

Community Connection

Issue 213 MARCH 2025



Bernie Wanden

Message from the Mayor

Kia ora Horowhenua,

Let's start with a super positive story this week, and that is the success of the Read for Trees challenge run by Te Takeretanga o

Kura-hau-pō with support from Green by Nature and Friends of the Horowhenua Library.

Thanks to a lot of very keen bookworms, 208,143 pages (1,131 books) were read between December and February. As a result, 42 native trees will be planted in our parks and reserves. By combining the children's and adults' reading challenges, families were encouraged to read together while making a positive impact on our local environment. Sounds like a win-win to me! Thanks to everyone who took part.

I'd also like to thank everyone who took the time to make a submission on the proposed reimagining of the Levin War Memorial Hall and Village Green. We received more than 300 submissions which shows how important this part of town is to the community and gives the other elected members and me plenty to think about while making a decision.

Speaking of big decisions, don't forget to have your say on the future of water services in our district. The Local Water Done Well consultation is open at letskorero.horowhenua.govt.nz/lwdw and is one of the most significant decisions for the district's future. We have explored what a jointly owned water services organisation could mean for Horowhenua and we've developed three options for you to consider, along with projected costs for the coming decades.

Just a quick reminder that work is under way to replace the roof at Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, and lane marking upgrades at Foxton Pools are

happening from 5 to 21 April. The main pool will be closed during this time, but the spa and play pool will stay open. Thanks for your patience while this work is completed.

Last weekend was another example of how much goes on in our district and how we are able to enjoy wonderful facilities and community spaces.

The NZ Police here in Levin hosted the 50th annual Police Darts Tournament at the Cossie Club and I had the honour of welcoming everyone and throwing a badly directed first dart. It was great to see the camaraderie amongst the participants and from what I heard they had a wonderful time and were very well hosted.

Neighbours Day at the Adventure Park was another opportunity to see the wide array of services that operate within the District and show how connected and supported our community is and how lucky we are that there are people out there who still volunteer many hours of their time.

The rest of the weekend was spent participating in the celebration of 150 years of Horowhenua Kāpiti Cricket. The dinner on Saturday night was a great occasion to catch up with old friends and team mates but also to recognise and celebrate the achievements of individuals and the association as a whole.

It was great to be able to play and survive the game played on Sunday between the Mayoral XI and the Parliamentary XI led by our own MP Tim Costley. It was a very enjoyable day and I am happy to report that the Mayoral XI enjoyed a victory.

Ngā mihi,

Mayor Bernie Wanden

Council Meetings



Community Funding and Recognition Committee

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



Hearings and Regulatory Committee

Tuesday 8 April 2025, 10am
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin

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.

Have your say on the future of water services

Let's
KŌRERO

There are two weeks left to have your say on one of the most important decisions Horowhenua District Council will make in the foreseeable future.

As part of the Government's Local Water Done Well programme and new legislation, every council must consult with their communities on how we deliver water services in the future.

New Zealand is facing significant challenges when it comes to maintaining and upgrading essential infrastructure like roads, water and electricity. The cost of this work is putting pressure on both government agencies and local councils, which ultimately impacts taxpayers and ratepayers. We need to consult on how we deliver our water services into the future.

Our current approach will place significant financial barriers on Council and will impact levels of service for other council activities.

We have explored what a jointly owned water services organisation could mean for Horowhenua and we've developed three options for you to consider, along with projected costs for the coming decades. Have your say at:

letskorero.horowhenua.govt.nz/lwdw

Composting trial set to begin in parts of Levin

About one third of the waste going to landfill from urban collections in our district is food scraps. Composting reduces the amount of waste you're disposing of and replenishes the soil.

Next month, Council will begin a three-month food scraps collection and composting trial for some households on Queen Street and Weraroa Road in Levin.

Food scraps collection is something the community has asked us to investigate and is in line with our Waste Management Minimisation Plan.

