

AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME NEWSBRIEF

If you require further elaboration or clarification of items contained herein, or any other matters relating to F&G business, please don't hesitate to contact your local councillor or the office.

Matters arising from the Council Meeting of 16 November 2024

1. Election of Officers

The below roles were appointed:

Chairman – Nigel Juby

Vice Chairman – David Cocks

Vice Chairman – Grant Annan

Representative to NZ F&G Council – Euan Williamson

- 2. Body Cameras:** Dr Daniel updated the councillors with how much a body camera would cost. A suggestion that two should be purchased to trial which was agreed by council.
- 3. Kids fish out days:** Waikato Hunting and Fishing was thanked who have supplied jig heads and soft baits towards the Lake Te Koutu in Cambridge event.

Matters Arising from the Chief Executive's Report

Quarry Lake Fish Release

200 2-year-old fish were released in the October School holidays in Quarry Lake.

Council Land

The annual maintenance plan report which details all wetland maintenance activities on F&G land for the upcoming year is in the process of being prepared. This must be lodged annually with Waikato Regional Council and is a requirement of our comprehensive consent.

Te Aroha Wetland

A proposed pump for the Te Aroha wetland is being costed out and Dani has further meetings scheduled with the Matamata-Piako District Council to look at where we could source electricity. The pump will be used to augment water levels during summer low flows.

Waipapa Dam Boat Ramp

Dr Daniel has been working towards reopening the Waipapa Dam Boat Ramp.

Ranging

Two teams were active on opening day of fishing. With one team in the Waikato having only three contacts. The other team did 27 licences checks on the Whakapapa. Everyone was fully compliant.

Prosecutions

Two prosecutions were conducted in the Thames District Court for offences detected on opening weekend of the game season.

A father and son, who had shot over their limit were offered diversion on terms of payment of \$1,000 each to Waikato Rivercare, a nominated charity, which they accepted. They have subsequently paid this, and we withdrew the charges against them.

Another group who were caught with wide ranging offences, all had duty solicitors appearing for them, making submissions as to reducing the fines sought. All entered guilty pleas to all charges with the following outcomes.

One charge hunting over a fed pond fine \$1,000, solicitors costs of \$1,000, court costs of \$130 and forfeiture of his Beretta shotgun.

One charge hunting over a fed pond fine \$500, charge of hunting without a licence \$750, charge of using unpinned gun fine \$1,000 plus solicitors costs of \$1,000 plus court costs of \$130, charge of lead shot fine \$1,000 and forfeiture of 12 gauge excel shotgun.

One charge of hunting over a fed pond \$1,000, court costs of \$130, charge of using unpinned gun \$1,000 fine plus solicitors costs of \$1,000 plus order for forfeiture of Benelli shotgun.

Gold clam and New CCD guidance

Adam has written MPI to highlight the lack of treatment options for wake boats. This is a significant threat to other lakes for gold clam and other invasive species. Boat data provided by Maritime NZ has shown that of the 89 ski boats contacted since 2021 on the Waikato, 24 were from outside the region posing a significant threat. If the clam spreads it is likely further lake closures for boat anglers will occur.