

BOATSHED DISPUTE: A Whangarei District Council member, Frank Newman, has stepped down from two council committees until a row over a boatshed on his Northland property is resolved.

The council last week served Mr Newman and his wife, Act list MP Muriel Newman, with an abatement notice for allegedly erecting a boatshed over a registered right-of-way on their land at Tutukaka in breach of a resource consent obtained in August 1995.

The council is also considering taking further action over other non-compliance issues relating to the size and location of the boatshed.

The Newmans are challenging the abatement notice in the Environment Court. A hearing is expected later this year.

New Zealand Herald,
5 July 1997, p. A10.

Council taking legal action against MP

The Whangarei District Council is taking legal action against ACT MP Muriel Newman and her husband, Frank, for an alleged breach of town planning rules.



Muriel Newman

The council had given the Newmans until Monday to legalise a boatshed on their Tutukaka property near Whangarei. However, according to the council the Newmans failed to put right the problems it says it found with the boatshed and a notice has been issued under the Resource Management Act.

—NZPA

Press, 27 June 1997, p. 8.

Newmans lose appeal over property valuation

By CATHIE BELL

LIST MP Muriel Newman and husband Frank have lost an appeal to call their Whangarei lifestyle block a farm, which would have halved their approximately \$4000 rates bill.

North Auckland Land Valuation Tribunal judge Barry Morris ruled that Valuation NZ was correct to reject the application to classify the Tutakaka property as a farm.

Mr and Dr Newman applied for a rates postponement valuation for their land in November 1996 on the basis that "a significant and identifiable portion" of the property was used for farming purposes.

Rates postponement valuations are used by farmers whose property values rise steeply because of subdivisions and high values on neighbouring properties, putting a lower farming value of the land. When the property is sold and fetches its true market valuation, the seller must pay full rates for the past five years.

Valuation NZ told the Newmans their property did not qualify for rates postponement value because

the use of the land did not satisfy the definition under the Valuation of Land Act. The Newmans objected.

In his judgment, Judge Morris said the property was marketed in 1993 before the Newmans bought it as a spectacular coastal lifestyle property.

"The main features of the property are its access to the waterfront, spectacular sea views, a substantial homestead with ... pool and spa.

Judge Morris said Dr Newman had told him that Mr Newman, a practising sharebroker, accountant, investment adviser and Whangarei district councillor, spent "part of two days" a week "clearing up after his five donkeys, six cattle, two goats, and some poultry" and landscaping.

Judge Morris said financial accounts showed the results of farming six cattle and five donkeys was a loss, which was divided by the two for tax purposes.



Dr Newman

Dominion, 10 February 1998, p. 2.