



Mayor Bernie Wanden

## Message from the Mayor

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

I'd like to thank everyone for their efforts in following the rules under COVID-19 Alert Level 2

and ensuring that those around us are kept safe. Sharon and I are looking forward to the day that we move to Alert Level 1 and return to a new sense of normal.

This Community Connection is jam-packed with important updates and information regarding big decisions facing our district.

I am pleased to say that Council moved to extend the consultation period for the Representation Review 2021, until 6 October 2021. This extension allows more time for submissions from you on the shape and format of Council and how the democratic process will operate in the next local elections. Keep an eye out for an upcoming drop-in session near you.

It is a great opportunity to talk to Councillors and understand how the Representation Review could impact you. We do value your views and would really like to hear from you.

The Government's proposed Three Waters Reform is one of biggest reforms that has ever been suggested in this country. It is a complex and very big issue and Council have been meeting regularly to understand and discuss the programme and how the proposal could affect our district. Along with every other council in the country we will shortly be giving feedback to the Government on the reforms and look forward to how they respond. Read on for our latest update.

Civic Honours and Youth Scholarship nominations have opened. I would encourage all of you to think about those people and organisations who are doing amazing things for our community in the volunteer space and nominate them for an award. It is fitting that we recognise the special efforts that many have done over the years.

If you and your whānau are looking for something to do over the next couple of

weekends, head down to Foxton Beach Estuary or Waikawa Beach and join our passionate Council Officers Sean and Craig for a planting day.

And last but not least, community stakeholders and Council have been working tirelessly to progress the future of the Levin Landfill. While there is a way to go, we are heading in the right direction and will soon undertake a community consultation process, which will inform Council's decision on the landfill early next year.

I know times can be challenging through the different alert levels but please be tolerant and patient with those that you interact with, especially all those essential workers who have continued to do an amazing job through this time. It is also vital that we continue to get vaccinated so that there is less risk in our community of COVID-19 getting here.

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

*Bernie Wanden*

## Council encourages the community to get involved in planting days

### Two upcoming planting days at Waikawa Beach and Foxton Beach aim to build foredune resilience and strengthen local ecosystems from the effects of climate change.

The Council-initiated events will see spinifex and pingao planted, both of which are indigenous plants to Aotearoa and excellent for forming dunes and dune stabilisation.

Waikawa Beach Planting Day on Saturday 25 September kicks off at 9am and will take place over two hours. Participants should meet at the Northern accessway at Reay MacKay Grove. Planting will take place along the edge of last year's planting, for those that know the area. Snacks will be provided.

Foxton Beach Planting Day on Saturday 2 October kicks off at 9am and will finish around midday with a BBQ provided. See map for the meeting spot.

Council Officer Craig Kidd who will be managing the Waikawa Planting Day says "Last year with the help of community volunteers, we managed to plant approximately 2,500 native plants. These have had a tremendous impact on the stability of the foredunes at Waikawa Beach. We have a generous community of volunteers, who care about the environment

and ensuring we take care of it. We're looking forward to building on what was achieved last year."

Council Officer Sean Hester who will be managing the Foxton Beach Planting Day says "We value our relationship with local community groups and enjoy collaborating with them to achieve great outcomes. Within the last year enthusiastic volunteers including families, joined us for planting days in the dune areas. It was especially heartening to see our young people learning about the environment and feeling proud about giving back to their community and the land."

Everyone is encouraged to participate. We recommend you bring warm clothing, sturdy shoes, water, gloves and a spade if you have one (although some spades will be available and we will be drilling holes to make planting easier and quicker).

If rain persists, the events may be postponed until a further date, keep an eye on Horowhenua District Council's Facebook events page for updates.

Due to COVID-19, both events require a maximum of 100 people. QR scanning and a sign-in desk will be available and face coverings are recommended.



Foxton Beach Estuary.



Image courtesy of Waikawa Beach Ratepayers Association.

## 2021 Youth Scholarship nominations are now open

Nominations for Horowhenua District Council's Youth Excellence Scholarships are now open.

