

## 16. PEGASUS BAY DRAG RACING CLUB - RUAPUNA PARK



**Officer responsible**  
Leisure Manager

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The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the establishment of a Burn Out Pad at Ruapuna and to address the request for financial support from the Pegasus Bay Drag Racing Club.

### BACKGROUND

In the 1999/2000 financial year, the Council provided \$50,000 in the major grants budget to the YES Trust to provide a burn out facility to encourage the people involved in burn outs on city streets to move to a more controlled environment. Initial discussions with the trust and Council staff focused on Ruapuna, with various sites being considered. A location was finally settled on, but the cost of the facility as a stand alone facility, including the provision of toilets, was beyond the trust's resources.

Recently, further discussions with the Christchurch Speedway Association based at Ruapuna were positive and the Association agreed to look to host burn out activity within its existing track. Resource consent has been applied for, but the application is currently on hold pending a decision from the Environment Court in respect to the zoning of Ruapuna and other similar areas. It is probable that the Environment Court will make a positive decision in the next few weeks and that this will allow the burn out activity to proceed, as it should be a permitted use and not require public notification for the consent. Currently about \$5,000 from the initial \$50,000 has been spent on the resource consent procedures.

In association with promoters from Auckland, the Christchurch Speedway has developed plans for the use of the area for this activity and the Auckland promoters are currently working with the Speedway in respect of a heads of agreement document. The Property Unit is also working on the existing Christchurch Speedway Association lease to vary this to allow for the burn out activity to be run by promoters.

### PEGASUS BAY DRAG RACING CLUB

As a result of recent media exposure in terms of the problem with the burn outs on city streets, the Pegasus Bay Drag Racing Club promoted and held a burn out/drag meet which was very well supported by the public, including some of those from the street scene. The letter from the Pegasus Bay Drag Racing Club has requested support from the Council to assist them to run this activity. The club pointed out that despite the fact there was a very cold southerly and it was a wet night, the meet still attracted 80 entrants and about 1,000 spectators. They pointed out that the rain effectively cancelled the drag race meeting, but that the burn out competition was carried out.

The club has plans to hold "Night Speed Drag Wars" every second Friday night at Ruapuna, with a view to providing drag racing and burn out competitions in a controlled environment. The club points out that there will be extra costs incurred in carrying out this activity during the evenings and these include the provision of lighting towers for spectators, racers and the parking areas of the track, as well as extra security and parking wardens. As yet the club is unable to provide exact details of these costs.

The Pegasus Bay Drag Racing Club have requested additional nights for hire from the Canterbury Car Club, which leases the area from the Council, with the aim to cater for this activity. The Canterbury Car Club stated that as long as all safety requirements are in place that they see no problem with this activity being carried out at Ruapuna.

### CURRENT SITUATION

We have two areas at Ruapuna seeking or already having Council support. There may be enough support for both groups to operate, especially as the Pegasus Bay Drag Club reported that almost 50% of those who attended wanted to drag race as opposed to doing burn outs.

It would appear that a round table discussion of those involved may need to be held so that a programme of regular activity that will cater for this group can be established.

It should be noted that costs are still not finalised for the concrete pad at the Speedway, and therefore it is not possible to determine whether there will be any funds left over from the original allocation to the YES Trust to be able to support other initiatives.

**Recommendation:** That the information be received.

**Chairman's  
Recommendation:** That the above proposal be referred to the Burnout Pad Subcommittee for consideration and report back to the Parks and Recreation Committee.