



OUR PLACE

Ko Konei

Your Whakatane District Council
Community Update - May 2020

Unite
against
COVID-19

COUNCIL SERVICES

For full details on what Council services are available at Alert Level 3, visit whakatane.govt.nz

CONTACTING THE COUNCIL

Even at Level 3, Council offices remain closed to the public. If you need to contact the Council, you can:

- Call the Customer Services call centre on 07 306 0500
- Email info@whakatane.govt.nz or use our online form
- Log a request for service on Council's website – whakatane.govt.nz

THREE WATERS SERVICES

Your drinking water, waste water and storm water services are all provided with no disruptions.

A reminder to not flush wipes of any type! Remember to only flush the three Ps – Poo, Pee and (toilet) Paper.

If you are returning to a location where drinking water taps have not been used during lockdown, it's recommended that you flush your taps from an outdoor tap furthest from the road and any taps that you drink from. More detailed information is available on the Ministry of Health website.



RUBBISH AND RECYCLING



Kerbside rubbish and recycling

- Normal kerbside rubbish and greenwaste services will continue
- Yellow-lidded recycling bins can be put out on your normal recycling collection days; however, the contents will be taken to landfill.
- Green glass crates will not be collected. You can put glass in your rubbish bin or yellow-lidded recycling bin and it will be taken to landfill, or take it to the Whakatane or Murupara refuse station to be recycled.
- You can choose to keep your non-glass recycling at home, and deliver it to the refuse transfer station when recycling operations resume.

Refuse and Transfer Stations

The Whakatane and Murupara Refuse and Transfer Stations are now open at Level 3. However, there are a few things to note:

- Only EFTPOS and account holders accepted - NO cash transactions.
- Rubbish, greenwaste, concrete, tyres, whiteware and glass will be accepted.
- No recycling, other than glass, will be accepted.
- Only visit the transfer station if absolutely necessary - if you can keep your waste longer, please do so.
- Please follow instructions and signage, and be patient and kind to staff on site.
- All vehicle registration details will be recorded. Only one person is allowed out of each vehicle and physical distancing will be strictly enforced
- Do not bring any large items that require more than one person to move – staff on site will not assist.
- We can accept glass at the transfer station as it requires no manual handling, unlike at the kerbside.

BUILDING INSPECTIONS

You can now book a building inspection by calling 07 306 0500. Please have the consent number, type of inspection you need, site address, who will be on site and contact details ready.



FOOD SAFETY

Food premises verifications are postponed until further notice; however, food premises re-opening during Level 3 will be subject to a verification 'check'. If you want to re-open your food premise in Level 3, visit the MPI website for the requirements. When you have a plan, remember to let the Environmental Health team know via phone 07 306 0500 or email environmentalhealth@whakatane.govt.nz.

ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES



Our Animal Control team will continue to manage the Pound and respond to dangerous and wandering dogs. Remember your dog is part of your 'bubble'. Please keep your dog on a lead to avoid potential contact with other people and dogs while you're out walking. Be a responsible owner, and pick up any poo your dog leaves behind!

PLAYGROUNDS AND PUBLIC TOILETS



Arohama i te whānau – playgrounds and most public toilets are closed until further notice.

ROAD CLOSURE UPDATES

In partnership with Whakatane District Council, NZ Police and local iwi, several public roads were closed during Level 4. All roads are now open, but users must maintain physical distancing rules. If these rules are not followed, roads could be closed again during Level 3.



STEPPED APPROACH TO RECOVERY

Whakatane District Council has developed a plan to help the District withstand and recover from both COVID-19 and the earlier Whakaari / White Island eruption impacts.

The plan involves 13 initiatives that will be led mainly by the Council, but will require a strong partnership approach with Toi EDA, the EBOP Chamber of Commerce, the business sector, iwi and Central Government partners.

The plan aims to address short-term needs for the people who require it most, while planning for how best to support, rebuild and 're-imagine' the District in the long-term. The plan takes into account the Whakatane District's unique position, having experienced two major economic setbacks within months of each other, but also builds on our strengths and strong existing partnerships.