Twelve Youth Excellence Scholarships of \$250 each are available, with three in each of the arts and culture, sport, academic, and outstanding service to the community categories.

Nominations received will be considered by the Horowhenua District Council's Community Funding and Recognition Committee, which is comprised of the Mayor and five councillors.

Mayor Wanden said, "The Youth Excellence Scholarships provide a wonderful opportunity for our district to identify and celebrate several young people in our community who have contributed and achieved greatly in the

four categories available. We hope that the recognition and scholarships will in some small way be a motivation for ongoing success in the life choices that these young people make."

Nominations close on Sunday 17 October. Successful nominees and their whānau will be invited to attend the Civic Awards evening on Thursday 2 December 2021, when the awards will be presented.

*For more information, including guidelines and criteria, access to our online nomination site, or to request a manual nomination form, please visit the Youth Excellence Scholarships page on the Council website, [www.horowhenua.govt.nz/youthexcellence](http://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/youthexcellence). If you need assistance with this, our customer service team is happy to help.*



2020 Horowhenua Youth Excellence Scholarships winners.

## 2021 Civic Honours Awards nominations are now open

Do you know someone in Horowhenua who deserves to be recognised for going above and beyond in a voluntary capacity?

Horowhenua District Council's Civic Honours Awards are the perfect opportunity to nominate them for their outstanding contribution and give them the recognition they deserve.

Civic Honours Awards recognise outstanding voluntary service by individuals and community groups across the categories of community, cultural, education, recreation/sport, religion, social, youth and conservation.

Nominations will be considered by Horowhenua District Council's Community Funding and

Recognition Committee, which is comprised of the Mayor and five councillors.

Mayor Bernie Wanden encourages people to nominate those worthy of recognition.

"Nominations can be made for citizens of any age, and should be based on the quality of their commitment or length of service to a particular organisation, or their contributions across multiple organisations within the community".

"These awards recognise those in the community who take on more than their fair share of the load, those who work tirelessly in our community and whose valuable contribution makes our district a better place," he said.

Nominations close on Sunday 17 October 2021. Successful nominees and their whānau will be invited to attend the Civic Awards function on Thursday 2 December 2021, when the awards will be presented.

*For more information, including guidelines and criteria, and to download nomination forms, visit <https://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/Civic-Honours-Awards>. If you need assistance with accessing or downloading the online forms, our customer service team is happy to help.*

## Your Choice - Representation Review Arotakenga Manapori 2021

**We're 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.

To learn more about the Representation Review, what it means to you, and how you can have your say, pop into one of our drop-in sessions.

27

**Monday 27 September**

4:00 – 6:00pm  
Shannon Memorial Hall, Shannon.

30

**Thursday 30 September**

4:00 – 6:00pm  
Tokomaru Community Hall, Tokomaru.

28

**Tuesday 28 September**

11am – 1pm  
Horowhenua District Council, Levin.

1

**Friday 1 October**

11am – 1pm  
Horowhenua District Council, Levin.

28

**Tuesday 28 September**

4:00 – 6:00pm  
Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, Foxton.





# Levin Landfill resolution right move to ensure robust community consultation

## Recently Horowhenua District Councillors and the Levin Landfill Project Management Group (PMG) team members were separately briefed by Council's consultants about an extension and variation of the existing Waste Services Agreement with Midwest Disposals.

The extension will see Horowhenua District Council's (HDC) Council-controlled waste disposed of at the Bonny Glen Landfill near Marton for a six month period. This would allow Council more time to explore future waste disposal and landfill options, address the latest compliance report from Horizons Regional Council, and mitigates the need to build a new landfill cell in the short term.

Importantly, it will allow for a full community consultation process and reconsideration of the need to open a new cell to accept waste prior to the final Council decision on the future of the Levin Landfill.

These developments come as the PMG (which is comprised of stakeholders from Council, iwi, community and independent appointees, along with a Horizons Regional Council observer), was made aware of the limited capacity for the existing landfill to take additional waste after an updated Density Assessment was commissioned by Council in February 2021. It was initially thought that the current landfill cell would have sufficient capacity to last until the full decision making process on the future of the Levin Landfill was complete.

