



OUR PLACE

Ko Konei

Your Whakatane District Council
Community Update - October 2021

Whakaahuatanga
Whakatane
Shaping Whakatane

Tell us what you think

Have you provided feedback on the Arotake Whakaahuatanga/Representation Review?

Submissions are open until
5pm Wednesday, 6 October.

This is your opportunity to help shape Whakatane in the future and ensure the Council representation structure fairly represents our communities. Tell us what you think via the online submission form, by emailing cindy.butt@whakatane.govt.nz or by completing a submission form in-person at Customer Services at the main Council building.

For more information on the Representation Review process, check out our website whakatane.govt.nz/repreview



McAlister Street watermain project update

Our contractors are commissioning the new water mains after laying the new pipe from Beach Street to Domain Road. This requires planned water shutdowns of up to six hours to allow for pressure testing, disinfection and flushing.

The shutdowns are occurring in stages, with contractors working their way south along McAlister Street towards Domain Road.

Residents, property owners and business owners will be informed by letter at least two days before any shutdowns. Efforts will be made to minimise disruption to businesses and schools - where possible, shutdowns will be carried out during the school term break or during weekends.

Thanks for your cooperation – this is a major project that will contribute to a reliable and safe water supply to meet the needs of our growing town centre for the next 60 years.

RUN YOUR TAPS – After shutdowns, you may experience fluctuations in water pressure or water that is cloudy/whiteish. This is usually due to some air trapped in water. We advise you to run your cold taps for a few minutes to clear any air from your system.

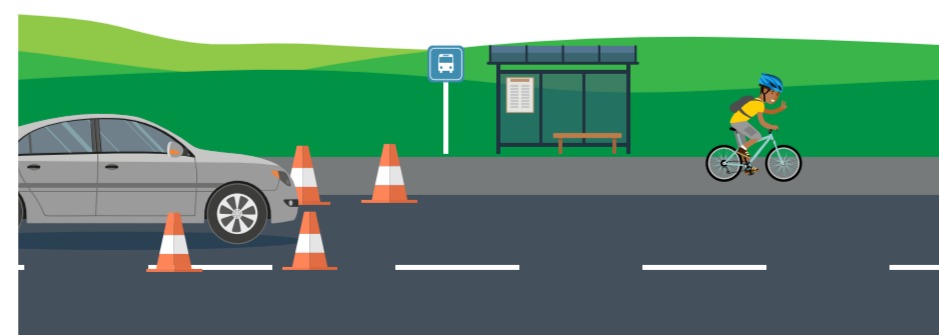
Major funding boost supports transport projects

Last month, Waka Kotahi – NZ Transport Agency approved a \$62.46 million funding boost for several Council transport investments over the next three years, including:

- \$42,791,662 for road maintenance, operations, and renewals
- \$4,060,243 for walking and cycling improvements
- \$10,297,233 for local road improvements
- \$78,000 for public transport infrastructure
- \$5,241,000 for Road to Zero low cost/low-risk projects

Council's Manager Transportation, Martin Taylor, greeted the investment as a big win for the district.

"We aim to provide a safe, reliable and sustainable transport system that is accessible to everyone and which caters to a variety of transport choices," he said. "Our district is growing fast, and it's important that we invest in our transport systems to ensure that our communities are connected and our economy continues to grow. This funding will allow us to press ahead with some very important projects that aim to achieve those goals."



He taputapu whakamataku manu

Audible bird scaring devices monitoring



Whakatane District Council officers will be monitoring the noise levels of audible bird scaring devices (ABSDs) in kiwifruit orchards until Friday, 8 October.

Many orchardists use a range of methods to scare birds away from their crops, including ABSDs. Some residents have informed the Council that the noise from ABSDs can be a nuisance. One of Council's responsibilities is to manage these types of activities and the impacts on communities.

The Whakatane District Plan sets out requirements for ABSD use, and this is being reviewed through the monitoring programme. An acoustic model has been developed to predict sound levels digitally. These results have been field-tested and will be available at whakatane.govt.nz/absd.

For more information, email info@whakatane.govt.nz or call 07 306 0500.



Kohi Point Lookout Road update



Contractors are still on track to complete the safety improvement project on Kohi Point Lookout Road by Christmas this year, after the start date was delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The road will be sealed, and a roadside footpath will be constructed. The footpath is due to be finished by the end of October, allowing walkers and cyclists access during the day. Currently, the road is only open during the evenings and weekends.

Thank you for your understanding while this important safety improvement mahi is underway.

Apply for your piece of the pie



Do you have an idea for a project aimed at increasing participation in the arts at a local level and increasing the range and diversity of arts available within Whakatane District communities?

If so, you have until Friday, 19 November to make application to the current round of the Whakatane District Creative Communities Scheme Funding.

Examples of initiatives that have been supported in the past, an application guide and the application form are all available at whakatane.govt.nz/creative-communities. We encourage applicants to contact Janie Storey on 07 306 0530 before submitting an application.

Council honoured to receive Trust Horizon Sustainability Award

Whakatane District Council elected members and staff were thrilled to have been awarded the inaugural Trust Horizon Sustainability Award at the Horizon Energy Group Business Excellence Awards in August.

The entry focused on the results of an energy management programme, introduced after an energy audit in 2018 identified approximately 26 percent of Council emissions were attributed to electricity and natural gas use, with 11 specific Council sites and facilities contributing the majority of the Council's energy use.

Strategy and Policy Committee Chairperson, Councillor Nándor Tánczos, says the award recognises the commitment Whakatane District Council has made to address climate change, for both the organisation and the wider Whakatane District communities.

"By identifying specific areas to implement changes, we've saved up to \$170,000 and 420,000kgCO2e," he said. "That's equivalent to the average annual carbon footprint of 14 New Zealand households."



Meet the team Kanohi kitea

Cindy Butt

Manager
Governance Services



What I love most about my job
The variety – no two days are ever the same.

What I find most challenging about my job
Governance can be a fairly dry subject that is often misunderstood and undervalued – until something goes wrong!

What I love about the Whakatane District
It's home, and close to whānau. I've recently returned from four years in the South Island and the Chatham Islands, and realised how much I missed the Eastern Bay ngahere (bush), beaches and warmer climate.

Each month, we'll introduce a Whakatane District Council staff member so you can 'meet' the team working for our communities.

Hobbies/interests outside work
I love the company of whānau and friends – even better when combined with good food, wine, music and a decent kanikani. My spare time is often spent doing farm mahi which is good for the soul – getting your hands dirty and doing physical work, and then I couldn't do without my daily beach walks with my kuri. In summer it's a daily swim or two at the beach.

Anything else to add?
A career highlight has been the establishment of Māori wards at Whakatane District Council. To be part of the journey to get us there was an absolute privilege. The experience of having the decision wrapped in a passionate public forum for and against, followed by a unanimous vote and spontaneous haka and waiata tautoko is a wonderful memory that will stay with me forever.