

Community Connection

ISSUE 212 MARCH 2025



Bernie Wanden

Message from the Mayor

Kia ora Horowhenua,

Water. It's something we all rely on, but we don't always think about how it gets to our taps or what happens after it swirls down the drain. Right now, we're asking for your thoughts on Local Water Done Well, one of the biggest decisions we'll be making for our district.

The Government has told councils we need to decide how we'll deliver water services in the future. That means looking at different options, whether we go alone or work with other councils to share the costs and challenges. The reality is, water services are expensive, regulations are tightening, and the more people who share the cost, the better for everyone.

Council's preferred option is to join forces with Kāpiti, Manawātū, and Palmerston North in a jointly owned Water Services Organisation. This would spread the costs across more people, give us better access to borrowing, and ensure we can meet the higher regulatory standards coming our way. But we want to hear from you. Your say really does matter. Head to letskorero.horowhenua.govt.nz before Thursday 10 April and tell us what you think.

Putting our community at the heart of everything we do means creating real opportunities for people to get ahead, build a future, and thrive right here in Horowhenua. That's why I'm thrilled to share that the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) programme has smashed its national target. Across the country, 2,768 young people have signed up to work with the programme this financial year. Locally in Horowhenua, 19 young people have secured full-time work, two adults have been supported into employment, five young people have moved into part-time or casual work, and seven young people have returned to education.

We know that when young people are given the right start, the benefits ripple through families, businesses, and the wider community. Local employers have come to the table, opening doors and giving young people their first real shot at meaningful work. It's been amazing to see how life-changing these opportunities can be, whether it's a school leaver stepping into a trade, someone finding their confidence through training, or a business growing its team with fresh talent. And we're not stopping here. There's still plenty of opportunities for more businesses to get involved and be part of the success story. If you're an employer looking for keen, hardworking staff, now's the time to reach out to our local MTFJ team. Let's keep this momentum going.

Sharon and I attended Pasifika Celebration Day at the Levin Showgrounds earlier this month. What a day. From the moment I arrived, I could feel the buzz, the music, the dancing, the food and the laughter. It was a true showcase of our vibrant Pacific community and I want to acknowledge everyone who worked so hard to bring it together.

This festival was also the first event to receive support from the Horowhenua Major Events Fund under the Strategic Growth Event category, recognising its potential to grow into something even bigger for our district.

So, whether you're having your say on water, backing our young people into jobs, or making the most of the events our district has to offer while we still enjoy autumn, there's plenty happening in Horowhenua. Get involved, stay connected, and I look forward to seeing you out and about.

Ngā mihi,

Mayor Bernie Wanden

Council Meetings

19

Chief Executive Employment and Performance Committee

Wednesday 19 March 2025, 10am
Tararua Room, 126 Oxford Street, Levin
(Not open to the public)

26

Council Public Forum

Wednesday 26 March 2025,
10.15am to 10.45am
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin

26

Council Meeting

Wednesday 26 March 2025, 11am
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin
(Live streamed)

2

Community Funding and Recognition Committee Meeting

Wednesday 2 April 2025, 10am
Ante Room, 126 Oxford Street, Levin
(Not open to the public)

Meeting dates and times are subject to change. Please refer to horowhenua.govt.nz/Council/Council-Meetings for the full meeting schedule, minutes and agendas.

