



**I, Kitea Tipuna, Tumu Whakarae Chief Executive, hereby give notice that  
Infrastructure Committee Meeting will be held on:**

**Date:** Tuesday, 5 April 2022  
**Time:** 1.30pm  
**Location:** Council Chamber, Wairoa District Council,  
Coronation Square, Wairoa

# **AGENDA**

## **Infrastructure Committee Meeting**

### **5 April 2022**

**MEMBERSHIP:** His Worship the Mayor Craig Little, Cr Chaans Tumataroa-Clarke, Cr Denise Eaglesome-Karekare, Cr Hine Flood (Deputy Mayor), Mr Chris Olsen

The agenda and associated papers are also available on our website: [www.wairoadc.govt.nz](http://www.wairoadc.govt.nz)

For further information please contact us 06 838 7309 or by email [info@wairoadc.govt.nz](mailto:info@wairoadc.govt.nz)



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- 1 KARAKIA**
- 2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 3 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**
- 4 CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- 5 LATE ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**
- 6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A maximum of 30 minutes has been set aside for members of the public to speak on any item on the agenda. Up to 5 minutes per person is allowed. As per Standing Order 15.1 requests to speak must be made to the Chief Executive Officer at least one clear day before the meeting; however this requirement may be waived by the Chairperson. Requests should also outline the matters that will be addressed by the speaker(s).

**7 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Ordinary Meeting - 22 February 2022

**MINUTES OF WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL  
INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL, CORONATION SQUARE, WAIROA  
ON TUESDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 2022 AT 1.34PM**

**PRESENT:** His Worship the Mayor Craig Little (via zoom), Cr Chaans Tumataroa-Clarke, Cr Denise Eaglesome-Karekare (via zoom), Cr Hine Flood (Deputy Mayor), Mr Chris Olsen (via zoom)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** **Kimberley Tuapawa** (Pouwhakarae – Pārongo/Wheako Kiritaki | Group Manager Information and Customer Experience), **Gary Borg** (Pouwhakarae – Pūtea/Tautāwhi Rangapū | Group Manager Finance and Corporate Support), **Stephen Heath** (Pouwhakarae – Hua Pūmau Hapori/Ratonga | Group Manager Community Assets and Services), **Simon Mutohori** (Pouwhakarae-Whakamahere me te Waeture | Group Manager-Planning & Regulatory Services) **Mike Hardie** (Kaiwhakahaere Hua Pūmau Huarahi | Transport Asset Manager), **Jonny Hardie** (Kaiwhakahaere Kaupapa – Whaipainga | Project Manager – Infrastructure), **Karen Akuhata** (Kaiwhakahaere Whaipainga | Utilities Manager), **Richard Grimmett** (Kaiurungi Matua Rawa | Senior Property Officer), **Gay Waikawa** (Kaiurungi Mana Ārahi | Governance Officer)

**1 KARAKIA**

Karakia was given by Cr Chaans Tumataroa-Clarke

**2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Nil

His Worship the Mayor noted an apology from Te Tumu Whakarae, Chief Executive, Mr Kitea Tipuna.

**3 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

None.

**4 CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

**5 LATE ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

**6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

**7 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2022/70**

Moved: His Worship the Mayor Craig Little

Seconded: Cr Denise Eaglesome-Karekare

That the minutes [and confidential minutes] of the Ordinary Meeting held on 14 December 2021 be confirmed.

**CARRIED**

**8 GENERAL ITEMS****8.1 3 WATERS STIMULUS PROJECT UPDATE****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2022/71**

Moved: Cr Hine Flood

Seconded: His Worship the Mayor Craig Little

That the Committee receive the report.

**CARRIED**

The Councillors discussed:

- Alternate funding.
- Moving of funds.
- Long term plan.

The Pouwhakarae – Pūtea/Tautāwhi Rangapū | Group Manager Finance and Corporate Support provided clarity on the upgrade to the waste water treatment plant and the surrounding infrastructure was contemplated in the Long Term Plan whereas the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) stimulus funds and each timing it was treated as a parallel programme and tried to look at cost escalation. Looked to remove what could be ring fenced so there will not be any half completed projects at the end of the DIA programme.

