



Mayor Michael Feyen

Message from the Mayor

Hello. We have now passed the shortest day of the year, and I am looking forward to the thought of summer.

Horowhenua District Council adopted its first 20-year Long Term Plan at the end of June. This issue of the *Community Connection* outlines the key decisions Council made. Thank you once again to those who took the time to make a submission. I personally wish to advise the public that Cr Campbell and I did not vote for the LTP or striking of the rates.

Council is currently awaiting an update on the proposed O2NL expressway following the Government Policy Statement released in April this year. The update is expected in two to three months and will provide much-needed clarity for the district, particularly for property owners who have been affected by this project.

One of my most pleasant duties as mayor is to welcome new citizens to our district and our country. On June 28, I presided at a citizenship ceremony which welcomed 30 new Kiwis from countries as diverse as Zimbabwe, Romania, Kiribati, Samoa and the Philippines. I believe our district has strength in diversity and it was a pleasure to host our new citizens and their families and friends in this special ceremony.

Another special occasion I recently had the honour of attending was the CACTUS (Combined Adolescent Challenge Training Unit Support) graduation. This is the seventh year Waiopahu College has been involved in the CACTUS programme, with 25 students participating this time around. The eight-week programme is run by the NZ Police and supports youths to reach their potential through fitness and skills development.

Council adopts first 20-year Long Term Plan

Horowhenua District Council has adopted its first 20-year Long Term Plan.

Long term plans usually span ten years, but the growth Horowhenua is experiencing requires Council to plan further into the future.

“Our population is expected to grow by just over 1% a year for the next 20 years. By 2038, about 41,128 people will call Horowhenua home,” said Deputy Mayor Wayne Bishop.

Deputy Mayor Bishop said the Long Term Plan is based on a prudent Financial Strategy that aims to manage the expected growth while living within our means. The Financial Strategy focuses on maintaining a balanced budget while ensuring infrastructural assets are suitably managed, he said.

“A key aspect of the Financial Strategy is achieving a balance between loan and rate funding to maintain existing assets and purchase new ones. To reduce the need to borrow, we intend to progressively pay for more asset renewals from rates and operating surpluses, with loans being used to fund capital expenditure, such as new infrastructure.

“We’ve achieved a forecast average rate increase of only 3.75% per year, over the next 20 years, planned operating surpluses and a balanced budget over the entire 20-year period.”

At the same time, the Long Term Plan provides for Council to continue work on existing projects to maintain and improve levels of service and plan for growth. Council is continuing

its commitment to stormwater improvements, renewing existing water and wastewater infrastructure, upgrades and improvements to infrastructure such as roads, shared pathways, and renewals of playgrounds and sports grounds.

In addition to the continued commitment to ongoing work, some new projects are on the cards as a result of the public consultation Council undertook earlier this year.

The consultation asked the community to consider three key challenges and started two community conversations.

Challenge 1 was about the future of Horowhenua’s community halls. Council resolved not to retain Foxton Memorial Hall and Coronation Hall with no action being undertaken on Coronation Hall until a feasibility study on its future use is presented to Council by 30 December 2018. Decisions about the future of the Shannon Memorial Hall, Courthouse Museum and Levin Memorial Hall were deferred.



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Challenge 2 considered the season length of the Foxton Pool. Council agreed to extend the season from five to eight months.

Challenge 3 focused on water and wastewater infrastructure for growing settlements.

Council resolved to proceed with feasibility studies for water and wastewater infrastructure in Ōhau and for water in Waitāreke Beach. Council decided not to go ahead with water and wastewater infrastructure for Waikawa Beach and Hōkio Beach, and deferred considerations of a feasibility study for Manakau until Year

Four of the Long Term Plan.

The two community conversations looked at water sustainability and the need for a community centre in Shannon.

“On water sustainability, Council will proceed with its proposed approach – installation of pressure-reducing valves, detecting and fixing leaks, and continuous monitoring and condition assessment. Council will also look to establish a Horowhenua Water Working Party to consider water sustainability issues,” Deputy Mayor Bishop said.

A feasibility study for the potential development of a Shannon Community Centre will be carried out in the 2019-2020 financial year.

In response to concerns raised by many submitters, Council also resolved to proceed with a feasibility study of stormwater entering Lake Horowhenua, with an indicative \$5.5 million set aside in Years Four to Seven of the Long Term Plan for any recommended projects as a result of the study.

For more information, see www.horowhenua.govt.nz/LTP

Stormwater system completed at Foxton Cemetery



Foxton Cemetery's new stormwater system was completed last month, approximately 10 days ahead of schedule, and blessed by local iwi.