The trial will be paid for by a \$25,000 government grant and won't cost residents or participants anything.

Food scraps will be picked up every week and processed into compost by a company in Foxton – we'll then make the compost available to schools in the district that are enrolled in the Enviroschools programme.

Please get in touch if you live on Queen Street or Weraroa Road and have not been selected for the trial but would like to be included.

horowhenua.govt.nz/FoodScrapsCollection



Drought relief available for Horowhenua

Prolonged dry conditions in the Horizons Region have led to government funding being made available to help.

A 'region-wide medium-scale adverse event' has been declared, which sees the Horizons Region, including the Horowhenua District, join other parts of Aotearoa New Zealand including the Taranaki and Waikato regions.

The declaration unlocks funding for affected communities from the Ministries of Primary Industry

and Social Development as well as the Inland Revenue Department. A total of \$100,000 is available to rural support groups and organisations in all affected regions.

Anyone struggling because of dry conditions is encouraged to contact their local Rural Support Trust on 0800 RURAL HELP (0800 787 254), or by visiting:

rural-support.org.nz

Easter Egg Hunt

APRIL

Saturday 19 April

From 1pm

Levin Aquatic Centre

USUAL ENTRY FEES APPLY

aquatics.horowhenua.govt.nz



Horowhenua Visitor Map now available

HorowhenuaNZ has released a new printed Visitor Map, available at local visitor hubs including Levin and Foxton iSITEs. This illustrated map highlights must-visit spots, local experiences, and hidden gems, making it a great resource for both visitors and locals.

Big Dutch Day Out

Whānau Fun in Foxton

10am - 3pm, Saturday 26 April, De Molen, Te Awahou Riverside Cultural Park

Join us for an all ages Dutch Week 5km bike ride before this event!
Departs De Molen at 9am. Costumes and decorated bikes encouraged!

oranjehof.org.nz/events TeAwahou.com foxtonwindmill.co.nz

CITIZENS PANEL

FOCUS GROUP

On March 20 as part of the Local Water Done Well consultation, we held two Citizens' Panel workshops. We shared key information with participants and asked them for their feedback on topics like, "What's important to you when you think about Water Services Delivery?" and "What opportunities or concerns do you have?". Below is an illustration that summarises these sessions and what we heard. If you'd like to be included on the Citizens' Panel, email comms@horowhenua.govt.nz.

WHY ARE WE HERE?

THIS IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST DECISIONS OUR COUNCIL WILL MAKE

LOCAL WATER DONEWELL PROGRAMME

CONSULT COMMUNITIES

INVESTIGATING - GO ALONE

WELLINGTON - HORIZONS REGION

WHAT WE DON'T KNOW

WHAT OTHER COUNCILS MIGHT DECIDE

LOCAL WATER DONEWELL

LEGISLATION IS YET TO BE FINALISED

SOME KEY ASPECTS MAY CHANGE

OUR WATER SITUATION TODAY

IN 2024/25, CONNECTED RESIDENTIAL RATEPAYERS PAY:

- \$1500 FOR DRINKING WATER
- \$724 FOR WASTEWATER
- \$206 FOR STORM WATER

\$1 BILLION IN WATER ASSETS ACROSS THE DISTRICT

NATIONAL ISSUE

WE ARE THE FASTEST GROWING DISTRICT (AFTER MANY YEARS WITH LITTLE GROWTH)

WATER ASSETS MAKE UP 51% OF COUNCIL ASSETS

WATER COSTS ARE ABOUT 30% OF COUNCILS OPERATING COSTS

WATER PROJECTS 1/2 OUR CAPITAL WORK IN THE NEXT 10 YEARS

INTEREST ON LOANS

MAINTENANCE & SUPPLY

WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU WHEN WE THINK ABOUT WATER SERVICE DELIVERY?

