



OUR PLACE

# Ko Konei

Your Whakatane District Council  
Community Update - September 2021

Unite  
against  
COVID-19

## COUNCIL SERVICES

Now that we are in Alert Level 3, there are changes to some Council services and facilities. If you need to contact the Council, you can:

- Call the Customer Services call centre on 07 306 0500
- Email [info@whakatane.govt.nz](mailto:info@whakatane.govt.nz)
- Log a request for service on Council's website – [whakatane.govt.nz](http://whakatane.govt.nz)

### DRINKING WATER, WASTE WATER AND STORM WATER



Rest assured there are no disruptions to Whakatane District water supplies, waste water services and storm water management.

A reminder to not flush wipes of any type – including those branded 'flushable'! Sewerage systems nationwide are getting blocked as people continue to flush wet wipes.

Remember the three Ps – only poo, pee and [toilet] paper should be flushed.

## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

As I write this message we are on the verge of moving to Alert Level 3 after two weeks at Level 4. For many of us this won't mean huge changes to how we are currently living, but it will open up some freedoms such as takeaway food and coffee. Level 3 also allows for small gatherings of up to 10 people to go ahead, but only for wedding and civil union ceremonies, funerals and tangihanga. I expect this will come as some relief to those who have to navigate these types of major events at such a disruptive time.

My own experience is that it is often the simple things that make a big difference to the way we experience lockdown – whether it's a daily neighbourhood walk, the 1pm Covid-19 update, a shared meal, a family Zoom. Whatever it is that gets you and your family through this time, I wish you all the best, and send a reminder that there are always places you can go to for assistance. Please seek help if you think you need it.

On the Council front, all essential services are still being maintained. Under Level 3, most public facilities remain closed, but our transfer stations open again under a number of conditions. I would remind residents, though, that you should only visit the transfer station if absolutely necessary. If you can hold on to your waste longer, please do so. We want to continue to minimise movements and contact at this level as much as possible.

If you need more information on Council services please read the information in this edition of Ko Konei, visit the Council website or call our Customer Service Centre on 07 306 0500.

And finally, a sincere thank you to all our social services agencies, groups and individuals who are working behind the scenes to support our communities. You truly are the backbone of our society. These are trying times but we've been through this before and we will get through again. Take care of each other and stay safe in your bubbles – we're all in this together.

Kia haumarū te noho,  
Mayor Judy Turner



### WHAKATANE LIBRARIES

Our libraries are closed. If you have books on loan, please keep them at home until we re-open. You won't be charged overdue fines or extra rental charges.



Now is a great time to make use of our eLibrary resources – you can download books and audiobooks, including a great range for children. These are available free to all library members via the library website – [whakatane.govt.nz/library](http://whakatane.govt.nz/library). If you don't have a library card, you're very welcome to join as a digital member. This allows you to make full use of our eLibrary collection.

### ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES

Our Animal Control team continues 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.

### PUBLIC TOILETS

The majority of public toilets in our district are closed; however, some public toilets have been opened for essential service workers' use only:



- Matatā – Main Road
- Whakatane – Boon Street
- Ōhope – Mahy Reserve
- Te Teko – Eivers Park, SH30
- Tāneatua – Jack Knowles Park, SH2
- Murupara – Millennium Park

## Stay informed

Council's communication and engagement team is still on hand to keep you updated and informed, as well as answer media enquiries. You can keep up-to-date via Council's website, or on Council's social media platforms including Facebook and Instagram.



### PLAYGROUNDS

Arohamai e te whānau – all playgrounds, skate parks, cycle parks and exercise equipment remain closed until further notice.



### COUNCIL MEETINGS

All Community Board and Council meetings will be held remotely until further notice.

### RUBBISH AND RECYCLING

Your normal kerbside rubbish, recycling and greenwaste services continue as usual.



Whakatane and Murupara refuse transfer stations are open at Level 3 and will accept rubbish, greenwaste, concrete, tyres, whiteware, cardboard and glass (no other recycling).

Please maintain physical distancing rules, scan the QR code and wear a mask. Please note, no cash can be handled, so users must have EFTPOS or be account holders.

### REGULATION ACTIVITIES

Following COVID-19 risk management practices, building consent site inspections and noise control response will resume.



### COUNCIL PROJECTS

Contractors will resume some Council projects, including the McAlister Street watermain renewal and some roading work.

### BOAT RAMPS

All boat ramps in the Bay of Plenty are closed to recreational fishers until further notice. There will still be some dredging of the Whakatane rivermouth and commercial fishing activities.



This decision is made to help police enforce non-essential travel, and also to protect the safety of the Coastguard.

### AIRPORT

Whakatane Airport is closed, but will remain operational for emergency purposes only.



### CEMETERY AND CREMATORIUM

Cemetery grounds are open with restrictions, including only up to 10 people at funerals and tangihanga. The cemetery and crematorium are operational for burials and cremations, which must all be arranged through a funeral director.



Remember, the Government has also instructed you to remain within your own neighbourhood, so keep that in mind when making a decision whether or not to visit a cemetery.

### CAMPGROUNDS AND FREEDOM CAMPING SITES

On direction from the government, all campgrounds and freedom camping sites are closed to the public until further notice. Council staff have been working with NZ Police to accommodate freedom campers who found themselves unable to use these sites.



## Whakaahuatia Whakatane Shaping Whakatane

### PROPOSED NEW COUNCIL REPRESENTATION STRUCTURE

Whakatane District Council welcomes community members to share their thoughts on the new proposed Council representation structure. Every six years, Whakatane District Council is required by law to undertake a representation review to ensure people living in the area are fairly represented by their elected members.

Māori wards will now be part of the overarching Council representation structure. Several options were reviewed, and Council's preferred draft option is to keep the current structure of one Mayor and 10 Councillors, and keep the four current Community Boards.

There are some key changes within the proposed new structure, which are:

- separate General wards and Māori wards
- seven General ward Councillors and three Māori ward Councillors
- from four General wards to three General wards
- three Māori wards

Find out more information about the initial proposal and tell us what you think via our website – [whakatane.govt.nz/repreview](http://whakatane.govt.nz/repreview)

Submissions are open until Wednesday, 6 October.