

LINK

WAIKATO DISTRICT NEWS

December 2016 – January 2017

Waikato
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera aa Takiwaa o Waikato

Have your say

Don't forget to tell us what you think about our proposed Easter Trading Policy before 5pm on Friday 17 February.

Council is proposing to adopt an Easter Trading Policy which will allow shops within the Waikato district to open on Easter Sunday. If the policy is adopted it will mean business owners can open their shops if they want to.

We know some of you told us your thoughts during our first consultation in October last year, however it's important that you have your say now. Even if you agree with the proposal, we need to hear what you think so that the Councillors will know your opinion/view.

For more information, including the draft policy and statement of proposal, please visit our website www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz

To tell us what you think, please fill in the short online submission form at www.waikatodc.govt.nz/sayit



Answers to your questions

The policy has generated quite a bit of discussion in our communities. Here are answers to the most commonly asked questions:

1. Why is Waikato District Council looking at introducing this policy now?

A recent change in legislation means that it is now up to individual councils to decide if they introduce a local policy for shop trading on Easter Sunday. At the moment shops can't open on Easter Sunday unless they meet certain criteria.

2. Up until now, what shops have been able to open on Easter Sunday?

Under the Shop Trading Hours Act 1990 only certain shops were able to open on Easter Sunday. They included shops such as petrol stations, cafés and restaurants, pharmacies and plant retailers. You'll find a detailed list in our Statement of Proposal on our website.

3. If Waikato District Council adopts the proposed Easter Trading Policy, what would this mean? Would all shops be able to open?

If the proposed policy is adopted all types of retail shops throughout our district (excluding off-licence premises selling alcohol) would be able to open. Whether they do open or not is up to the business owner.

Under the Act, the policy cannot specify any criteria, restrictions or hours that shops could open on Easter Sunday. This means that shops could choose to be open normal business hours.

4. If Council doesn't adopt the proposed Easter Trading Policy, what will happen?

Status quo would remain. Only shops exempt from the Shop Trading Hours Act 1990 would be allowed to open if Council does not develop an Easter Trading policy.

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www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz

Mayor's Message



2016 was an extremely busy but productive year at Council. It included the October elections where we welcomed a new Council and six new faces to it. Your ward councillor is an important link available to you and your community which I urge you to use. Contact details are on page three and on our website.

The time spent on the post-election Councillor induction means they are all very much aware of the issues we face, including the rapid growth and infrastructure challenges we continue to experience.

We expect 26% population growth in the district over the next 15 years from 69,900 this year to 88,200* in 2031. Planning for and managing this growth creates both forward work and a bow wave. This year it includes our new 2017 – 2018 annual plan and preparing for a new long term plan (LTP).

We will be coming out shortly to get your thoughts on the Annual Plan. While generally growth pays for growth we must balance need against affordability. This is always tricky particularly where there are areas of possible vulnerability.

For example, there is a need for more industrial and commercial land to meet demand; the Kaikoura earthquake in November highlighted the vulnerability of towns with a single source of water supply, and growth saw us handle 54% more new dwelling consents last financial year – twice as many as three years ago.

Paying for all this, while meeting our customers' expectations is challenging. Our Long Term Plan 2015 – 2025 sets out land uses, key infrastructure and transport links, however things always change and we cannot ignore the future. This may mean amending the existing LTP to allow us to address change and to get on with the work, including how we manage our water and wastewater going forward.

It is shaping up to be an interesting year and I and my Council are keen to hear from you - be that through our various consultation opportunities, your community board or committee or your ward councillor.

Allan Sanson

Mayor, Waikato District Council

**University of Waikato population projections*

Take care on rural roads

Long summer days have led to an increase in residents and tourists driving on the Waikato district's road network. Those drivers may have seen vibrant billboards on some of the busier rural roads.

Tagged with the slogan 'Expect', these billboards warn motorists to expect obstacles and hazards on rural roads and to adjust their speed accordingly. The billboards depict hazards including slower moving agricultural vehicles and stock wandering on the roads. There has also been an increase in numbers of campervans and cars towing trailers. Drivers of these slower vehicles have been targeted with messages to pull over when safe and let others pass.