The advice to the Council and PMG in March this year has led to a lot of hard work between HDC and Midwest Disposals to find an interim solution that would work for all. The PMG is pleased that an interim solution has been adopted which allows full consideration of the issues before the community, in particular the delay in opening a new cell and the ability to focus on responding to the latest compliance report from Horizons Regional Council.

HDC is happy it has been able to reach terms with Midwest Disposals that allows waste

produced in Horowhenua to be disposed of conveniently and sustainably until a Council decision is made in early 2022. The interim solution would not incur any additional cost to ratepayers.

HDC will suspend the placement of waste at the Levin Landfill from November 2021 until April 2022. The public can continue to dispose of waste at either the Levin, Foxton or Shannon Transfer Stations.

### During the suspension period, there will still be work being done at the landfill, but no placement of refuse. This work will include:

- Capping of cells 1A, 2 and 3 (earthworks contract) to comply with resource consent conditions
- All other operational activities such as the landfill gas flare and leachate capture system to ensure compliance with resource consent conditions
- Regular monitoring of the site by Midwest Disposals
- Potential stockpiling of HDC's greenwaste for capping material
- Potential stockpiling of mixed glass for use on the landfill
- Work with the PMG to implement options that address leachate discharges from the closed landfill as per the landfill agreement and consent conditions.

HDC signed an agreement with a number of parties in March 2019 which had a focus on early closure of the Levin Landfill, addressing long-standing community concerns about odour and management of leachate to avoid impacts on the highly valued Hōkio stream.

As part of this agreement, Council's Chief Executive will make a recommendation to councillors to close the landfill in or before 2025. That recommendation will sit alongside advice from the PMG and Council's consultants. Councillors will consider three options before making the final decision on the future of waste management in the district. Community feedback on that decision is critical and that process will take place from December 2021 to February 2022.

### Waste Management options:

- Option 1 – Disposal at a third party disposal site (from the start of the new operations contract in May 2022).
- Option 2 – Disposal at the Levin Landfill (until no later than December 2025) and disposal at a third party disposal site from 2026 onwards.
- Option 3 – Disposal at the Levin Landfill (until landfill consents expire in 2037 or sooner if landfill capacity is reached).

Community groups who have been involved with the Levin Landfill over the past 50 years have expressed their relief at Council's decision to extend the contract with Midwest Disposals, providing sufficient time for community consultation. While relieved at this logical step, they have made it very clear that they will only relax when the issues associated with the landfill are addressed, the restoration of the wetland next to the Hōkio stream occurs and the landfill is closed.

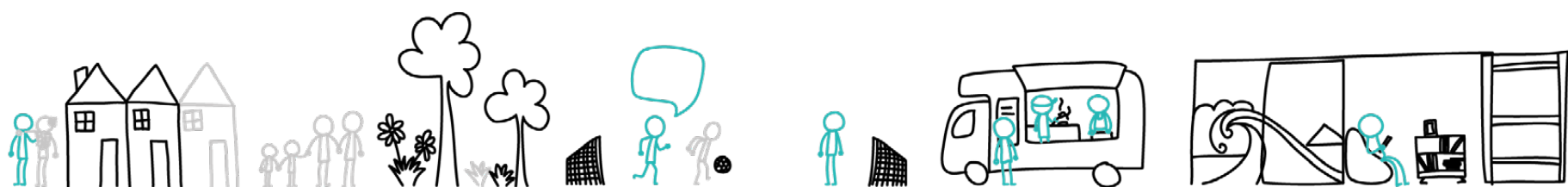
*For more information contact Council on 06 366 0999 or email [enquiries@horowhenua.govt.nz](mailto:enquiries@horowhenua.govt.nz).*



Bonny Glen Landfill.



Levin Landfill.





# Horowhenua social housing supply could increase by nearly a quarter

## Providing consent is granted, Horowhenua is set to get a 52 unit social housing development, which will be home to those individuals and families on the Social Housing Register.

