Community Connection







Message from the Mayor

Hi everybody, I hope you're all keeping safe and well.

With the country still in Alert Level 4 lockdown due to COVID-19, we must continue to be extra vigilant.

Please remember the golden rules - stay at home in your bubble, call your doctor or the Covid-19 Healthline on 0800 358 5453 about getting tested. If you leave the house, wear a mask and keep a 2m distance from others. Keep on scanning QR codes. Wash and sanitise your hands often. Stay local and be kind to one another, especially to our essential workers.

Essential Council services will continue to be provided, read on further for more detail.

And while COVID-19 consumes much of our lives at the moment, there are still updates to share about the work Council continues to carry

A significant project that is currently underway is the Representation Review 2021, which looks at how the district's communities are represented. This includes the number of councillors, wards, their names and boundaries. Also being reviewed is community board representation. There is further information about this, in this edition.

The Foxton River Loop Reserve is now complete, with new grassed areas, landscaping,

playground, and barbeque facilities. This area looks stunning, and is going to be a much loved and well used community facility. Thank you to all involved and especially our contractors who have carried out quite a transformation!

Finally, we've done this before and we can do it again. We're a tight knit community and while we must stick to our bubbles, we can still check in on each other over the phone, over the fence

Stay home, stay safe and I look forward to catching up with you soon.



Are you eligible for a Rates Rebate?

Apply Now



Nisit horowhenua.govt.nz/ratesrebates for more information



Email ratesrebates@horowhenua.govt.nz

Who is eligible?

The Rates Rebate Scheme provides a rebate of up to \$665 for low income earners who are paying rates for the home in which they were living in, on 1 July 2021.

Rebates will be calculated based on your income, the number of dependents living with you and the total amount of rates for the year 2021/2022, including Horowhenua District Council and Horizon's Regional Council.

What do I need to apply?

To apply you will need accurate information about your income (and that of any spouse/partner and/or joint home owner who lives with you) for the tax year ended 31 March 2021.

Rates Rebates applications are open until 30 June 2022.

Rebates of up to \$665 may be available to eligible residents.



Three Waters Reform update

Councils across New Zealand have been given an eight-week period to get their heads around all of the data and information surrounding Three Waters Reform, and provide feedback on the impacts and possible variations to the proposed reform package outlined by government.

Many councils have become more vocal about the reform process and the lack of time provided to engage their communities with the necessary information. Councils have a legal and moral requirement to understand community views and consult with their communities, particularly when strategic asset purchases or disposals are being considered.

"We agree with the overarching purpose of the Three Waters Reform Programme, which is to ensure New Zealand's three waters, our drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services and infrastructure are planned, maintained and delivered so that they are affordable and fit for purpose. It has been a prerogative of our Council for many years." Says Horowhenua District Council CEO David Clapperton.

"What we need comfort in, is ensuring our district will not get overlooked in favour of those with more pressing needs. We are in a period of unprecedented growth, so we need assurances that we will not be disadvantaged if we opt into the reform programme." Says Clapperton.

Horowhenua District Council Mayor Bernie Wanden says "As representatives for our community, it is paramount that the voices of our community are heard and responded to. We know there are concerns around issues like water metering, additional charges and future privatisation. We want to make sure that our community has these concerns answered, feels well informed and understands the pros and cons of reform."

As part of the Government's proposal, they have worked with councils around New Zealand to collate the necessary data to build a clear understanding of three waters services in their districts. You can view Horowhenua District Council's dashboard on the Department of Internal Affairs website: https://www.dia.govt.nz/Three-Waters-Reform-Rfl#latest-update. Once in the dashboard, skip forward to page 5 and enter Horowhenua District Council in the search bar.

Visit www.dia.govt.nz/Three-Waters-Reform-Programme for Government's latest three waters reform information. Visit www.horowhenua.govt.nz/3watersreform for Horowhenua District Council's summary of the Three Waters Reform Programme.

We will continue to keep our community updated, as we know more.

For more information contact Council on 06 366 0999 or email enquiries@horowhenua.govt.nz.