The rural speed campaign endorses messages that speed on rural roads should be determined by factors including weather, condition of the road and the various road users that share the road. Waikato District Council Road Safety Co-coordinator, Megan Jolly says no matter the cause of the crash, it's predominantly speed that determines the outcomes.

"A crash at 80kmh is likely to have less serious consequences than a crash at 100kmh," she says.



Ngaruawahia students get safety message

Safe Kids Day in Ngaruawahia was held for the second time in November. The event, held at The Point, was conceived by a group of locals initially, to promote safety as a whole to our youth.

The participants included Council's Civil Defence, Animal Control and Road Safety teams, St John, the Fire Brigade, local Police and KiwiRail. Everyone was able to share great safety messages to approximately 250 primary school children from six Ngaruawahia schools. Our Mayor, Allan Sanson and local Councillors Gibb and Patterson were very supportive and involved on the day. Thanks to major sponsor KiwiRail and local Police constables for their hands-on contribution.



Connecting with Council

Got an idea or an issue you want to discuss? Contact your local Councillor or Community Board/Committee member. They're elected to represent you and are always happy to discuss any questions or issues you may have.

Mayor and Councillors

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Raglan

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Waikato District Councillors, from left: Bronwyn Main, Jacqui Church, Shelley Lynch, Noel Smith, Jan Sedgwick, Mayor Allan Sanson, Deputy Mayor Dynes Fulton, Janet Gibb, Eugene Patterson, Aksel Bech, Stephanie Henderson, Frank McInally, Lisa Thomson and Rob McGuire.



Tomokanga unveiled at base of Hakarimata Track

A spectacular tomokanga now sits pride of place at the base of one of the Waikato's most popular walking tracks.



A tomokanga was unveiled at the base of the Hakarimata Track in November by Maaori King Tuheitia representative Heeni Katipa.

A joint venture between Waikato Tainui, the Department of Conservation, Waikato District Council and the Ngaruawahia Community Board saw the unveiling of a carved tomokanga (entryway) at the base of the Hakarimata Track off Brownlee Avenue in Ngaruawahia in November.

Chairman of Waikato-Tainui tribal executive Te Arataura, Rahui Papa says the Hakarimata walkway is a popular attraction so it's wonderful to see a tomokanga depicting our tribal stories and histories.

"The tomokanga provides a unique Waikato-Tainui welcome to visitors when they arrive to Hakarimata as it depicts the Kiingitanga and its relationship with the Hakarimata, the environment and te ao Maaori."

Mr Papa says the carving of the tomokanga has taken more than a year to design, in consultation with the Office of the Maaori King, the Department of Conservation, Waikato District Council and the Ngaruawahia Community Board.

Waikato District Mayor Allan Sanson says Council was proud to support the installation of the tomokanga, which is another successful joint project with Waikato Tainui. "We worked with iwi on the creation of the Taa Moko sculpture at the Kiingitanga Reserve several years ago."

The tomokanga, which was carved by Master Carver Inia Te Wiata, tells the story of the Kiingitanga which Ngaruawahia is the centre of. The site was blessed before the unveiling by kaumatua Pokaia Nepia.

Keep the pool clean to conserve water

By now, those with blow-up swimming pools on their properties would have given them a good workout over summer. But did you know that it takes 9,000 litres of water to fill a 12 foot blow-up pool?

That's a lot of water – the equivalent of spending 12.5 hours in the shower. But Smart Water Co-ordinator Sally Fraser says that there are plenty of ways we can save water while still keeping cool in the pool. The key way to do this is keeping it clean for as long as possible, lessening the need to empty and refill it.

"By making sure your feet are clean before you hop in the pool, your water will stay cleaner for longer. Using the pool's filter as recommended and liquid chlorine will help too," Ms Fraser says.

Smart Water Starts with You! is a sub-regional summer campaign aiming to make long-term change to how we use water and is a joint venture between Hamilton City Council, Waikato District Council and Waipa District Council. Visit www.smartwater.org.nz for more tips on how to save water this summer.



Did you know?

Emptying a 9,000 litre, 12-foot blow-up pool uses as much water as:

- 120 average washing machine loads
- 6 hours using the hose (25 L / hour)
- 12.5 hours in the shower (12L / minute)
- 692 (3 star) dishwasher loads
- 56 baths of water.