With 209 applicants on the Social Housing Register and 233 Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants approved in the Horowhenua District as of June 2021 according to the latest report from the Ministry of Social Development, the need for social housing in the district is a compelling one.

The new homes would be a mix of one, two and three-bedroom units, complemented by a community hall and offices, communal outdoor areas, and onsite car parking. Set to increase the district's public housing supply from 172 tenancies to 224, the proposed development at 29A Hinemoa Street would provide a much-needed injection of affordable housing in the district.

The social housing proposal has been a couple of years in the making and is the result of a Council facilitated, but community-led discussion on housing in the district.

In 2019, acknowledging that housing supply in the district was not keeping up with demand, Council brought together local iwi, hapū, Pasifika groups, developers, builders, central government, council officers, youth representatives and other

non-governmental agencies. Together, attendees spoke about the housing challenges facing our district.

From these hui a Housing Action Plan was developed to drive immediate grass-root actions and local solutions to meet our community's diverse housing needs now and into the future. One workstream of the Housing Action Plan was the facilitation of Social Community Housing.

While there have been many challenges, the combined proposal between The Salvation Army and Wayne Bishop Group is the first to reach the application stage, with the support of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MHUD).

The Salvation Army (an existing social housing provider) will manage the units once they have been constructed. The organisation currently manages approximately 460 units - 25 villages across New Zealand. The villages have a reputation for being well managed and maintained.

The proposed development will include a small community centre for tenants which will be staffed by the Salvation Army. Staff provide

access to wrap-around support services for residents in the village, such as connecting residents with social support services and assistance with budgeting, food, health, and whānau support.

Salvation Army National Social Housing Director Greg Foster says "Providing the proposal is approved, we look forward to replicating in Levin what we have done in other parts of New Zealand, where we focus on providing good quality houses, in a community setting. The Levin development will offer much-needed housing for those currently finding it tough to find a home in an otherwise tight housing market in Levin".

The Salvation Army seeks referrals for tenants from within the Salvation Army social services and churches, as well as partner agencies, such as the MHUD, to provide housing for those most in need.

If consent is granted for the proposal, construction is due to commence in early 2022.

*For more information contact Council on 06 366 0999 or email [enquiries@horowhenua.govt.nz](mailto:enquiries@horowhenua.govt.nz).*



Artist impression of the proposed social housing development.

FOXTON POOLS

**OPENING DAY**



Sunday  
26 September, 11am  
at Foxton Heated Pools

Streamline  
SWIM SCHOOL

aquatics  
HOROWHENUA

# Protect yourself and others from COVID-19



Wash your hands with soap and water often (for at least 20 seconds). Then dry.



Cough or sneeze into your elbow or by covering your mouth and nose with tissues.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects, such as doorknobs.



Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean.



Put used tissues in the bin or a bag immediately.



Stay home if you feel unwell.

For updates and more information on keeping yourself safe, visit [Covid19.govt.nz](https://www.covid19.govt.nz)

New Zealand Government

Unite  
against  
COVID-19

# Three Waters Reform update

**We know some of our community have felt uninformed and disengaged over the Three Waters Reform proposal. We've seen the comments on social media, we've listened to the feedback given in passing to our Councillors, and many of you have asked us when we are going to consult with our community.**

Government has directed councils to assess the proposed package, understand how it could impact their regions and provide suggestions for improving the Three Waters Reform model. They've made it clear that no formal decision is being sought at this point in the process, which means our normal consultation process isn't triggered.

In light of this, Councillors have been working with Council Officers, independent advisors and meeting with other mayors and councils to ensure they understand the model, the data and its impacts as best they can so that they can provide insightful, strategic and considered feedback to Government.

Council has called an extraordinary meeting on the 29th September to consider the feedback it will provide to Government. This update is to provide an overview of the themes and suggestions that will be considered by Council.