As it stands this \$million has been transposed from the DIA programme into the Draft Annual Plan 2022/23 and it would be loan funded.

The Independent member, Mr Chris Olsen advised it is not unusual to have cross over runs and scope changes particularly when do not get enough time at the start and learning for the future.

**8.2 UPDATE ON LIBRARY ARCHIVES REDEVELOPMENT****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2022/72**

Moved: Cr Chaans Tumataroa-Clarke

Seconded: Cr Denise Eaglesome-Karekare

That the Committee receive the report.

**CARRIED**

Elected members discussed:

- Mana whenua.
- Cultural design.
- Impressive design.
- Project scope.

**9 PUBLIC EXCLUDED ITEM****RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2022/73**

Moved: Cr Chaans Tumataroa-Clarke

Seconded: Cr Hine Flood

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting at 2.03pm.

The general subject matter of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48 for the passing of this resolution
<b>9.1 - Community Assets and Services Department - Update</b>	s7(2)(b)(ii) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information  s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry out,	s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7



	without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities	
CARRIED		

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2022/74**

Moved: Cr Chaans Tumataroa-Clarke

Seconded: Mr Chris Olsen

That Council moves out of Closed Council into Open Council at 2.25pm.

**CARRIED**

**The Meeting closed at 2.26pm with a karakia by Cr Chaans Tumataroa-Clarke**

**The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on 5 April 2022.**

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**CHAIRPERSON**

## 8 GENERAL ITEMS

### 8.1 3 WATERS STIMULUS PROJECT UPDATE

**Author:** Jonny Hardie, Kaiwhakahaere Kaupapa-Whaipainga Project Manager-Infrastructure

**Authoriser:** Stephen Heath, Pouwhakarae – Hua Pūmau Hapori me te Ratonga Group Manager Community Assets and Services

**Appendices:** 1. Appendix 1 - Project Tracking Spreadsheet [↓](#)

#### 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report provides information for Committee on the Three Waters Stimulus package.
- 1.2 No decisions are required by Committee at this stage.

#### RECOMMENDATION

The Kaiwhakahaere Kaupapa-Whaipainga Project Manager-Infrastructure RECOMMENDS that Committee receive the report.

#### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 This report forms a summary only of projects “at a glance”. Additional reports will continue to be provided where further direction is sought from Infrastructure Committee.

#### 3. DIRECTION

- 3.1 This section will outline the direction that Infrastructure Committee & Council provide CAAS. It will outline how projects align with Council’s direction and how these projects are being delivered in line with relevant policies and strategies i.e. Infrastructure strategy, procurement guidelines, AMPs, LTP, Annual Plan.

- 3.2 **Delivery Plan** - 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020, Council Meeting.

Resolution: That Council approve the 3 Waters Reform tranche one and delegate the Chief Executive Officer to spend the grant funds.

- 3.3 **Memorandum of Understanding** - 11<sup>th</sup> August 2020, Extraordinary Council Meeting.

Resolution: Agreeing to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Crown, agreeing to participate in the initial stage of a central/local government three waters service delivery reform programme and authorising the Chief Executive to enter into the Funding Agreement, to accept a grant from the Crown to spend on operating and/or capital expenditure relating to three waters infrastructure and service delivery.

#### 4. MONITORING

- 4.1 This section will refer to the project dashboard at Appendix 1. Any project areas such as budget or delivery that are highlighted Amber or Red in the dashboard will be commented on here.

- 4.2 Some major projects are coming to an end. Overall cost to complete and remaining budget to be summarised prior to Christmas.
- 4.3 An extension of time has been granted. The new completion date is 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022.
- 4.4 The omicron outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic is beginning to cause significant resourcing issues. These are being mitigated as best as possible, however delays are inevitable.