Niko and the Tararua Ranges

A recent vibrant art addition has caught the attention of many Horowhenua residents and travellers. Artist SwiftMantis, commissioned by Horowhenua District Council painted a 100m² blank wall to add vibrancy to the

The piece is called 'Niko and the Tararua Ranges'. Niko is a rescue cat who is living his best life on a feijoa orchard in Horowhenua. The view of the Tararua Ranges was shot above the orchard and Niko was photographed in the long grass. This particular piece by SwiftMantis, is the 4th addition to his #StrayStories series of artwork.

"It's a great spot for a large-scale mural with multiple viewing angles from afar aswell as being easily accessible up close for people to explore the finer details of the painting" the artist said. "The flow of the mural draws you immediately to Niko's eyes, then follows his gaze down his tail and into the food court area where the Ladybug sits."

He continued, "I wanted the mural to work cohesively with the space and complement the surrounding businesses. The food and coffee is exceptionally good there, and having the open container to relax in makes it quite a unique little spot. I think it's got a lot of potential and I'm excited to see how it develops in the future."

This project was part of the Community and Social Development Action Plan. Applications are normally received as part of the Vibrant Communities Grant. This plan supports community-led placemaking, designed to foster an environment that promotes a vibrant community.

This particular location has become home to some local food providers. More community members are using the space as well. This was an ideal chance to add more colour and vibrancy to the area. Should the food providers leave, the space would remain vibrant.

The mural is visible from several locations. Including State Highway 1 heading south, the service lane running parallel and Bath Street heading west over the rail crossing.

Horowhenua District Council aims to increase the vibrancy of the Community. They support the work of many artists with the Vibrant Communities Scheme. Grant applications are currently open until 31 August 2021 for several contestable grants available, including the Vibrant Communities Grant. Head to www.horowhenua. govt.nz/grants to find out more.



Council essential services to continue during COVID-19 lockdown

For more information contact Council on © 06 366 0999 or email @ enquiries@horowhenua.govt.nz.

Horowhenua District Council is assuring the community that Council's essential services will continue during the COVID-19 lockdown period.

The country entered into Alert Level 4 at 11.59pm on Tuesday 17 August, meaning only essential services could continue to operate with the rest of New Zealand being urged to stay home in a bid to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Horowhenua Mayor Bernie Wanden said we've done this before and we can do it again. As with last time, Council will continue to provide essential services during lockdown.

"Services such as three waters, emergency management and rubbish collection remain operating as well as other activities which have been identified as part of Council's business continuity planning" he said.

(See full list below)

Horowhenua District Council Chief Executive David Clapperton said much of the organisation was able to continue working from home.

"Our officers are used to and excel at maintaining customer service during challenging circumstances; it is why we provide our community the local Civil Defence service. While some activities are not identified as essential services by the government, we do have capacity to support and continue to progress work from home" he said

Councillors were urging the community to adhere to the government's advice and stay at home.

"Horowhenua is made of tight knit communities and while we can continue to look out for one another let's do it over the phone, fence and internet to ensure we get through this as quickly and safely as possible" Mayor Bernie said.

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Customer service contact centres

Although our customer service centres are closed to walk-ins, you can still contact us by email at enquiries@horowhenua.govt.nz or by phone on 06 366 0999. We also have lots of services and information on our website, www.horowhenua.govt.nz



Rubbish and recycling services

All kerbside rubbish collections will continue.

Contractors will no longer be picking up separate recycling. Households should fill their recycling bin with clean recyclable items first. Once your recycling bin is full, additional recycling can be disposed of in general waste.

Ilf you live in areas where you don't normally get a kerbside rubbish collection service, please visit www.horowhenua.govt.nz/rubbishcollectionpoints for more information.

Parks, playgrounds and drinking fountains

Parks, reserves and cemeteries remain open, but playgrounds and public toilets are closed.

Public drinking water fountains are closed.



Water supply, wastewater and stormwater services

These services will continue.



Civil defence and emergency management

These services will continue.



Parks, reserves, cemeteries, playgrounds and public toilets

Parks, reserves and cemeteries remain open, but playgrounds and public toilets are closed.

Reserving the adjoining vacant plot at time of interment application is not currently available.

Mowing and general maintenance have ceased, except where there are safety concerns. Litter bins will continue to be emptied.



Library services

Although our physical libraries are closed, we have a world of e-books, e-audio books, and fascinating databases for you to discover with Your Library online. If you're not a Libraries Horowhenua cardholder, you can sign up for e-membership online. Visit tetakere.org.nz/Your-Library to explore what's on offer.

