

**Mayor and Councillors**  
COUNCIL

12 JULY 2012

Meeting Status: **Public**

Purpose of Report: For Decision

**ROAD NAMING - BRETT AMBLER WAY**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1 This report proposes that the new road leading to the Aquatic Centre from Kāpiti Road, be named in honour of previous Mayor of Kāpiti, Brett Ambler.

**SIGNIFICANCE OF DECISION**

- 2 This report does not trigger Council's significance policy.

**BACKGROUND**

- 3 Mr Ambler started his political career in 1989 with the Wellington Regional Council, contesting and winning a seat after a wave of public popularity following a court case against the WRC, who had run a survey causing huge traffic congestion. Mr Ambler had been caught in the traffic, consequently missing an important meeting. After 3 years with Wellington Regional Council, Mr Ambler successfully ran for Mayor of Kāpiti in 1992, becoming the second mayor of the Kāpiti Coast District Council following Mr Iver Trask. He served two terms, through to 1998.
- 4 Mr Ambler was a member of the 1994 initial Te Whakaminenga o Kāpiti Committee, the partnership mechanism between the Council and Iwi representatives for advancing matters of mutual interest to the community.
- 5 While Mayor of Kāpiti he led a national drive to introduce, what were then controversial, tougher dog laws to control dangerous dogs, as well as organising the largest public meeting to date in the district, opposing the Satan's Slaves HQ being set up in Kāpiti. That issue went on to the Environment Court and the case was won.
- 6 He was passionate about a united Kāpiti and believed Paraparaumu lacked a heart. He started talking about a town centre, basically on the land that that Council has now set aside for that purpose. He kickstarted the Western Link Road and was instrumental in getting a substantial funding increase from the, now, NZTA. In 1992, he expressed the opinion that it was not in Kāpiti's interests, as far as representation and costs were concerned, to continue being part of the Regional Body, and thought Kāpiti should opt out.
- 7 Mr Ambler has been described by colleagues as a colourful character, intuitive, a straight shooter, a visionary and ideas man, and a politician who made a difference. He was passionate about the district and worked tirelessly for it, right

until he passed away in August 2001. Only weeks before his death he was still intending to run for Mayor in the 2001 elections, speaking impressively at the first election meeting despite his declining health.

## CONSIDERATIONS

### Issues

- 8 This section of road is part of Council property within the town centre, as shown in Attachment 1. It will lead from Kāpiti Road, through the Aquatic Centre area and intersect with Iver Trask Place and the end of Ngahina Street. It will be used by a large cross section of the Kāpiti community, deeming this a suitable way to honour previous Mayor, Brett Ambler.
- 9 In the minutes of the Council meeting held on 19 February 2009, Council considered options for naming a new foot bridge over the Waikanae River. When Council resolved to name the foot bridge “Te Arawai” it also assured the Ambler family that Mr Brett Ambler would be recognised appropriately in due course.
- 10 Council’s Road Naming and Street Numbering Policy states “that the theme for the Civic area in Paraparaumu is previous District Mayors”.
- 11 The preferred descriptor for the new road is “Way”. A “Way” describes a short, enclosed roadway.

### Financial Considerations

- 12 Signage will be paid for by Council.

### Legal Considerations

- 13 The Council can name roads pursuant to Section 319 and 319A of the Local Government Act 1974.

### Delegation

- 14 Council has not delegated the authority to name roads in the Civic Centre.

### Consultation

- 15 Council has consulted the Ambler family, who are supportive of Brett Ambler’s name to be used for this road.

### Policy Implications

- 16 The suggested name is in line with the Council Road Naming and Street Numbering Policy 2011 objectives.

### Tāngata Whenua Considerations

- 17 There are no Treaty of Waitangi issues.

## Publicity Considerations

- 18 Because this road will provide access to the much awaited and publicised new aquatic centre, and is within the town centre, it is of high interest to the community. A public opening and official naming of the road should be considered at an appropriate time.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- 19 That Council approve the name “Brett Ambler Way” for the road shown on Attachment 1 to Report Corp-12-564.

### Report prepared by:

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### Approved for submission by:

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### ATTACHMENTS:

1. General location and extent
2. Brett Ambler background.

**Attachment 2: Brett Ambler background**

Brett Prain Ambler was born in July 1950 and educated at Lyall Bay School and Rongotai Intermediate and College, in Wellington.

He began working at Lintas Advertising and in 1967 joined the NZBC as a film editor. He was on duty in April 1968, the day the *Wahine* sank, and skilfully edited thousands of feet of film which was telecast throughout New Zealand and subsequently shown around the world.

Mr Ambler's career moved on to journalism and public relations and he became a specialist reporter for the energy sector, moving to Kāpiti in the late '70s and becoming Editor of the local paper, The Kāpiti Observer.