Mapping our district's outstanding natural features

From the Hunua Ranges in the north to the volcanic features of Karioi and Pirongia in the south, Waikato district boasts a number of outstanding natural landscapes and landscape features.

As part of Council's District Plan review, these landscapes and 'outstanding natural features' have been identified and evaluated in a district-wide study undertaken by environmental planning and design consultancy Boffa Miskell.

Lead consultant on the project, Boffa Miskell's Rebecca Ryder, says the study provides guidance on the management methods for the landscapes and features identified, giving direction for the development of policies within the Waikato District Plan review.

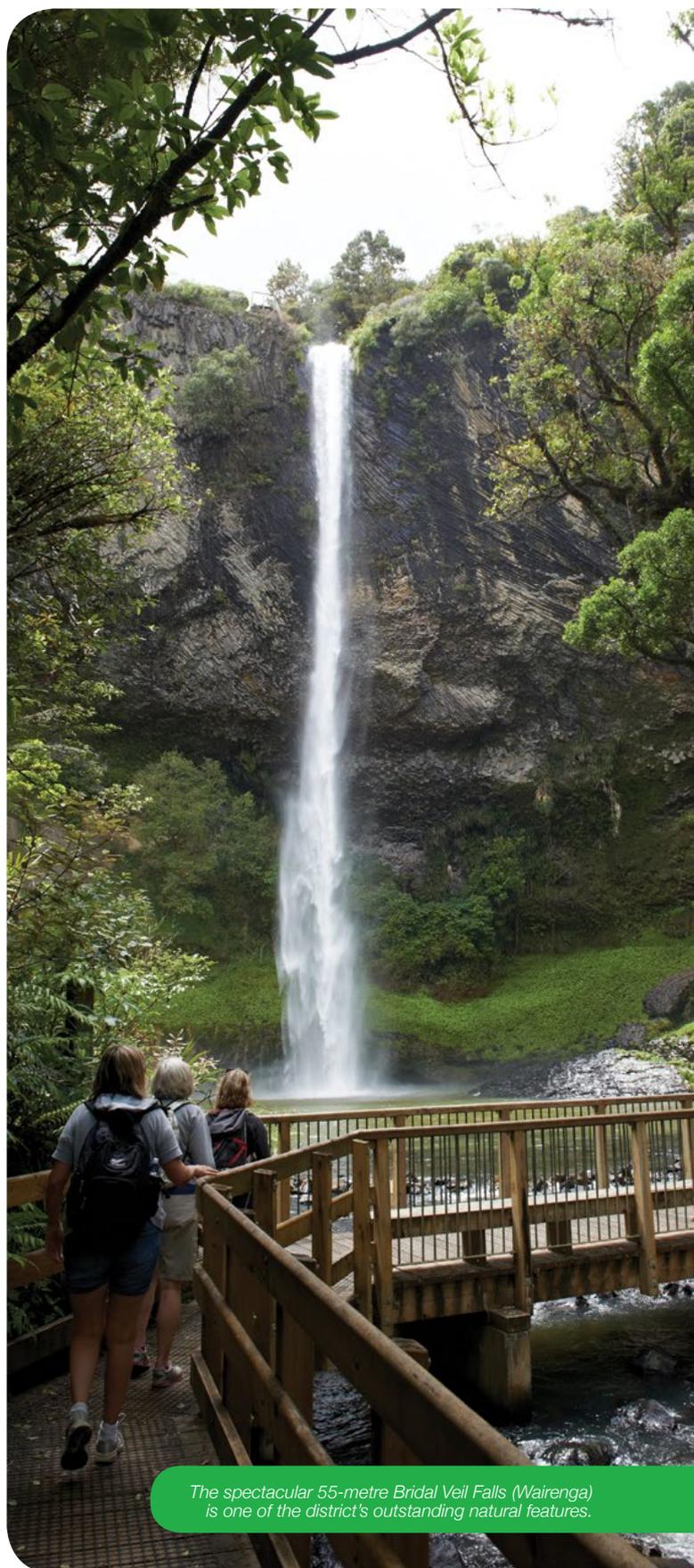
Together with the Outstanding Natural Landscapes (ONL) of the Hunua Ranges, Mt Karioi and Mt Pirongia, a dozen Outstanding Natural Features (ONF) have also been identified. These are Pouraureroa Stream Bush (Mangatawhiri), Waikato River and Wetlands (the river delta), Whangamarino Wetland, Lake Waikare, Lake Whangape, Taupiri Range, Te Hoe, Hakarimata Range, Kokako Hills, Wairenga (Bridal Veil Falls), Manuaitu (a large stand of native bush at the northern end of Aotea Harbour), and Potahi Point (a nationally significant sand dune area at the north head of Aotea Harbour).

