

# Media Release



13 December 2012

## District Plan changes adopted

**Taupō District Council adopted the recommendations from independent commissioners on Plan Changes 28-33 to the Taupō District Plan.**

The recommendations were prepared by a panel of three independent commissioners after hearing submissions on the proposed plan changes that the Council notified in August 2011. While supporting the direction of the plan changes, the recommendations included a number of significant amendments to reflect the views and evidence of submitters.

The plan changes proposed controls on the size of retail and office businesses in residential areas. This would allow small businesses to establish in residential areas, while signalling that larger businesses would be best located in the Taupō town centre.

The commissioners supported this approach, but recommended medium sized office businesses (up to 100m<sup>2</sup>) should be allowed in the high density residential area immediately to the east of the town centre. The commissioners noted the public submissions asking that recognition be given to existing neighbourhood shops, and recommended that special provisions be applied to existing blocks of neighbourhood shops to allow them to continue to operate.

The six plan changes were developed to make it easier to redevelop in Taupō town centre, free up land for future industrial growth adjacent to the East Taupō Arterial and manage the location of retail and office activities to ensure a strong and vibrant town centre. A significant portion of Spa Road has also been rezoned to enable a mix of residential and commercial activity to develop.

The adopted plan changes will be publicly notified on Thursday 20 December. They will be effective from this date. Submitters will have 30 working days to lodge an appeal to the Environment Court. Copies of the adopted recommendations are available from the main Council office or online at [www.taupo.govt.nz](http://www.taupo.govt.nz).

END

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