- 4.5 **Opoutama Wastewater Upgrade:** The upgrade includes three parts: *underground wastewater storage tanks to allow the self-contained vehicle waste station to reopen; treatment plant upgrade to improve treatment quality; expansion of the discharge field beside the plant.*

The storage tanks have been installed with a monitoring system and are still operating well.

The main plant was commissioned prior to Christmas and the latest treatment results taken by WaterSolutionNZ show the scheme is fully compliant. However, the most recent storm event (24-25 March 2022) saw a significant amount of silted stormwater inflow in to the system. The impact of this is still being determined.

The discharge field expansion work has been completed and commissioned. It is operating well.

A community hui was held with the Opoutama community on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2022 regarding the planting/restoration project planned for the reserve adjacent to the new disposal field area. The community agreed with the project in principle. Planting preparation is now underway which will be followed by community planting days.

- 4.6 **Toby Replacement / Smart Meter Programme:** Fulton Hogan have completed approximately 1500 toby replacements in Wairoa, Tuai and Frasertown, out of approximately 1600. This project is expected to be completed in June.
- 4.7 **Achilles St Water Main Replacement:** Thrusting of all 460m of water pipe has been completed. Valve work continues along Achilles St which includes new fire hydrants and connections to existing pipes servicing Kitchener St, Black St and Lucknow St. Resourcing issues have impacted this project with Fulton Hogan's Napier crew unable to deliver to the agreed timeframes. A second crew was brought in from Gisborne, however they had to return to assist with the flood response (24-25 March). It is expected they will return, however further delays are likely. The project is expected to be completed sometime in May 2022.
- 4.8 **Wairoa Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade:** Foundation construction for the new inlet screen has been completed by QRS. The new screen has arrived on site and has been fixed in position, however final cutover commissioning is dependent on the electrical upgrade, expected to be completed in June 2022.
- 4.9 **Wastewater Pipe Renewals / Relining:** PipeTech's last visit to Wairoa for relining was completed at the end of February 2022. This saw five years' worth of business-as-usual relining work completed in approx. 18 months which was a great achievement. The relining of the failed Mahia Rising Main is now scheduled for 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022, due to delays in the product arriving from overseas.

QRS are making slow progress in completing the final tasks of the Scott Street sewer main project. Work should be completed in April; following that they will move to Browne St.

- 4.10 **Wastewater Pump Station Upgrades:** Pump station upgrades are progressing well with 3 out of 4 new gantries commissioned. Generators are expected to be installed between now and June.
- 4.11 **Regional Projects:** WDC is collaborating with other Hawke's Bay councils on a Private Water Supply Assessment project. The purpose of this project is to provide an initial view in to the quantity of private water suppliers in our district, and what the new regulations mean to these people. This project will be completed before June 2022.
- 4.12 See below in Risks for the identified risks of the Three Waters Stimulus Projects. This is as per the latest quarterly report to DIA delivered in early October.

## 5. RISKS

- 5.1 This section will refer to the project dashboard at Appendix 1. Any risks outlined will be summarised with mitigation actions outlined. This will focus on the high or extreme risk levels.
- 5.2 **COVID-19 & completion date:** An adjustment to the March 2022 completion date has been confirmed by DIA via Crown Infrastructure Partners, with the new date for completion being extended to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

The Covid-19 pandemic, particularly the most recent omicron outbreak, is beginning to cause significant issues and affecting project completion. Several crews have been self-isolating due to requirements for people with the virus, and also their close contacts. We are working closely with contractors to mitigate this risk as best as possible. So far all projects are still scheduled to be completed within the next 3 months.

- 5.3 **Overspend & Underspend:** Due to very tight time frames to both scope and deliver projects of this DIA Stimulus package, it is a constant juggling act and an ever-present risk.
- 5.4 Quarterly reporting to the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) identifies all key risks to the project. The next report is due mid-April 2022, where risks related to the latest Covid outbreak will be explained in more detail.

## 6. RESOURCES

- 6.1 This section will discuss levels of resourcing such as budget, equipment, contractors or staffing.
- 6.2 Three full time Council staff have been employed through this stimulus package.