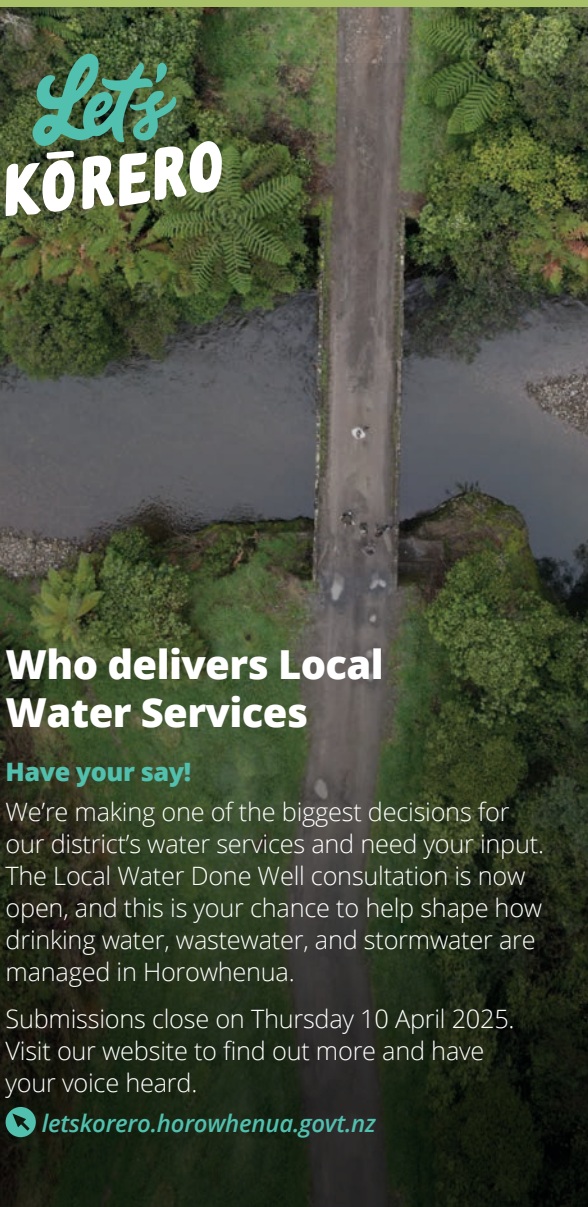
FREE WHĀNAU EVENT

SATURDAY 22 MARCH

Neighbours Day 2025

10AM – 2PM, LEVIN ADVENTURE PARK

Music, entertainment, food, drinks, games, facepainting



Let's
KŌRERO

Who delivers Local Water Services

Have your say!

We're making one of the biggest decisions for our district's water services and need your input. The Local Water Done Well consultation is now open, and this is your chance to help shape how drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater are managed in Horowhenua.

Submissions close on Thursday 10 April 2025. Visit our website to find out more and have your voice heard.

letskorero.horowhenua.govt.nz

Let's Kōrero - Have Your Say

We are reviewing our Food Act and Resource Management Act fees for 2025/26 and want your feedback.

These fees help cover the costs of services while keeping things fair between users and ratepayers. With rising costs, some proposed fees are increasing, on average by 2.8%, to maintain service levels.

Have a look at our proposed changes and share your thoughts.

Your input is important, so let us know what you think.
letskorero.horowhenua.govt.nz



Last opportunity to Have your Say - Reimagining the Levin War Memorial Hall

A proposal is on the table to transform the Levin War Memorial Hall and Village Green into a vibrant hub with a restaurant, shops, housing, and a village square.

Before any decisions are made, we want to hear from you. Should we reimagine this space or keep things as they are?

Feedback closes at 5pm on Monday 17 March 2025. Share your thoughts now.
letskorero.horowhenua.govt.nz



Don't just dream. Vote to be heard.



Have you enrolled to vote yet? This is the first step towards making sure your voice can be heard in the Local Government Elections later this year.

This is an opportunity to have your say on who Horowhenua District Council's decision-makers will be for the next three years. Before you can vote you need to make sure you are enrolled and your details are up to date. If you are registered to vote in Parliamentary elections, you are automatically enrolled to vote in local elections, however it is important your address and contact details are correct.

Last year, following a change in legislation, Council was required to decide whether to retain or disestablish the Horowhenua (Māori) Ward. After considering community feedback, Council voted to retain the ward. Under the amended legislation, this year's election will include a binding referendum, giving ratepayers the final say on the Māori Ward's future. To enrol, check or update your details:

vote.nz/enrol



Fun facts about water...

DID YOU KNOW

Council manages and supplies safe, high-quality drinking water across Horowhenua, providing for around 37,500 residents.

WE SUPPLY

5 billion litres of safe drinking water every year

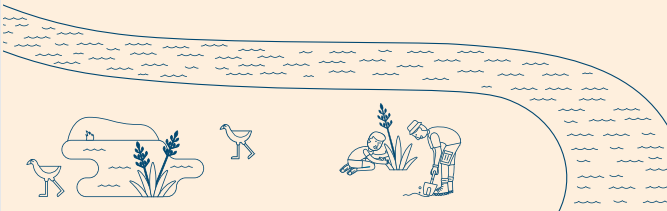
\$1 billion worth of water assets, including drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater, managed on your behalf

5 drinking water treatment plants to keep it clean and safe

327km of water pipes – enough to stretch from Levin to Wairoa

Water is precious—every drop counts!

INFRASTRUCTURE FOR GROWTH



In the works

Upcoming Road Closure SH57/Tararua Road Roundabout

Construction of the new roundabout at the State Highway 57/Tararua Road intersection continues at pace. For approximately a week from late March to early April, work is scheduled to connect a new watermain.

During this period there will be no access to the eastern section of Tararua Road at the intersection – a detour will be in place via Queen Street East and Gladstone Road. Access to the western section of Tararua Road will remain closed.

Some residents of Tararua Road and Arapaepae Road may have their water supply interrupted for one or two days – contractors will contact these people directly.

Council and NZTA are working together on this important piece of infrastructure – we thank you for your patience and understanding.

horowhenua.govt.nz/O2NLTararuaRoundabout



Foxton Facilities Upgrades

Work to replace the roof at Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom is now underway, with the project aiming to have everything completed in eight weeks' time, weather dependent.

Meanwhile, lane marking upgrades at Foxton Pools will take place from 5 to 21 April. During this time, the main pool will be closed, but the spa and play pool will remain open.

Some disruptions are expected, but we'll do our best to keep facilities open where possible. Thanks for your patience while we complete these much-needed upgrades.