Ms Ryder says outstanding landscapes and outstanding features of the landscape are evaluated on the basis of a range of criteria grouped into three broad categories – biophysical features (including geology and landform), sensory qualities (including the sights and sounds afforded), and associative meanings of a spiritual, cultural or social nature.

To include a Maaori world view approach in the Waikato District Landscape Study, a set of evaluation criteria was also established in collaboration with Council's Iwi Reference Group. Based on Maaori culture and traditions, these provided the basis for a distinctive parallel evaluation of our landscape.

These Maaori criteria included mauri (life force) and mana (prestige), waahi tapu (sacredness), korero-o-mua (historical importance), rawa tuturu (customary resource), hiahia tuturu (resource important to the exercise of tikanga), and whakaaronui o te wa (contemporary relationships tangata whenua have with Maaori heritage places).

The study also identified a number of areas in the district as being 'significant'. These are areas with high landscape value, but which lie below the threshold for identification as ONLs or ONFs.



The spectacular 55-metre Bridal Veil Falls (Wairenga) is one of the district's outstanding natural features.

Special Delivery

This series outlines our services and facilities because we aim to deliver the best. Learn about what they are, what we do, how we do it and why we do it – so we can help you get the most out of them.

Constructing our roads

Roads – how are they built?

Once the Waikato District Alliance (WDA) has completed the design and planning process, the construction phase of a new or improved road can start.

A lot of emphasis is put on liaising with residents in the areas that will be affected by the reconstruction of the road. This will include going over the design to show them the extent and timing of the proposed works, as well as taking into consideration issues residents may have, or foresee, during the construction period.

The complexity of the site and extent of construction will determine the type of machinery to be used and also the size of crew required to complete the project.

At the design stage the existing underlying road material is sampled to determine the initial structural integrity of the road. When the WDA reconstructs a road, the team tries to recycle as much of the existing granular material possible and only adding what is required. They then use additives such as cement to improve the road's base.

Surveyors are sent to the site to mark out heights and widths of what will be the new finished level and to install pegs along the site. Construction materials are chosen carefully, not only for quality reasons. They are sourced as close as possible

to the construction site to minimise possible damage and deterioration of surrounding roads.

Road construction is generally undertaken in two stages. It starts with stripping vegetation and cleaning roadside drains, as well as replacing culverts where required. Once this is completed the road is overlaid with the new material to a pre-determined level and as per the survey set-out pegs. Additives are mixed in with the existing road material using a stabilising hoe and the material is given a final grade to the finished level.

Once the road site has reached its maximum density and moisture levels are suitable, a waterproofing bitumen chip seal is applied to the new surface which protects it from weather and traffic damage. This will be the top layer of the road surface that is driven on for years to come.



A stabilising hoe, connected to a water cart, mixes the cement additive, new granular material and existing road material.

Spending summer on the road to success

A summer internship with the Waikato District Alliance (WDA) has proved invaluable for University of Canterbury student Cameron Swales. The 20-year-old Hamilton resident has spent three months learning the practical aspects of civil engineering.

Being exposed to the hands-on elements of road construction, surveying and drainage and benefiting from the skills of the WDA team members are highlights of Cameron's time on the Waikato District Council internship. And he has enjoyed putting the theory he has been learning at university into practice.

"Working in a supermarket over the summer isn't going to help me with my career," he said. "But feeding off the experience of the Alliance team and taking in as much of their knowledge as I can has been a great opportunity."

Cameron has also benefited from the importance that the WDA places on health and safety.

"That's been good to see, it's massively important. They've been a great bunch of guys to learn from and they've all been very welcoming," he said.

Cameron flies out to start his third year of his civil engineering degree, the day after he finishes his internship next month.