## Key themes and suggestions

### Community Voice and support

- Water Service Entities are obligated to deliver their services and investment programme in a manner that supports (or improves) community resilience.
- Water Service Entities are required to meet reasonable response times, likely to only be possible with local knowledge and a local presence for emergency response.
- Water Service Entities are required to consider affordability in setting charges.
- Water Service Entities are required to collaborate with councils so customers offered rates relief are also recognised by Water Service Entities.

### Transition and Delivery

- The Government works closely with local authorities to plan for, adequately fund and resource transition activity to ensure that service delivery is maintained alongside transition planning and implementation.
- Transition planning recognises the need to adopt project-specific transition arrangements.

### Order of reforms

- The Water Reform process be sequenced to ensure that the likely impact of any changes arising from the Future of Local Government process is clearly understood when considering the combined implications for Council.
- The outcomes of the Future of Local Government Review should be determined before implementing the Three Waters Reform.

### Representation and Governance

- The Water Service Entities are required to plan for and deliver services in a manner that supports the delivery of the proposed regional Spatial Plans and district-level Long Term Plans.
- The Water Service Entities are required to follow consultation requirements with local communities and councils, similar to the requirements for local authorities in the Local Government Act.
- We suggest that Water Service Entities investigate opportunities to duplicate the Tasmanian Water and Sewerage Industry Model.
- Development contributions provided for development in a council's region (Horowhenua) should directly benefit the local community.
- The Water Service Entities are required to provide an investment prioritisation framework.

### Alternate options for delivery

- Government considers alternative methods to deliver efficient three waters services, for example through a Council Controlled Organisation that services multiple councils in a region or an expansion of the current alliance delivery model.
- Government considers alternative funding arrangements to deliver three waters services, such as increasing debt ceiling or providing direct central government funding for councils to continue to provide three waters services.
- Consider the aggregation of three waters principally focused on the proposed entities simply becoming a centre of subject matter excellence (design and procurement) rather than infrastructure planning and delivery.

### Growing and supporting our economy

- The Water Service Entities are required (under establishment legislation) to support and enable providing for new and existing businesses as committed to in Spatial Plans and Long Term Plans.
- The Water Service Entities are required to implement sustainable procurement practices throughout the supply chain including contributing to local employment and economic activity.





## Supporting growth infrastructure

- There is a clear process for every council to influence the Statement of Expectation for their water service provider, to ensure alignment of service delivery with their strategic priorities. The new entity should be required to develop an Infrastructure Strategy, Financial Strategy and detailed 30 year plan in line with the Local Government Act.
- At a minimum, Long Term Plan investment plans (including the relevant Asset Management Plans) are grand-parented into the initial programme of activity for the new Water Service Entity.
- A minimum underpinned quantity investment per annum in water infrastructure is specified for each region to ensure infrastructure is built to meet future demand.
- The Water Service Entities are required (under establishment legislation) to support and enable growth committed to in Spatial Plans and Long Term Plans.
- The principles used to allocate the "better off" funding package should be carried into the allocation of capital funding for new entities.
- Development contributions be set based on the Horowhenua catchment and not harmonised.

Council will meet on 29 September 2021 at 2.00pm to discuss the Three Waters Reform Report that/which they will take to Government addressing their feedback. A copy of the report will be included in the meeting agenda. Visit [www.horowhenua.govt.nz/CouncilMeetings](http://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/CouncilMeetings) to read more.

Cabinet Ministers plan to meet in October 2021 to discuss the feedback gathered and will make decisions on the next steps in the reform process including mechanisms for community consultation.

## Council meetings and participation

Due to COVID-19 Alert Level 2 restrictions, this meeting will be held in person; however, members of the public will not be able to attend. The public can watch the live-stream on [www.horowhenua.govt.nz/CouncilMeetingsLive](http://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/CouncilMeetingsLive)

For those that may not have internet access at home but would like to watch the meeting, a screen will be set up in the foyer area of Council's main office.

