

Community Connection

Issue 237 MAY 2026



Bernie Wanden

Message from the Mayor

Kia ora Horowhenua,

I've enjoyed getting out and about during the past few weeks, from pausing on Anzac Day to remember those who served and

sacrificed in war, conflict and peacekeeping operations, to attending the pōwhiri in Palmerston North welcoming the new Central Districts Water Board as they begin their onboarding, there's been a lot happening across our busy district.

It was heartening to see communities come together across Horowhenua at dawn and throughout Anzac Day to pay their respects, with so many young families proudly passing on this tradition to the next generation. Thank you to everyone who helped organise and support the many commemorations held across the district.

A lot of work is happening behind the scenes for Central Districts Water, including workshops focused on how councils will work together and setting up governance structures to support its operations. Recruitment is now underway for a new Chief Executive, and I'm looking forward to seeing the positive impact their leadership will have across Horowhenua, Palmerston North and Rangitikei.

I've also loved seeing the improvements taking shape at our Council facilities. Stage one of the Thompson House Gardens upgrade is now complete, and work at the Levin Aquatic Centre is nearing completion, with the facility set to reopen on Monday 11 May. Looking after our infrastructure properly means planning ahead, undertaking necessary maintenance, and ensuring these important community assets serve us well into the future.

As a Council, it's important that we continue delivering smarter, more efficient services while keeping affordability firmly front of mind. Like many households and organisations, we're feeling the impact of rising fuel costs, which are putting pressure on our budgets. While these challenges are real, we're working through them carefully to ensure essential services continue to be delivered reliably and responsibly. Balancing community needs with affordability takes thoughtful planning and regular check-ins. Our core financial goal is to manage growth while living within our means, ensuring essential services are delivered sustainably. By making good use of tools and technology, such as AeroRanger, which supports fairer parking, better turnover, and easier access, we can continue to support the services our community relies on.

Finally, thank you to everyone who has taken the time to share feedback through our Voice of the Customer surveys. Your views help us understand how our services and facilities are performing and where we should focus our improvement efforts. There is still time to have your say and go in to win a Civil Defence Emergency Management preparedness package.

So, whether you're sharing your experience, following the progress of our projects or attending community events, there's plenty happening in Horowhenua. Stay connected, get involved, and I look forward to seeing you out and about.

Ngā mihi,

Mayor Bernie Wanden

Council Meetings

20 Risk and Assurance Committee
Wednesday 20 May 2026, 10am
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin

27 Community Wellbeing Committee
Wednesday 27 May 2026, 10am
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin

27 Council Meeting
Wednesday 27 May 2026, 1pm
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin

Meeting dates and times are subject to change.

horowhenua.govt.nz/CouncilMeetings

CUPPA WITH A COUNCILLOR

Levin - Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō

Thursday 14 May, 10.30am to 12.30pm
Wednesday 27 May, 6pm to 7.30pm

Foxton - Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom

Thursday 14 May, 10.30am to 12.30pm

Shannon - Shannon Library

Thursday 14 May, 1pm to 2.30pm

Levin Aquatic Centre Temporary Closure

Levin Aquatic Centre will reopen after essential maintenance works on Monday 11 May

Some services will continue at Foxton Pool.

horowhenua.govt.nz

Horowhenua DISTRICT COUNCIL

VOICE OF THE CUSTOMER

Have your say on Council services - surveys now open

Each year, Horowhenua District Council asks residents for feedback through its Voice of the Customer surveys. Your feedback helps Council understand what's working well and what needs improving.

This year's surveys cover a range of Council services and facilities, including rubbish and recycling, roading, water services, customer service, parks, libraries, and community facilities.

Each survey only takes one to two minutes to complete. We encourage you to complete all surveys that are relevant and matter to you.

Complete one or more surveys between Tuesday 22 April and midnight on Sunday 17 May 2026 and provide your email address to go in the draw to win a Civil Defence Emergency Management preparedness package. The winner will be drawn at random and contacted by email. Full terms and conditions apply.

The surveys are open now and close at midnight on Sunday 17 May. To take part, visit:

[Horowhenua.govt.nz/VoiceoftheCustomer](https://horowhenua.govt.nz/VoiceoftheCustomer)



Download free app Antenno to report issues, as well as receive alerts and notifications.

www.horowhenua.govt.nz/Antenno



In the Works

Levin wastewater upgrade – Construction update

Work on Levin's wastewater system is progressing well, helping to ensure it continues to operate safely and reliably for our community, now and into the future.

Stage two of the works have been underway since last year. Our contractor, Construction Contracts Limited (CCL) are currently working along Grenville Street and plans to move into Tiro Tiro Road from mid-May. The final stage of works will continue south through to just past Queen Street West.

