

Community Connection

Issue 225 SEPTEMBER 2025



Message from the CE

Kia ora Horowhenua,

Voting is now well under way for the 2025 Local Body Elections – and you’ve got until 11 October to have your say. This is your chance to

choose who will represent you at the Council table for the next three years and to have your say in the binding referendum on Māori Wards. If you haven’t voted yet, take a moment to read the candidate profiles, watch their videos, and think about what matters most to you before sending your voting papers back.

It’s all about building the future we want for Horowhenua, and the work happening right now is part of that journey. That same sense of community is behind some of the big decisions we’ve made recently. Council has recently endorsed the Horowhenua Destination Management Plan – our shared roadmap for growing tourism in a way that celebrates who we are and looks after what makes Horowhenua special. By joining Regional Tourism New Zealand, we now have a seat at the national table and the partnerships we need to make this plan happen.

Council also endorsed the Levin Closed Landfill Management Plan – a 30-year aftercare plan to monitor, maintain, and improve the site together with iwi and our community, helping to protect our environment for generations to come.

And this week, Mayor Bernie and I attended the official sod turning for the Ōtaki to north of Levin (Ō2NL) highway project. This was a real milestone for our community. Together with the Minister of Transport, iwi, and project partners, we celebrated

the start of a 24-kilometre highway that will make travel safer, ease congestion, and open new opportunities for our district. Thank you to everyone who has supported this project over the years, your persistence has helped make this moment possible.

Earlier this week we hosted the launch of the Mana Kai Network, a Council and community-led initiative focused on improving access to healthy, affordable kai. It’s an important step in bringing local groups together to create lasting solutions to food insecurity. This network exists to connect and strengthen the many initiatives already underway across Horowhenua, to amplify voices, to support innovation, and to ensure every person in our district has reliable access to healthy, affordable kai.

Looking ahead, we’re working closely with Government following the announcement of funding for new passenger trains – sparking exciting conversations about the future of our station and potential upgrades. At the same time, we’re progressing the Ō2NL revocation process to plan future local roads and preparing tenders for key capital projects – including the Levin Wastewater Treatment Plant headworks and Queen Street stormwater upgrades.

Together, we’re building a connected, thriving and future-ready Horowhenua.

Until next time,

Monique Davidson

Monique Davidson
Chief Executive

Council Meetings



Horowhenua District Council Meeting

Wednesday 8 October 2025, 11am
Council Chambers, Horowhenua District Council,
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.

Important Notices

On 30 September 2025, following Council’s decision on 25 June and consultation with the community in April, the updated Dog Control Policy and Bylaw 2025 will come into effect.

The updates include changes to dog exercise, leash, and prohibited areas across the district, along with a refreshed Responsible Dog Owner Approval scheme. Other updates clarify requirements for managing menacing and dangerous dogs, and modernise the policy to make expectations clearer for owners and the wider community.

To view the bylaw and policy, visit the Civic Building on Oxford Street or visit our website.

🔗 horowhenua.govt.nz



Making Your Building Journey Easier

Planning to build or develop? Our team is here to guide you every step of the way - making the process as smooth and stress-free as possible.

While across the country the demand for consenting services continues a slight downward trend, Horowhenua is bucking the trend, with demand up 2% in the last year.

We know the process for inspections and consents can feel onerous, but every step is there to protect you, making sure any new building and development is built safely, meets quality standards, and is environmentally friendly.

You can find out more about the work we do by searching for building and planning on our website.

🔗 horowhenua.govt.nz

Here’s how we’re performing:



INSPECTIONS ON TIME: 100% of building inspections were completed within 3 working days of the date the customer requested last month. Well above the 80% Government target.



FASTER CONSENTS: Building consent times have nearly halved - down from 60 calendar days in 2022/23 to just 35 days this year.



COMMERCIAL INSPECTIONS: We’ve expanded our team, cutting wait times to less than half of last year’s - helping projects move forward faster.



SUBDIVISION ACTIVITY: 20 consents were approved in the past year — an 18% increase from the previous year.