TOP PRIORITY

- DRINKING WATER IS FRESH & CLEAN
- DELIVERY OF WATER SERVICES IS FINANCIALLY SUSTAINABLE
- RIVERS, LAKES & SEAS ARE NOT NEGATIVELY INFLUENCED BY WASTE OR STORM WATER
- ASSETS ARE FIT FOR PURPOSE AND COMPLIANT
- THERE IS A LONG TERM VIEW TO WATER INFRASTRUCTURE
- YOU RECEIVE A PROMPT RESPONSE TO WATER SERVICE ISSUES WHEN THEY ARE REPORTED

LOWER PRIORITY

- WATER SERVICES ARE AFFORDABLE
- WASTE WATER IS SAFELY TAKEN AWAY & PROCESSED
- WATER SERVICE INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORTS THE GROWTH OF OUR DISTRICT
- STORM WATER DOES NOT DAMAGE PROPERTY OR INFRASTRUCTURE
- OUR COUNCIL CAN STILL INFLUENCE DECISIONS

WATER SERVICE DELIVERY OPPORTUNITIES

- WORK DELIVERED BY LOCALS
- COMBINED EXPERTISE
- EXPLORE ECONOMY OF SCALE WITHOUT LOSING CONTROL
- BETTER BUYING POWER IN AMALGAMATION
- SAVING DELIVERY COSTS
- SECURE PLANNING OVERLAPS THE ONE RIPS & GRANTING
- WILL WE NEED AS MANY COUNCILS AS NOW?

CONCERNS

- FINANCIAL VIABILITY
- LEVIN FALLING DOWN IN THE LIST OF PRIORITIES
- ESTABLISHING COSTS TO DELIVER THE REQUIRED SERVICES
- MANAGING GROWTH
- AFFORDABILITY FOR RATEPAYERS
- LOSS OF CONTROL OF ASSETS
- DELIVERED IN A TIMELY MANNER
- REMOTE COMMUNITIES GETTING LESSER SERVICE
- RELATIONSHIP IS MAINTAINED WITH THE COMMUNITY
- WE DON'T LOSE OUR VOICE
- THAT POTENTIAL WATER SERVICE DELIVERY - WELL MAINTAINED - SKILLED PEOPLE INVOLVED - MEETS REQUIRED OUTCOMES
- GENERAL WARMING - UNUSUAL WEATHER PATTERNS
- MANAGING SUMMER - ITS STILL IMPORTANT
- THAT DEMOCRACY HAS ERODED

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

WELLINGTON OPTION DISMISSED

WATER SERVICES TEAM IN HOUSE

WHAT WE CHOOSE IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE RATEPAYER

WE WANTED TO JOIN KAITI

THEY MAY WANT TO GO IT ALONE

THINGS ARE CHANGING EVERY WEEK

WE DON'T HOLD ALL THE CARDS

STOPPING GROWTH IS NOT AN OPTION

DO WE NEED TO PARTNER WITH GEOGRAPHIC NEIGHBOURS?

PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT WANTED 3 ENTITIES UNDER CURRENT GOVERNMENT THERE IS POTENTIAL FOR 44 ENTITIES

THE MORE RATEPAYERS TO SPREAD THE COSTS THE BETTER

MAKE PEOPLE PAY MORE RATES

UNCONSIDERED RISK

DEVELOPERS PAY

OUR OPTIONS

OPTION 1

A WATER SERVICES ORGANISATION JOINTLY OWNED BY:

- HOROWHENUA DISTRICT COUNCIL
- PALMERSTON NORTH CITY COUNCIL
- MANAWATU DISTRICT COUNCIL & KAITI COAST DISTRICT COUNCIL

OPTION 2

A WATER SERVICES ORGANISATION JOINTLY OWNED BY ALL WILLING COUNCILS FROM THE MANAWATU WHANGAURI AND KAITI REGIONS

OPTION 3

STATUS QUO - WATER REMAINS IN HOUSE

WILL BE FINANCIALLY CONSTRAINED

HEAVIER COST TO RATEPAYER