

OUR PLACE

Ko Konei

Your Whakatāne District Council
Community Update - August 2024

Tell us what
you think
about different
projects we're
working on!

Long Term Plan adopted

The Whakatāne District Long Term Plan 2024-34 and supporting documents are now adopted, and the rates are set. The Long Term Plan process took longer than usual due to the coalition government's U-turn decision that local councils needed to include Three Waters costs in their budgets.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to give feedback so the Mayor and Councillors could make decisions on your behalf. Councils are currently facing the biggest inflationary increases in a generation, and your Mayor and Councillors have had to grapple with balancing current needs and planning for the future.

Due to the delays, the first rates bill will be due later than normal too, on Friday 20 September. If you're a ratepayer, you can expect to receive your bill (in the post or via email, depending on what you've chosen) in the first week of September. However, the second bill will still be due in November like it normally is.

There are lots of parts that make up the Long Term Plan, including decisions around the four key questions that were in the consultation phase. The Mayor and Councillors also decided to introduce fees at the Murupara Resource Recovery Centre (formerly the Refuse Transfer Station) from 1 February 2025 for a 12-month trial period. We'll be sharing more details around this soon. You can find out more at whakatane.govt.nz/ltp

We understand that some people are struggling with the cost of living. If you think you might need some help paying your rates, please get in touch with the Council so they can work through some options with you. You might be eligible for a discount through the Department of Internal Affairs' rates rebate scheme.

You can do this via
koreromai.whakatane.govt.nz
or come and see us at 14 Commerce Street.

CURRENT PROJECTS:

- Whakatāne District Tree Strategy – closes 5pm Thursday, 5 September
- Draft Public Places Bylaw and Freedom Camping Bylaw – closes 5pm Friday, 13 September



New Chief Executive appointed

Steven Perdia has been announced as the new Chief Executive of Whakatāne District Council. Mr Perdia is currently the Council's General Manager Strategy and Transformation, having joined the organisation in July 2021.



Mayor Victor Luca says "I'm delighted to be able to announce this appointment. I've found Steve to be a highly dedicated General Manager with a good sense of humour, which I consider a good foundation on which to further build our working relationship, for the good of the communities we serve."

Steven says he is fortunate to be able to 'hit the ground running' and continue to grow the many relationships he has formed through his current role. "I'm grateful to have been given the opportunity to lead an organisation that I know is committed to delivering the best outcomes for Whakatāne District communities, and supporting Council to achieve its vision."

When not at work, Steven is a keen musician who has played in bands throughout the years and enjoys listening to his collection of 500+ vinyl records. He also likes football (with a round ball), collecting things, and carrying out building projects. "I grew up in Hamilton and my whakapapa is Croatian. My work has taken me to Wellington, Christchurch, Sydney and even Antarctica, but after owning a section for over 10 years, my wife and I have finally built on it and now love calling the Bay our home."

Council votes to retain Māori Wards

The Mayor and Councillors were unanimous in their decision at the Council hui held on Thursday, 15 August to retain Māori Wards for the 2025 elections.

To read more check out the website >> whakatane.govt.nz/news

Whakatāne - Ōhope Community Board Update

Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board members recently attended the Community Boards Conference in Wellington where board members spoke about the 2019 Whakaari eruption response. They also discussed the importance of community boards in each rohe.

The Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board is also delighted to have helped fund the Whakatāne Kerala community Onam celebration, which is an annual harvest festival.



For further information, visit
whakatane.govt.nz or phone 07 306 0500