The system is designed to capture stormwater at the Avenue Road end of the cemetery, where flooding has occurred, particularly in the past two years. Stormwater will drain into an underground pipe system and will be retained in a detention pond at the south section of the undeveloped cemetery land.

Parks and Property Lead – North, Sean Hester, said further work will be undertaken in coming months to complete landscaping, planting and fencing at the section of the cemetery nearest Avenue Road.

Where to now for the Representation Review?

Thank to you those who took the time to make a submission on the Representation Review. Council received 105 submissions, as well as a petition signed by over 360 people in support of the submission from the Foxton Community Board. Twenty-four submitters indicated a wish to speak at the hearings.

The Representation Review will determine representation arrangements for local elections in Horowhenua for the 2019 and 2022 elections. For example, it will determine how many councillors Horowhenua has, the number and boundaries of electoral wards, and whether or not the Foxton Community Board is retained.

Following the hearing of submissions on Wednesday 4 July, Council will deliberate on the submissions on Wednesday 11 July. After hearing and considering submissions, Council will decide on its final proposal. There will then be a further one-month consultation period when Council gives public notice of the final proposal and advises the public of the appeal provisions.

If Council's final proposal remains the same as the initial proposal consulted on in May and June, only those who made a submission to the initial proposal will be able to object or appeal. However, if the proposal is changed, anyone can do so.

All information on the process and any appeals or objections will be sent to the Local Government Commission, which will make the final determination by 10 April 2019.

International recognition for Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom



Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom has carried its third major award home to Horowhenua, this time all the way from the United Kingdom.

The Foxton community hub was named as NEC Project of the Year at the international NEC Awards 2018 held in London last week.

The NEC Awards recognise excellence in project delivery and showcase examples of good practice through collaboration from across the world.

The official citation for Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom emphasised the model of best practice collaboration and transparency that the project offers.

Horowhenua District Council Chief Executive David Clapperton said winning the award was “a real achievement and a testament to the great work carried out by project managers Marc Palmer and Cathy McCartney, the team including Caldow Builders, the project, and the collaboration by project partners Horowhenua District Council, the Dutch Connection Trust and Te Taitoa Māori o Te Awahou Trust.”

Double the chance to win dog registration fee refund

Horowhenua dog owners who pay their dog registration online by Sunday 15 July will receive two entries into the draw to win a full refund of their dog registration fee.

Horowhenua District Council is offering 10 refunds to be drawn in the annual promotion to encourage owners to register their dogs early, and those owners who register their dog via the website will receive a double entry.

Dog owners will receive their registration renewal notices in the first week of July. Anyone who has moved in the past year should ensure Council has their updated address and contact details.

Compliance Manager Vai Miller says Horowhenua's registration fees remain the

same as the past year, and are still lower than those charged by many other councils.

Dog registration fees range from \$45 for a puppy to \$265 for a dangerous-classified



dog, with most fees between \$56 and \$114.

Registration payments are due by Tuesday 31 July 2018. A late penalty of the registration fee plus 50 percent will apply for registrations paid after 31 July.

Mrs Miller says any dog owners who believe they may have difficulty in paying their dog registration fees are encouraged to contact Council now on 06 366 0999 and discuss possible options.

Payment can be made online by visiting www.horowhenua.govt.nz/pawsonline, and details of how to do so are on the dog registration renewal notices. Alternatively, payment can be made at Council's office in Levin, at Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom in Foxton or at the Shannon Library.

Rates increase lower than expected

The proposed rates increase will be less than expected, and it's largely thanks to the growth Horowhenua is experiencing, says Horowhenua District Councillor Bernie Wanden.

The proposed rates income increase of 6.53% in Year 1 of the draft 2018-2038 Long Term Plan has been reduced to 5.55%, despite additional requests for funding being approved by Council following submissions on the Long Term Plan.

Cr Wanden said population growth helps to spread the load by dividing the rates income increase across more ratepayers.

"As a result of an increase in the number of rateable assessments over the last 12 months the average rate increase for each

household will be lower than if there was no growth in recent years," said Cr Wanden. "This is one of the significant benefits of growth."

For example, an urban residential property with a property value of \$225,000 and a land value of \$83,000 will have a 3.93% rate increase in 2018/19. Without the recent growth, the increase would have been 5.29%, he said.

The 5.55% increase will impact differently across the community. Table 1 shows examples of how the rates increase will affect people with different types of properties, and what the figures would have been without the growth Horowhenua has experienced.