### 6.3 Funding received:

Upfront (50%)	\$5.52m
September 2021	\$0.84m
December 2021	\$1.95m
March 2022	\$1.77m
TOTAL TO DATE:	<b>\$10.08m</b> (\$960,000 remaining)

- 6.4 Programme completion date is now forecast to June 2022. There are likely to be some ongoing project adjustments. Department of Internal Affairs understand this and are comfortable with unders and overs, i.e., some projects costing more and some projects costing less, resulting in the total funding not being exceeded.
- 6.5 Project resources are stretched due to the isolation requirements of the Covid-19 pandemic. This is being mitigated as best as possible. Currently all projects are still scheduled to be completed prior to June 2022.
- 6.6 Several work packages are being delivered through our existing three waters contractor Fulton Hogan. Their size and presence allow access to further resource if required, which will help mitigate any project delays. QRS has been involved in several projects, utilising their skilled local workforce.

**Signatories**

 	
Author Jonny Hardie	Approved by Stephen Heath

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**8.2 3 WATERS UPDATE**

- Author:** Karen Akuhata, Kaiwhakahaere Whaipainga Utilities Manager
- Authoriser:** Stephen Heath, Pouwhakarae – Hua Pūmau Hapori me te Ratonga Group Manager Community Assets and Services
- Appendices:**
1. Art Competition [↓](#)
  2. Water Articles [↓](#)
  3. Pump Station Rag and Wetwipe Blockages [↓](#)

**1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 This report provides an update to the committee on Tuai pH issues, Art Competition and our comms campaign. No decisions are required by Committee at this stage.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Kaiwhakahaere Whaipainga Utilities Manager RECOMMENDS that Committee receive the report.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Tuai pH update
- 2.2 Pump Station Art Competition Update
- 2.3 Communication/Education Campaign

**3. TUAI PH**

- 3.1 The Tuai pH issues have been largely resolved, with only one marginal non-compliant result since we initially reported the issue.
- 3.2 The total cost to remediate the sand beds was 17.9K and involved removing the top layer of sand and scarifying the beds, then topping up the beds with new sand.
- 3.3 The discharge consent is not due for several years, and with the reforms still underway, a permanent solution is not being investigated just yet.

**4. ALEXANDER PARK PS ART COMPETITION**

- 4.1 The Alexander Park PS art competition has finished.
- 4.2 Participants had the option to vote at the library, on Facebook and also through our website, with Facebook being the most popular choice
- 4.3 Total engagement on Facebook totalled over 600 comments and reactions and in total we received 417 votes. There were a number of winners including Nuhaka School who got their children to vote.
- 4.4 The winning art piece was Sea Spray and Bush. The work is now nearing completion and will be ready for installation soon.

**5. COMMS CAMPAIGN**

- 5.1 We have just finished our 2021 comms campaign.

- 5.2 Using messaging like the below and attached, we attempted to target different demographics of our community, whether they are connected to a scheme or not. As an example the below was specifically targeted at tamariki and was used in the art competition campaign.

*"Have you ever wondered what happens to the water that goes down the drain when you have a shower? When you pull the plug after doing the dishes? Or flush the toilet? This water is now dirty water and needs to be cleaned before going back into the environment.*

*Dirty water or sewage is all used water from our homes, schools, hospitals, supermarkets and other workplaces.*

*Each time you flush the toilet, wash your hands, brush your teeth, have a shower, and wash your clothes the dirty water goes into a sewer pipe buried deep beneath your house. When the dirty water leaves your home the pipes take it to a pump station to be pushed to the treatment plant for cleaning before being put back into the environment.*

*If you live in Frasertown, Nuhaka, Raupunga or on a farm, you probably won't have pipes that connect to a treatment plant. Your dirty water will be stored in a big tank buried somewhere near your house, and every few years a big truck will come along and collect all the dirty water in the tank and take it to the treatment plant for cleaning before going back into the environment"*