ECONOMIC RESPONSE TO COVID-19

PHASE ONE - Managing the Immediate Economic Impact

1. Council short-term response package
2. Connecting Needs & Resources

PHASE TWO - Understanding Medium-Long Term Economic Impact

3. Economic Forecasting
4. Business Surveying

PHASE THREE – Transition to Recovery

5. Review of Annual Plan/Financial Forecasts
6. Advocate for Government Support/Economic Stimulus packages
7. Advocate for recovery funding for Council costs

PHASE FOUR – Economic Recovery

8. Supporting continued employment
9. Training and Education
10. Unlock constraints to economic development
11. Reposition Tourism
12. Recovery for key industries
13. Business/ Employment attraction

Whakatane District Council Chief Executive Steph O'Sullivan says the Council has moved swiftly on the first phase as it understands the challenges being faced by businesses, individuals and families at this time.

"The Council is doing everything it possibly can to address these immediate issues for people by providing quick and effective relief while we work on longer-term solutions."

"Though the immediate recovery effort may seem daunting, we have an opportunity to re-imagine what the District's future looks like. Innovative thinking and a partnership approach will be key drivers to success.

Ms O'Sullivan acknowledges the business and community leaders who have already been in touch with Council and signalled their commitment to assisting with our local response.

Message from the Mayor

On behalf of the Whakatane District Council, I want to acknowledge the tremendous effort by our communities throughout Alert Level 4 to help control the spread of COVID-19. I know there were significant sacrifices made by all, especially essential workers, business owners, working parents and many others during lockdown, but the move to Level 3 this week proves the sacrifices were worthwhile. Thank you for your resilience and kindness – please continue to be kind and support each other over the coming months.

I would like to again recognise our Government for their leadership, swift action and clear communication during these challenging times. I'd encourage you to stay connected and keep up to date with advice from the government through the National Emergency Management Agency. You can visit covid19.govt.nz for all COVID-19 information.

Now that we have moved to Alert Level 3, there are several updates to Council services. However, all public facilities including Council offices, swimming pools, libraries, information centres, playgrounds and most public toilets remain closed to the public until further notice. You can find more information in this edition of Ko Konei, or by visiting the Council website.

Make the most of our wonderful open spaces and parks, but continue to maintain the two-metre physical distancing rule and keep your dog on a lead at all times.

You may see staff resuming some Council activities, including on-site water meter reading, parking enforcement, mowing of reserves, on-site building and food premises inspections – we want to ensure these essential services operate as seamlessly as possible. You can rest assured our teams will follow all health and safety guidance to keep themselves, and you, safe.

While we have made great progress, we are still on a journey, and we have a way to go yet. Please adhere to Level 3 rules, be kind to one another, and keep in touch with your friends and whānau to make sure they're okay – we're all in this together.

Kia haumarau te noho

Mayor Judy Turner

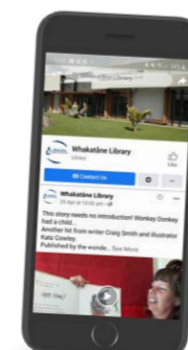


Whakatane Library offers a digital world for readers

Whakatane Library has plenty of digital options on offer for anyone craving a good book, with a huge range of audio books and e-books available at whakatane.govt.nz/library.

Collections and Content Coordinator Christine Whalley says following Whakatane Library on social media is also an excellent way to keep up with all library-related news and events, and enjoy some hilarious content posted by library staff.

"We love to connect with all our customers – and potential customers – so we can help you find the perfect reading material," she says. "Just because you can't come in to your local library, doesn't mean we're not hard at work making reading a wonderful experience for everyone."



NEED HELP?

If you, or anyone you know, is finding it difficult to access food or essential household goods – such as blankets – please phone

0800 884 222

for help. This service is available 7am-7pm, 7 days a week.

DOGS STILL PART OF YOUR BUBBLE AT LEVEL 3

A reminder that dogs must be on leads at all times, including in exercise areas that would normally allow dogs to be unrestrained.

Nothing changes in terms of dog control at Level 3. Walk with your dogs on a lead, pick up after them and do not let your children touch other people's animals while you are out walking. Please stay in your bubble and out of trouble.