We've extended loans on all books, magazines, DVDs and jigsaws, so please keep any items you have on loan at home. There will be no fines for any items returned late while our community centres are closed due to COVID-19.



Swimming pools

Levin Aquatic Centre and Foxton Heated Pools are closed.

We will contact people who have booked swimming lessons with Streamline Swim School directly.



Community centres

Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, and Shannon Library are closed.



Animal control

Animal control will respond to priority calls. The dog pound is closed to the public but remains operational. Dog registration renewals can be paid online via Council's website.



Planning (resource) consents

We are continuing to process resource consents where possible. Site visits are not taking place, which may cause some delays in processing applications. Site visits will be resumed as soon as practicable once the restrictions are lifted.



Building consents

We are continuing to process building consents where possible. We are not taking any bookings for building inspections at present and no building inspections are taking place.



Noise control

We are continuing to receive and respond to noise control complaints 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



Roading services

We will continue to carry out urgent essential maintenance and respond to emergency call-outs.



Parking

Parking services have stopped.



Strategic planning

You can still contact us by email or phone to discuss our current projects and District Plan Changes.



Finance

You can still contact us to discuss any enquiries you have about rates, payments, invoices and other Council financial matters.

Although our customer service centres are closed to walk-ins, you can still contact us to progress your rates rebates application. Visit Horowhenua.govt.nz/ratesrebates for more information or to download an application form, email at *ratesrebates@horowhenua.govt.nz*, or phone 06 366 0999.



Community development

Urgent community support is continuing.
Meetings are not taking place. Email
commdev@horowhenua.govt.nz for more
information.



Information management services

Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA), Land Information Memorandum (LIM) and Property File requests will continue to be processed.

Details for submitting these requests are available on our website.

Community Safety Top of Mind for Horowhenua Crime Prevention Camera Trust

The safety and wellbeing of Horowhenua's residents and their property is why the Horowhenua Crime Prevention Camera Trust's volunteers give their time and effort to monitoring all their community cameras across the region, raising funds and meeting each month to ensure the Trust fulfills its aims and its charity status.

The Trust is thrilled to announce the recent installation of a new camera system and 14 cameras at Foxton Beach. The Foxton Beach system connects with and adds benefits to Levin's existing camera system, to produce sharper, more concise images for the Trust and the NZ Police to work with. The Foxton Beach installations bring the total number of cameras installed by the Trust in the Horowhenua to 31 units and counting.

Trust members advise the challenge now is to raise funds to purchase cameras for the fast growing township of Foxton. While they expect this is likely to take around 12 months, they and the community would like to see it happen earlier, so the success of the Trust's fundraising efforts will determine how soon that goal will be reached.

While the community cameras help the Trust and Police to identify suspicious persons and activity, the Trust also appreciates the efforts of the community to keep themselves and their property safe and secure.

Deputy Chairman Ted Melton says. "We do everything we can to keep our people and their property safer and we are also aware and grateful to those residents and visitors who do everything they can do to keep their properties secure as well."

The members of the Trust are grateful to all businesses, services and people who have helped to raise funds for the community camera system along the way. They recognise the support given by the Horowhenua District Council and the ongoing collaboration with the NZ Police in Levin, as well as the help of several community groups and the community itself.

If you would like to know more about the Trust please email Brett Gillies, HCPCT Operations Manager, trampkayak@gmail.com c. 027 443



Water tanks to increase firefighting capacity in rural communities

Horowhenua District Council is improving firefighting capacity in local communities who aren't on mains water supply.

This investment will see the installation of nine water tanks, distributed to Hōkio Beach, Manakau, Waikawa Beach and Waitārere Beach.

Eight of the nine tanks are additional resources for firefighters when needing water. The remaining tank will be replacing existing infrastructure.

Michael Talebi, Three Waters Asset Management Engineer, says the new tanks will be a great addition to the communities.

"More tanks will help support the growing communities and improve the firefighting service. We worked with several departments to establish the best locations for these" he said

"The tanks are fitted with a standard NZ Fire Service coupling. This allows firefighters to connect to the water supply easily if required." Council will receive over \$4million of funding to help support the investment into Three Water assets in the community. A portion of this has been allocated to increase firefighting capacity in rural communities.