- 5.3 The 3ps message, in particular, has been a success. Historically contractors would attend multiple jobs weekly due to pumps blocked with rags and wet wipes. Over the last two years, we have installed signs in all the public toilets and have done comms numerous times, and since August 2021, the contractor has only cleared one rag blockage.
- 5.4 The 2022 campaign will begin shortly. The first comms will be about the Mahia Beach wastewater scheme. We have been receiving complaints where issues have been avoidable and are sometimes private. We have found that new homeowners don't fully understand the system or their responsibilities. Comms will outline these responsibilities again.
- 5.5 Our Environmental Engineer has joined the wider Hawkes Bay Group for Stormwater education planning. The group is led by HBRC and is an opportunity to share resources and costs.

### References (to or from other Committees)

Wairoa Youth Council, 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021, Alexander Park Pump Station

Infrastructure Committee, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021, Tuai pH wastewater

Infrastructure Committee, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021, Alexander Park Pump Station





## 1 - SEA SPRAY AND BUSH



# WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR LOO...

## Boost bacteria and prevent blockages



*Much like your stomach, septic tanks need good bacteria and enzymes to break down the solids that pass through it.*

*In the Wairoa district, many local residents, particularly rural people, rely on septic tanks for their wastewater. Residents at Tuai and Mahia Beach also have a wastewater system that operates in a similar way to a septic tank system.*

*Residents are being urged to look after their septic tanks and wastewater systems by boosting the good bacteria and preventing blockages.*

*Flushing only pees, poos and toilet paper down the toilet is a key message.*

*To avoid blockages and break-downs, residents are being asked to follow septic tank guidelines to ensure the system can work at an optimum level.*

*Septic tanks are a living ecosystem where bacteria do the work of digesting and treating waste. The bacteria break-down waste solids and it is important to create and maintain a healthy environment for this to occur.*

*Certain chemicals and cleaning agents will kill the bacteria and microorganisms that break-down the waste and will cause the system to stop working.*

### Do's



Use biodegradable detergents and cleaners.



Use water-based cleaning products.



Use phosphate free products. Check the labels and look for 'NP' symbols on cleaning products which indicates they do not contain phosphates.



Make your own cleaning products from cheap everyday household items such as Baking Soda which deodorises and scrubs without scratching, lemon juice which cleans, bleaches, and deodorises and vinegar which deodorises, kills germs, and cleans.



### Don'ts



Avoid foaming or solids drain cleaners. Harsh chemicals in these products severely damage septic tank bacteria. Try using boiling water or a drain un-blocker instead.



Do not put anything non-biodegradable down into the system.



Do not put grease or fat into the system.



Do not use the toilet or sinks as a rubbish disposal. Coffee grounds, cigarette butts, dental floss, nappies, earplugs, paper towels or sanitary items should not be flushed away in a toilet or washed down the sinkhole.





## HEAVY METAL MAY BE A GREAT MUSIC GENRE FOR SOME, BUT IT IS NOT GREAT IN WATER.



Wairoa's drinking water is treated well above the New Zealand drinking water standards. However, the Ministry of Health advises everyone throughout New Zealand to keep their drinking water safe by always flushing water through the plumbing pipes before drinking.

Safe water is vital for good health.

Flushing the pipes removes any water that has settled in the household pipes overnight or during long gaps between tap use where metal particles from the pipes can be picked up by the water.

In New Zealand, the heavy metals that dissolve in drinking water for plumbing fittings are lead, nickel, cadmium, and copper. It is a concern if any heavy metals are ingested, either via water, food or air.

If consumed in minute amounts the health risk is small. However, heavy metals can build up in the organs of your body and high levels can be harmful to your health. Infants, children, and pregnant women are more susceptible to the toxic effects of heavy metals. Lead is the main heavy metal which can get into drinking water. This also poses the greatest health concern as lead cannot be removed from the body and can build up in the skeleton and damage nerves and organs. It should be noted Wairoa has never had any sign of lead in its water.

The Ministry of Health recommends people run their water tap and flush away a glassful of water each morning or when the taps have not been used for several hours. This simple precaution is for all water supplies, both public and private.