Guidelines for visiting our Customer Service Centres can be viewed on [www.horowhenua.govt.nz/ServicesinAlertLevel2](http://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/ServicesinAlertLevel2)

During Alert Level 2 you can still be part of the decision-making process, by making a written

submission that will be referred to during the meeting. Send your submission to [public.participation@horowhenua.govt.nz](mailto:public.participation@horowhenua.govt.nz) or contact our Governance Team on 06 366 0999. You may also email supporting information that will be circulated to Council before the meeting. Requests for public participation and/or submissions must be received no later than 12 pm on the day of the meeting.

For more information on Three Waters Reform visit [www.Horowhenua.govt.nz/3watersreform](http://www.Horowhenua.govt.nz/3watersreform) or [www.dia.govt.nz/three-waters-reform-programme-frequently-asked-questions](http://www.dia.govt.nz/three-waters-reform-programme-frequently-asked-questions)



Ōhau River.



## Are you eligible for a Rates Rebate? Apply Now

- Visit [horowhenua.govt.nz/ratesrebates](http://horowhenua.govt.nz/ratesrebates) for more information
- @ Email [ratesrebates@horowhenua.govt.nz](mailto: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.

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.**





# Maintenance of the sea wall at Hartley Street, Foxton Beach

Horizons Regional Council will be starting work on flood mitigation and general maintenance along the Hartley Street sea wall, at Foxton Beach from Monday 20 September. This will involve restoration of the existing rock wall with new natural rock.

River management projects team leader Shaun Edwards says work is expected to take 10 to 14 weeks, involving diggers on site and trucks delivering rocks. There will be temporary closures of the walkway along the stopbank while work is underway.

"The end result will be a more attractive, naturally lined rock wall giving additional protection to nearby homes and the community. This restoration will also improve protection to the existing walkway which is a popular recreational path.

"The maintenance is a natural progression of the work Horowhenua District Council has done to maintain and upgrade the damaged boat ramp just downstream," Mr Edwards says.

This infrastructure resilience work is jointly funded by Kānoa - Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit and Horizons Regional Council.

*If you have any queries or concerns please call 0508 800 800 and ask to speak to one of Horizons' Central River Management team or email [help@horizons.govt.nz](mailto:help@horizons.govt.nz).*

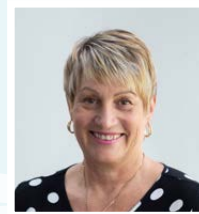


Hartley Street sea wall, Foxton Beach.

## Horowhenua District Councillors



**Bernie Wanden**  
(Mayor)



**Jo Mason**  
(Deputy Mayor)



**David Allan**



**Wayne Bishop**



**Ross Brannigan**



**Todd Isaacs**



**Sam Jennings**



**Victoria Kaye-Simmons**



**Robert Ketu**



**Christine Mitchell**

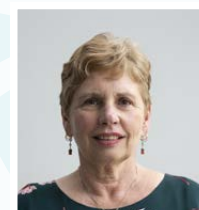


**Piri-Hira Tukapua**

## Foxton Community Board



**David Roache**  
(Chair)



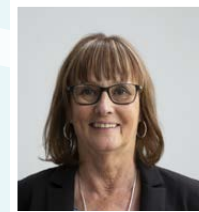
**Tricia Metcalf**  
(Deputy Chair)



**Trevor Chambers**



**John Girling**



**Ngaire Newland**

## Council Meetings

29

### Finance, Audit & Risk Committee

Wednesday 29 September 2021, 4pm  
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin

18

### Foxton Community Board

Monday 18 October 2021, 6pm  
Ngarongo Iwikatea Room,  
Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom  
92 Main Street, Foxton

13

### Council

Wednesday 13 October 2021, 4pm  
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin

27

### Finance, Audit & Risk Committee

Wednesday 27 October 2021, 4pm  
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin

## Did you know?

You can watch meetings of Council and the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee online at:

[horowhenua.govt.nz/councilmeetingslive](https://horowhenua.govt.nz/councilmeetingslive)

Want to receive Community Connection in your email inbox? Sign up online:

[horowhenua.govt.nz/CommunityConnection](https://horowhenua.govt.nz/CommunityConnection)