University student Cameron Swales has spent the summer working with the Waikato District Alliance roading team.

Be prepared for an emergency

Who would have thought an earthquake in the South Island would have such an impact on the Waikato district?

After Council staff worked to resolve both the water and roading issues in Raglan in November, one thing became clear. We all need to be prepared for an emergency, no matter where in the country we live. A 7.8 quake on 14 November is thought to be the reason Raglan's normally pristine water supply was disrupted.

After the earthquakes the spring, which supplies Raglan's water, turned dirty and the water treatment plant had to be closed down. Council tested for *E.coli* and heavy metals and needed a clear result before the treatment plant could be turned back on.

While waiting for this result, Council tankered more than 3 million litres of water into the Raglan Bow Street reservoir day and night for four days so Raglan residents could have drinking water. Raglan locals were also asked to conserve water during this time.

The earthquake was also likely a contributing factor to the collapse of a culvert on Raglan's Otonga Valley Road. The collapsed culvert isolated a number of families while a temporary bridge was craned into place. Doing this just 16 hours after Council staff were notified of the collapse meant access in and out of the road could be restored.

The resilience of Raglan residents really shone through during both of these events and showcased true community spirit – we can't thank you enough for doing what you did, but remember, the important message is 'be prepared'. We will never know when an emergency will strike.



More than 3 million litres of water were trucked into Raglan over four days.

Tamahere Village project update

Waikato District Council and the Tamahere Community Committee have been working with Foster Develop over the past nine months to finalise the design for Tamahere Village on the corner of Devine Road and Wiremu Tamihana Drive.

The village has been designed to integrate with the adjoining public plaza and recreation reserve and once complete will combine with these facilities to form the heart of the Tamahere community.

In parallel with this, Foster Develop has been securing key tenants for the village. Demand from tenants has been strong and includes a café, restaurant/bar, grocer, wine cellar and skincare clinic.

Other notable businesses expressing interest include local doctors, a pharmacy, beauty-spa and a hairdresser.

Foster Develop anticipates starting work on-site in the first quarter of 2017, with a view to having the village complete and the various tenants open and trading in the first quarter of 2018.



Waikato District Council and the Tamahere Community Committee have been working with Foster Develop on a commercial hub in Tamahere.

Just Briefly



Get involved in developing projects for your community

Work on developing the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan (LTP) has started.

To kick start this process community boards, community committees and community groups are being asked to develop a community plan which will identify their priority LTP projects. If you want to have a say in this process, get in touch with your local community board or committee representatives before 28 February 2017 – their contact details are available at www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/your-council or you can ask us on **0800 492 452**



Keeping cool this summer

The Waikato district has three community swimming pools located in Ngaruawahia, Huntly and Tuakau. For more information including entry fees and further detail on hours, visit www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/recreation/swimming-pools

Fire season

During summer it's important to keep a close eye on whether the Waikato district is in a restricted fire season or not. A restricted fire season means permits are required for fires in the open air in rural areas.

With the current dry weather property owners are also urged to ensure sections, especially vacant properties, are maintained to reduce potential fire hazards. Long grass and rubbish pose a potential fire hazard. Visit www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/ruralfires for more information.

Roadworks ahead

Summer is a busy time for our roading maintenance team who nominate the sunnier, longer days between November and March to complete our projects. It's also the most cost effective time to complete maintenance which will ensure our roads are maintained to a high standard and are safe for travellers. We'll always do our best to minimise disruption but if you have any issues out on our roads, phone us on **0800 492 452**

Be a "Legend" – do your bit to keep our roads safe

Did you know that 27% of all crashes in our district involve drink driving?

Now that changes to the alcohol driving limits are in place it's time to be a "legend" by speaking up and offering alternatives to getting behind the wheel. It can be difficult to tell a mate not to drive, but no one wants to share the road with someone who is over the limit. Offering a couch or giving someone who is over the limit a ride home will help everyone keep safe on our roads.

Got a question about Council business?



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www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz

Dates for the next Link

Our next edition of Link will be distributed from 27 March – 1 April. If you don't receive your Link during this period please contact communications@waidec.govt.nz with your address details by 7 April so we can look into the non-delivery. Please note: If you have 'No Junk Mail' on your mailbox we can't deliver the newsletter.

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