



People First

Southland District Council

Te Rohe Pōtae O Murihiku

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Councillors receive RMA accreditation

Several Southland District councillors have passed Resource Management Act accreditation papers, with Cr Diane Ridley accredited to be a RMA chairperson.

Cr Ridley, chair of the Council's resource management committee, said the assignments were tough but the training was invaluable considering the work the resource management committee does.

The course required her to attend seminars and sit exams, but allows her to chair both private plan changes and resource consent applications.

Cr Ridley is accredited for three years and this is the second accreditation certificate she has been awarded.

"I believe the study is really beneficial and it comes through into our meetings. We receive good feedback from applicants and submitters.

"I have more confidence in how to handle some of the trickier applications now," Cr Ridley said.

Crs Jim Copland, Rodney Dobson, Gavin McPherson, John Douglas, Lyall Bailey and Paul Duffy have been accredited as RMA committee members.

It is compulsory for chairpersons and committee members to be accredited under the RMA.

Council's resource management manager Bruce Halligan said he had reviewed some of the course material and it was quite demanding.

"It was a very good effort from the councillors as plenty of graduate planners would have struggled with some of the questions," he said.

ENDS

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