Rating	Current rate 2017/18	Proposed new rate 2018/19	Rate without growth 2018/19
Residential urban (property value \$225,000, land value \$83,000)	\$2364	\$2457	\$2489
		3.93% rates increase	5.29% rates increase
Business urban (Capital value \$525,000, land value \$175,000)	\$3,181	\$3247	\$3286
		2.07% rates increase	3.30% rates increase
Rural residential (capital value \$430,000, land value \$163,000)*	\$1760	\$1851	\$1867
		5.17% rates increase	6.08% rates increase
Farming business (capital value \$1.44M, land value \$1.18M)	\$3440	\$3515	\$3526
		2.18% rates increase	2.5% rates increase

**Note: Horowhenua District Council is on a ten year journey to remove urban and residential rates differentials. Council is currently in Year Nine of the process, and 2018/19 will be the final year.*



Thanks for your feedback

Horowhenua District Council wishes to thank those people who participated in our annual Resident Satisfaction Survey.

Community Engagement Manager Lacey Winiata said 938 people took the survey, with 792 complete responses.

She also acknowledged the students and parents from Waiopahu College who assisted with the telephone survey. The group used the opportunity to fundraise towards a trip to Japan.

Council's Chief Executive David Clapperton said the Resident Satisfaction Survey is one of the key mechanisms Council uses to measure whether we're meeting the targets in our Annual Plan.

"It's an important way for Council to gain a picture of what is working well for our community and what could be improved," he said.

What's happening

For further details and events visit www.horowhenua.govt.nz/events

Saturday 28 April to Sunday 22 July **'Welcome Aboard' Abel Tasman Exhibition**

Shared Gallery, Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom. This exhibition explains the voyage Abel Tasman and his 110 men undertook in 1642 to become the first Europeans to reach New Zealand. Free.

Sunday 1 July to Tuesday 31 July **Orokohanga – The Beginning of the World Exhibition**

Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō. This exhibition celebrates and explores the Māori stories and teachings about the way the world was created.



Thursday 5 July, 1.30pm to 3.30pm **Thursday 12 July, 6pm to 8pm** **Community Art Project**

1:30pm to 3:30pm at Waiopahu College, 74 Bartholomew Road, Levin, on 5 July; 6pm to 8pm at Horowhenua Art Society, 119 Bath Street, Levin, on 12 July. Part of a series of workshops run by visual artist Birgit Moffatt to create a community artwork using felt-making.

Donations welcomed. Contact birgitmoffatt@gmail.com to register.

Saturday 7 July **Levin Monthly Market**

8am to 11:30am, Levin Uniting Church, 87 Oxford Street. Held on the first Saturday of each month, with a selection of crafts, jams, books, paintings, clothes and more.

Saturday 21 July **Ōhau Monthly Market**


9am to 1pm at Ōhau Hall, Muhunua Road West, Ōhau. Held on the third Saturday of each month, this market has over 40 stall holders, with a variety of art, craft, baby knits, baking, giftware, plants, pickles, locally grown vegetables, and jams.

Tuesday 31 July **Reducing our Household Rubbish: The Zero Waste Approach**


6pm to 9pm, Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin. Join Hannah Blumhardt and Liam Prince, the No-Waste Nomads behind The Rubbish Trip, for an introduction to the practicalities and philosophy of waste reduction. Free.

Council Meetings


Council - Extraordinary meeting (Hearings - Representation Review)

 Wednesday 4 July at 3pm in Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin.


Council - Extraordinary meeting (Deliberations - Representation Review)

 Wednesday 11 July at 4pm in Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin.

Council meeting

 Wednesday 18 July at 4pm in Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin.

Foxton Community Board meeting

 Monday 30 July at 6pm at Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, 22 Harbour Street, Foxton.

Horowhenua District Councillors



Michael Feyen
(Mayor)

Wayne Bishop
(Deputy Mayor)

Ross Brannigan



Ross Campbell

Neville Gimblett

Barry Judd



Victoria Kaye-Simmons

Jo Mason

Christine Mitchell



Piri-Hira Tukapua

Bernie Wanden

Foxton Community Board



David Roache
(Chair)

Tricia Metcalf
(Deputy Chair)

David Allan



John Girling

Jenny Lundie

Consultation opens on the Zero Carbon Bill

The Ministry for the Environment is consulting the public on the Zero Carbon Bill due to go before Parliament in October this year.

The Bill is intended to provide a long-term and stable policy environment. It sets in law the target for 2050; it puts in place the stepping stones along the way; it establishes the institutions we need to reach the target, primarily a politically-independent Climate Change Commission; and it ensures New Zealand has a plan for adapting to the effects of climate change.

The consultation gives New Zealanders the opportunity to provide feedback on what the target should mean, how emissions budgets should be set, and what powers and functions the Commission will have.

Submissions close at 5pm on Thursday 19 July, and further information is available from the Ministry for the Environment website at www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/climate-change/our-climate-your-say-consultation-zero-carbon-bill