The money comes from Tranche 1 of the Three Waters Reform funding, which is unbinding and enables councils to continue investing in Three Waters services, while navigating the reform process.

As part of Tranche 1, Council also shared data which enabled the formation of a local dashboard, providing a better understanding of our Three Waters Infrastructure. Councils continue to consider the Three Waters Reform Programme, understanding the data and information provided and how that will impact the community. Councils have been asked to provide their initial thoughts on the programme by October 2021.

Visit www.horowhenua.govt.nz/3watersreform for more information on the Three Waters Reform Programme.

























Council adopts initial Representation Review proposal

Introduction

Whakatakinga

We are carrying out a representation review to look at how the district's communities are represented at the council table.

We need to decide how many councillors we'll have, the number of wards including the newly established Māori ward, their boundaries and names.

This document outlines a proposal we think could work best to provide fair, effective representation across the district.

It's your choice – let us know if you think we've got it right.

Nāu te kōwhiri - Kōrero mai mēnā e tika ana mātou ki ōu whakaaro Councils must review their representation arrangements at least once every six years to achieve fair and effective representation. The last time the Horowhenua District Council undertook a Representation Review was in 2018.

The Council's decision on 19 May 2021 to introduce Māori Wards triggered the requirement to undertake a representation review this year. The outcome of this review will apply to the 2022 elections.

What's in our initial proposal

He aha te matū o tā mātou mahere tōmua?

What we're proposing?

Following consideration of different options at a Council meeting on 11 August 2021, Council is proposing the following arrangements for the 2022 elections:

Number of Councillors

We are proposing:

9 councillors in total - 8 general ward councillors elected from three general wards, 1 Māori ward councillor elected from one district wide ward, plus the Mayor elected at large.

What has changed?

This reduces the number from 10 to 8 general ward councillors, with the addition of one Māori ward councillor.

We are proposing nine councillors in total plus the mayor, as this will provide:

- The ability to be inclusive, collaborative, make decisions effectively and be responsive to the needs of the district
- An adequate number of members to share the workload and maintain a cohesive decision making model
- Remuneration at a fair level which may attract people from all backgrounds.

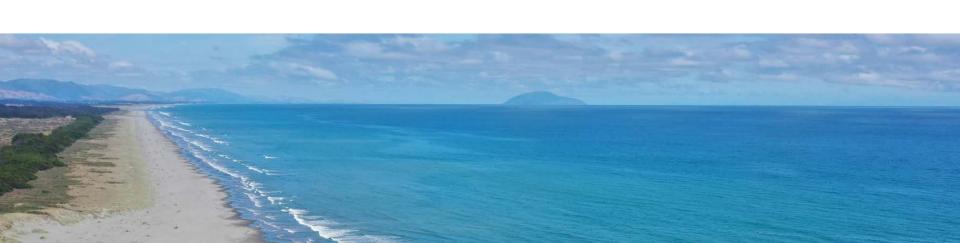
The number of general and Māori councillors is determined by legislation. It depends on the total number of councillors to be elected for the district, and the latest available general electoral population and Māori electoral population statistics.

For the proposed Council size of nine councillors plus the mayor, we would have eight general and one Māori councillor.

? Questions:

Do you think that eight general ward councillors is the right number to represent the district?

Do you think that one Māori ward councillor is the right number to represent the entire district?



Number of wards

Te maha o ngā tūtanga pōti (wāri)

We are proposing:

3 general wards plus a single Māori ward – to combine the Kere Kere and Miranui wards, retain the Levin and Waiopehu wards, with the addition of one district wide Māori ward.

What has changed?

The proposal includes:

- Combining the Kere Kere Ward and Miranui Ward these wards align as communities of interest as they are both rural. Combining the wards complies with the requirements of the Local Electoral Act 2001 for fair and effective representation
- Shifting Kere Kere Ward meshblocks located south of the Manawatū River, into the Waiopehu Ward
- Shifting Waiopehu Ward meshblocks east of Levin, (Queen Street East/Gladstone Road/Tararua Road/Arapaepae Road) into the Levin Ward).

Wards and Electoral Populations

Ward	Population	Members	Population per member
Kere Kere - Miranui	8,170	2	4,085
Levin	15,461	4	3,865
Waiopehu	7,389	2	3,695
Total General	31,020	8	
Horowhenua (Māori Ward)	5,060	1	5,060
Total	36,080	9	36,080

^{*} Department of Statistics population estimates as at 30 June 2020.