# STORM WATER

**“Be part of the solution, not the issue”**



Rain is a naturally occurring component of the water cycle.

Rain is needed as a source of fresh water and is essential for the survival of humans, plants and animals. In Wairoa the average annual rainfall is just over 1000 mm.

When rain does not soak into the ground it becomes stormwater runoff which is a major contributor to the pollution of water ways.

Stormwater is not treated before it runs into waterways and it can harm plants and animals and affect the health of people using waterways for recreation or food gathering.

In undeveloped areas stormwater runoff is naturally filtered by soil and grasses as it soaks into the ground.

As development occurs there are more solid surfaces, such as roads, buildings, pathways, creating a need for manmade stormwater pathways, such as underground pipes, drains and ditches, to transport the water to prevent flooding.

Polluted stormwater runoff is a significant contributor to waterway contamination. As stormwater moves across developed areas it picks up litter, automotive fluids, sediment, debris, chemicals, fertilisers, leaves and pollutants from parking lots, yards, and roads.

These pollutants run into waterways damaging habitats and killing wildlife.

It is everyone's responsibility to make sure that stormwater runoff is as clean as possible to help keep our waterways, river and ocean free of pollution

A lot of the rubbish that we see built up in drains and ditches has originated from people throwing rubbish out of the window of their car or dropping litter in the streets and it being washed into drains.

Acting responsibly in our day-to-day activities can positively contribute to the health of our awa.

## WHAT CAN WE DO?

- Always dispose of rubbish/recycling responsibly
- Don't litter and pick up litter you see on the ground (even if it is not yours)
- Pour soapy or dirty cleaning water on the lawn and wash your car on the lawn rather than on a concrete driveway so the water can soak into the grass - soil helps to filter and breakdown pollutants

- Never dump anything in the stormwater drains or ditches -this will end up straight in the river
- Pick up your pet's waste and dispose of it in a bin. Pet waste adds harmful bacteria to our water that can make it unsafe to swim or play in
- Check your car for leaking fluid and store chemicals well to prevent leakage down the drain
- Increase vegetated areas on your property and vegetate bare spots on your lawn to prevent the exposed soil from being washed away
- If you have to weed spray, make sure it is a fine, warm day to ensure the spray is absorbed by the plants before rain can wash it into waterways





# PROTECTING OUR FOOD CHAIN

## BE PART OF THE SOLUTION, NOT THE ISSUE

With the whitebaiting season due to open on August 15, it is a timely reminder that the ecosystem within the Wairoa River is significantly affected by human activity and stormwater runoff.

The Wairoa River has always been an important source of food for the community that grows on its banks.

The Wairoa estuary is a nursery ground for flounder, short and long-finned eels, and inanga (whitebait). Other kaimoana found in the estuary include pipi, cockle, and historically freshwater mussels.

The Wairoa River lends itself to premium whitebaiting spots with generations of local whānau setting up their jetties and scooping up the tasty delicacy.

Wairoa was originally a Māori settlement. The ancestral canoe Tākitimu travelled up the river and landed near where the Tākitimu meeting house now sits. Wairoa is named after the river, 'Te Wairoa Hopupu Honengenenge Matangi Rau' which translated means 'the long water which bubbles, swirls and is uneven'.

The Wairoa River is 65 km long and has the largest catchment area in Hawke's Bay at 1,415 square miles (3,660 km<sup>2</sup>), which includes Lake Waikaremoana.

The river has had a powerful impact on Wairoa's history, from 1948 when the traffic bridge was submerged by the river in one of the largest recorded flood flows for any river in New Zealand to the 1988 Cyclone Bola event which saw the central span of the town's bridge washed away by the floodwaters.

However, now the river and its eco-system, is facing its biggest challenge yet - stormwater pollution.

Stormwater is when rain or water runs into waterways picking up rubbish and pollution as it makes its way across the ground into waterways.

Many contaminants are accidental, like a small oil seep, animal excrement, detergents, cigarette butts and plastic. Rubbish which ends up in the river can be consumed by aquatic life and end up in the food chain which can affect the health of humans when they eat contaminated fish.

