next best thing, I guess, is a whopping great fine. But then it has to be enforced, and how many litter officers are going to be roaming the streets of Waitakere City? And I know it's yet another law and yet another fine, but until people understand the concept of collective and community responsibility, these sorts of bylaws need to be enacted and enforced.

Maybe it's just ignorance — when a number of us were having a rant on radio about the arrogance and self-centredness of litterbugs, a couple of them rang in and said it had never occurred

to them that there was a problem or that their cigarette butts or lolly papers were doing any harm until they'd heard the coppers. They promised they'd change their ways, and if they do, well, good on them.

And, of course, there were the requisite plunkers — one said that if there wasn't rubbish to pick up, then some people would be out of a job. And another said cigarette butts were just like autumn leaves, and were we going to start chopping down trees because they littered?

In the face of that unbelievable stupidity, there's not really much to say, other than: "Pick up after yourself!"

We live in a beautiful city and a beautiful country. Let's keep it that way.

# Time off school can be valuable

**THIS IS** a story that pops up a couple of times a year — school principals warning parents not to take their kids out of school for holidays.

This time it's the principal of Cashmere Primary in Christchurch. The equivalent school would probably be Parnell Primary in Auckland. In a newsletter to parents, Jacqui Duncan warned them not to take children out of school for skiing now that the ski fields had opened.

She said it was a gentle reminder to make parents think and suggested that if children learned from their parents that you could take a day off whenever it suited, it would not be a very good lesson for life.

I beg to differ. Sure, if parents are taking kids out of school every Friday to head off to the mountains, perhaps you could hand out detention to both parent and child.

But when my girl was little, every now and then I'd liberate her from her primary school and we'd head off for the day for an adventure.

She'd choose where we went and what we did, and it was a day

devoted entirely to her. We didn't do this more than once or twice a year but we still talk about those stolen days now. When she was 11, she came with me on a month-long business trip to Europe along with my mother who acted as nanny.

It was a magical experience and I'd do it again in a heartbeat. I was grateful to go with her school's blessing, but I'd have gone anyway.

The experiences she had in London have shaped the courses she's taking at university today and it's given the three generations of Woodham women a special bond that will last a lifetime.

Besides, plenty of schools send their kids on sporting or cultural trips overseas and have no qualms in doing so and even teachers will often absent themselves from school to go abroad for professional development.

Truancy, where kids are left to roam the streets, looking for trouble, is quite different to taking time off school to spend magical moments with your family — be it an overseas holiday or just a day out fishing at the beach.

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**PART C - ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

**6 ISSUES SURROUNDING RESIDENTIAL ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE WORKING ENVIRONMENT**

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

This report is prepared as a discussion document and to inform the Environmental Management Committee of the issues relating to the availability of Working Environment land across the City and the ongoing demand for residential activities on this land.

**BACKGROUND**

The Working Environment provides for a broad range of industrial and commercial uses. It also includes some areas of retail activity and has increasingly been used to provide for medium density residential development. Together with the Community Environment, these two Human Environments of the District Plan provide the main employment areas within the City.

There are currently approximately 490 hectares of land identified as Working Environment. This report does not investigate the availability of Community Environment land. The reason for this is that the majority of Community Environment land has already been developed, and there is with very little greenfield Community Environment land remaining in the existing urban area and, as previously reported, investigations on rezoning options for Community Environment land in the City are currently underway as a separate project.

As part of its statutory responsibilities, the Council is required to monitor the effectiveness of its District Plan objectives, policies and rules. Concerns have been raised regarding the shortage of suitable land to provide for employment opportunities. In particular, there are concerns that the increasing demand to establish residential activities on Working Environment land is removing a valuable resource from being utilised for industrial and commercial purposes.

**STRATEGIC CONTEXT**

The Long Term Council Community Plan has nine strategic platforms. The "Strong innovative Economy" Platform seeks to achieve the following:

*"2020 vision: Waitakere is home to lots of innovative activities, providing local, quality work and development options for its people. Environmentally responsible businesses are supported and flourishing."*

Ensuring that the District Plan, as a strategic document, is accurate and reflects the aspirations of the Long Term Council Community Plan is important if Waitakere City seeks to achieve its strategic goals. In order to provide for economic opportunities it is essential that suitably zoned business land is available. While there are opportunities for small scale business activities to operate within residential areas, this is essentially limited to home occupation type activities. There are also issues of loss of amenity in seeking to establish more intensive business activities in residential areas. Therefore, opportunities for increasing employment are generally limited to Community and Working Environment land. In the case of Community Environment land, as noted above, the majority of this land has now been developed, with very little greenfield development opportunities remaining.

It is noted that one of the objectives of the Long Term Council Community Plan includes the intensification of Town Centres to create thriving places to work and play. While intensification is a very important aspect for providing employment opportunities, the provision of greenfield land for business opportunities is also important.

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