Wards map





Kere Kere-Miranui WardPopulation per member: 4,085



Levin

Population per member: 3,865



Waiopehu

Population per member: 3,695



Horowhenua (Māori Ward)Population per member: 5,060

In accordance with section 19V(2) of the Local Electoral Act 2001 the population that each member represents must be within the range of 3,878, +/- 10% (3,490 to 4,266), unless particular communities of interest considerations justify otherwise.

All three general wards comply with the +/- 10% rule.



? Questions:

The proposal is to combine the current Kere Kere and Miranui Wards to create one General Ward.

Do you agree with combining these wards?

'Kere Kere-Miranui Ward' is a placeholder name for the combined ward.

What do you think the name should be for the combined Kere Kere-Miranui Ward?

The proposal is to shift Kere Kere Ward meshblocks located south of the Manawatū River, into the Wajopehu ward.

Do you think these meshblocks should be shifted into the Waiopehu Ward?

The proposal is to shift some Waiopehu Ward meshblocks east of Levin (Queen Street East/Gladstone Road/Tararua Road/Arapaepae Road), into the Levin Ward.

Do you think these meshblocks should be shifted into the Levin Ward?

'Horowhenua' is a placeholder name for the newly established Māor ward which covers the entire district.

What do you think the name should be for the newly established Māori Ward?

Will there be Community Board Representation?

Ka whakatūria rānei he Rūnanga Hapori?

It is proposed that:

- · The Foxton Community Board be retained
- The name of the Board be changed to: Te Awahou Foxton Community Board
- The Foxton Community Board comprises 5 members elected at large
- One member representing the Kere Kere-Miranui Ward, be appointed by the Council.

It is proposed that the boundaries of the Board remain the same as present, as shown on the map below:



Foxton Community Board Area

Territorial Authority Boundary

LINZ Property Parcel

Boundary Data Source - Stats NZ Property Boundaries - Land Information New Zealand Map Base - National Map HDC August 2021 Not to scale

? Questions:

Do you agree with the name change to 'Te Awahou Foxton Community Board'?

Do you think that the Foxton Community Board Boundary should be widened to take in developed areas to the north of Foxton Beach and east of Foxton?



Or complete the form at the back of this newsletter, cut out the page, fold three times into letter size and use our included freepost to send back to us.

Representation Review Timeline

Te wātaka mō te Arotakenga Manapori



June Stakeholder consultation

7 July Public workshop





11 August Council adoption of initial proposal

20 August Public notice of initial proposal





commences

20 September Consultation closes



6 October
Public hearing

13 October Council meeting - adoption of final proposal





20 October Public notice of final proposal

of submissions



Submission form - Te puka tāpaetanga

We want to hear your feedback on Horowhenua District Council's Representation Review through the submission process.

Submissions close 5:00pm Monday 20 September 2021.

Address:	Postal code:
Phone number:	Email:
Organisation:	
OI SUPPORT OI OPPOSE the pro Please tell us why (and include any alter	posed representation arrangements for the Council, for the 2022 elections native you think could work better)
•	posed representation arrangements for the Foxton Community Board,
	posed representation arrangements for the Foxton Community Board, why (and include any alternative you think could work better)
for the 2022 elections - Please tell us v	
for the 2022 elections - Please tell us v Do you agree with combining the Ke	vhy (and include any alternative you think could work better)

Hearings

You are welcome to speak at the hearings in support of your submission – please indicate below whether you wish to do so.

Hearings are scheduled for Wednesday 6 October 2021.

- Yes, I do wish to speak in support of my submission No, I do not wish to speak at the hearing
- Complete this form and deliver to Horowhenua District Council, 126 Oxford Street, Levin or post to Private Bag 4002, Levin 5540
- Complete the online submission form found at www.horowhenua.govt.nz/representationreview
- Email your submission to repreview@horowhenua.govt.nz

Privacy Act 1993

Please be aware that submissions are part of a public consultation process. All information provided on this form, including submitters' names and contact details, will be made available to the media and public as part of the decision making process.

Tick here if you wish to keep your contact details private.

FreePost 108609







Private Bag 4002 Levin 5540

Horowhenua District Council



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to cut out this page using the red dashed line and then fold into letter size before sending.

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