**DON’T JUST DREAM.
VOTE TO BE HEARD.**

**VOTE
2025**
LOCAL ELECTIONS



**Voting closes at 12 noon
on Saturday 11 October.**

Find out more at:

🔗 www.horowhenua.govt.nz/elections



New Zealand CLEAN UP Week 19-25 SEPTEMBER 2025

This week is New Zealand Clean-Up Week and environment-conscious residents have been out and about carting rubbish away from our reserves, parks and beaches.

We've had clean-up days at Parikawau Reserve in Ohau, the Foxton Beach Bowl, Queen Street West near Kowhai Park and Gladstone Reserve.

It's really heart-warming to see so many people rolling up their sleeves to help keep our environment beautiful.

Last year ratepayers spent more than \$100,000 collecting and correctly disposing of other people's waste left in our green spaces and road reserves. We're hoping the community looks at alternative ways to recycle or dispose of their own rubbish.



Recycling is free and is not limited to the roadside collection service. If you are unsure where you can take your household items check out the helpful list on Council's website.

It's not too late to join in with Clean Up week activities. The final clean-up event happens this Sunday 28 September at Hokio Beach, starting at 10am.

Council will supply gloves and rubbish bags and suggest you wear covered shoes.

Whānau, friends and the wider community can help keep Horowhenua Beautiful all year round, outside of Clean Up week.

When waste is dumped, we all pay – do the right thing.

In the Works

Here's what we and our contractors have been working on around the district.

We've just started the last stage of replacing old water and wastewater pipes on MacArthur Street in Levin, moving on to the section between Bartholomew and Fairfield Roads. This has been a big project, which started in January. Thanks to residents and other road users for your patience.

Out on the roads, we've done pre-seal repairs on Kere Kere Road in Moutoa and Carter Road off the Foxton-Shannon Road, as well as Roslyn Road in Levin.

And just to show we don't want to keep you in the dark, our dedicated land transport team has been doing a night audit of road signs around the district to make sure they're reflective enough.



MACARTHUR STREET, LEVIN

We're inviting our Horowhenua community to be part of Imagine: Imagine, Spark, Create. An Exhibition. If you love to create, make, play, or experiment with art — we'd love to see your work!

This exhibition will be held at Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom from 15 November 2025 to 20 February 2026.

All mediums are welcome: collage, sculpture, photography, digital, mixed media, or something completely unexpected. We are looking for whimsy, joyful and imaginative work that will make exhibition visitors smile.

To submit your expression of interest, please email community@horowhenua.govt.nz with a short description of your artwork or idea. Images (if available) with your contact details.

Expressions of interest close on 24 October 2025.

Calling all
creatives

Age on the GO

**AN EXPO SHOWCASING SERVICES
AND ACTIVITIES FOR OLDER PEOPLE**

Friday 10 October 2025, 10am – 2pm

**Horowhenua Events Centre,
Victoria Street, Levin**

Come along to the biggest expo of its kind in Horowhenua to learn about activities and services which focus on good health, fun and support for older people.

horowhenua.govt.nz/AgeOnTheGo

FREE EVENT

Horowhenua
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Horowhenua
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Streamline
SWIM SCHOOL

**Speak to our friendly
customer service
team today to enrol!**

aquatics.horowhenua.govt.nz
[AquaticsHorowhenua](https://www.facebook.com/AquaticsHorowhenua)



Free Event

KORU BEATS

The youth of Horowhenua are hitting the stage at Koru Beats, showcasing rising talent from across the rohe.

Don't miss the chance to see these up-and-coming artists perform live for the first time!

**18 Saturday 18 October, 10am - 3pm
Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō**

Expression of Interest – Performers Wanted!
Are you under 25 and ready to share your sound?
Apply now to perform at Koru Beats!

Applications close Friday 3 October 2025
TeTakeretangaokura-hau-po.org.nz



Horowhenua
DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Te Takeretanga
o Kura-hau-pō**
Horowhenua Culture & Community Centre

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