Over the past four months, CCL have made strong progress delivering Stage 2 of the project. This stage involves replacing ageing infrastructure and installing a new bulk wastewater main that will service the northern half of Levin and connect to the future headworks at the wastewater treatment plant.

While work is underway on Tiro Tiro Road, Council will also take the opportunity to replace a section of the existing watermain in the same area. Completing both upgrades at the same time will improve the long term resilience of both the wastewater and water networks and help minimise future disruption.

As a result of the additional watermain upgrade, the contract completion date has been extended to the end of August 2026.

Traffic management and some disruption are expected while work is underway. Tiro Tiro Road will be closed between Grenville Street and Queen Street West from 9.00am to 2.30pm each day. Outside of these times, stop/go traffic management will be in place. Residents and road users are asked to follow all traffic management signage, plan ahead, and allow extra time for their journeys.

We appreciate your patience and cooperation while this essential infrastructure work is carried out.

horowhenua.govt.nz/LevinWWTP

North / South wastewater connection – Construction update

Work has started on a new wastewater connection to Queen Street. This new main, known as the north/south connection, will service the central section of Tara-Ika and will run along the Ōtaki to North Levin (Ō2NL) expressway, which is being built by NZTA.

horowhenua.govt.nz/Tara-Ika

Land transport - Safety and Maintenance improvements

Our Land Transport team and contractors have been busy across the district keeping roads, walkways and footpaths safe and accessible. Along Lady's Mile more than 200m of new concrete footpath has been laid between Herrington Street and Te Waiora Community Health Service.

Traffic islands have been installed at the Tiro Tiro and Kawi Road intersection and temporary "New Road Layout" signage is in place to support motorists as they adjust to the new configuration.

As part of the annual reseal programme resealing has been completed on Cambridge Street and Hereford Street.

In Shannon, two new speed humps have been installed on Graham Street to discourage its use as a bypass from Plimmer Terrace and support safer local traffic movements.



Keeping parking fair as Horowhenua grows

Finding a carpark when you need one matters, whether you're visiting local shops, heading to an appointment, or supporting local businesses.

As Horowhenua grows and our town centres get busier, Council is introducing Aero Ranger, a new licence plate recognition tool designed to help keep time-limited parking fair and accessible for everyone.

This investment reflects Council's wider focus on delivering smarter, more efficient services while keeping affordability front of mind. Through careful budget reviews and operational efficiencies, Council has worked to reduce proposed rates increases while continuing to invest in practical tools that support essential services.

In the coming weeks, you may notice a Council vehicle fitted with camera equipment in town centres as the technology is installed and introduced. Aero Ranger uses cameras to monitor time-limited parking areas by recording licence plates, parking signage, and timing information. Any potential breaches are reviewed by a trained Council officer before enforcement action is taken.

The goal is simple: fairer parking, better turnover, and easier access to busy areas for everyone.

Already used by councils around New Zealand, this technology may also help Council better understand parking demand and plan for future growth.

Council recognises privacy is important, and more information about how the system works, including privacy protections and rollout timing can be found on:

horowhenua.govt.nz/LPR

Are you eligible for a rates rebate?

The fourth Horowhenua District Council rates instalment of the 2025/26 financial year is due to be paid by 15 June, and Council is encouraging ratepayers to check whether they are eligible for a rebate.

Your invoice will arrive in your inbox or letterbox within the next two weeks.

The Rates Rebates Scheme provides a rebate of up to \$805 for low-income earners who are paying rates for the home they were living in on 1 July 2025. Rebates will be calculated based on income, the number of dependents living with you, and the total amount of rates you'll pay from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026, including Horowhenua District Council and Horizons Regional Council.

Eligible households can have income up to \$32,210 and get the maximum rebate. Households getting more than this may still get a rebate, but it will be less than the full amount. SuperGold cardholders and their households can have income up to \$45,000 and get the maximum rebate amount.

To apply, you'll need proof of income (before tax) for the tax year ended 31 March 2025 (this includes any

interest at the bank), proof of your spouse/partner's or joint income if living together, and your SuperGold card, if applicable.

Applications for the 2025/26 year close on 30 June 2026. However, if you want your rebate applied to the fourth rates instalment, you must apply by 8 June 2026 to avoid penalties.

For more information and to apply, visit our Rating Information page.

horowhenua.govt.nz/rates



Proposed Solid Waste Bylaw 2026

Let's KŌRERO

We're inviting feedback on the proposed Solid Waste Bylaw 2026.

The Solid Waste Bylaw provides the framework for how waste is collected, transported, disposed of, and managed across the Horowhenua District.

We're proposing to carry over the current bylaw. Read why and share your feedback, go to letskorero.horowhenua.govt.nz/proposedsolidwastebylaw2026

Consultation opens on 4 May 2026 and closes at 4pm on 29 May 2026.