The chemicals found in one cigarette butt can leach out and contaminate approximately 7.5 litres of water within one hour. This contaminated water is lethal to small crustaceans and other aquatic life.

Microplastics have been found in many seafood species. Plastic can wrap itself around fish, eels eat it, and organisms can choke on plastic, get stuck in plastic bottles or suffocate.

If the current rate of plastic consumption continues, scientists expect the ocean will contain one tonne of plastic for every three tonnes of fish by 2025, and by 2050, the ocean will contain more plastic by weight than fish.

In New Zealand approximately eight million tonnes of rubbish and plastic waste ends up in the ocean every year.

In Wairoa we recognise the active approach we are seeing from our local people to protect our awa.

We look forward to working in partnership for generations to come so we can fish for our future.





# CREATE YOUR OWN NATURE JOURNAL IN TE REO MĀORI



## WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

- Cardboard (eg, a used cereal box) cut into a size slightly bigger than A4 – this is for the outside sleeve.
- Selection of A4 paper (try out different colours) making up the pages.
- Elastic band, string, or ribbon to hold it together.
- Glue, stapler, or tape.
- Pens, coloured pencils.

## HOW TO MAKE YOUR JOURNAL:

1. Fold the cardboard and A4 pages in half along the long edge.
2. Arrange the pages so the cardboard is on the outside of the journal.
3. Secure the fold with a rubber band or string.
4. Decorate your nature journal. Don't forget to put your name on it too.
5. Work together to put the journals together and decorate them.
6. Label the items you have collected. Have a go at doing this in Te Reo Māori.
7. Most importantly have fun and hopefully learn something new about our beautiful environment.

## EXPLORING WAIROA

As you explore, collect natural objects to keep in your journal, such as fallen leaves, seeds, flowers, bark, twigs. If you have a camera, take photos of plants, animals or objects that interest you.

Record your observations in the journal in writing, drawings, or leaf rubbings. Challenge yourself to record all your findings in Te Reo Māori.

## GET HELP IDENTIFYING THE MĀORI TRANSLATION:

### ONLINE RESOURCE:

<https://www.tetaurawhiri.govt.nz/assets/Resources/2018/3ff2ada297/Phrasebook-Kia-Kaha-Te-Reo-Taiao-DOUBLESREAD.pdf>



# IF THE RIVER HAD A VOICE

Picture if you will, a river flowing free  
So clear and pristine, how spiritual that would be.  
Flowing from the mountain, to the coast, to the sea  
The stories it would tell, of the things it will see.

Families gathered on the bank, enjoying this special gift  
Of swimming, fishing and having fun, spirits to uplift.  
Collecting food or firewood, memories to hold and love  
This is our taonga, a treasure from above.

Now imagine if you will, a river void of life  
No splashing or having fun, but a river now in strife.  
The sadness it will feel, a river now of tears  
Take heed of its plight, its sorrow and its fears.

If the river had a voice, what would we hear  
I need protection and tender loving care.  
I am a living being, a mauri, a life force of the land  
So I now ask of you, give me a helping hand.

It may tell of rubbish, the pollution along the way  
How it stems the flow, how can this be okay?  
It may tell of flooding, the debris it will leave  
Potential devastation, chaos to believe.

If we all work together, in response to this call  
To ensure that our river, is healthy for one and all.  
Look after our waterways, guardians if you may  
Make our river safe again, with that a brighter day.

What is our legacy, for our future yet to come  
To bring back the laughter, the fishing, and the fun.  
Make the right decision, be aware of what we do  
The river is us, and us the river too.



*Duane Culshaw*

### Litter catching trial

Catching litter before it gets out to sea is a driver of a 'LittaTrap' trial being conducted by the Wairoa District Council.

Two LittaTraps have been installed at busy sites within Council's stormwater network. The trial project is aimed at better understanding the volume of rubbish that is getting into Wairoa's waterways from our stormwater runoff.

LittaTraps are a simple, cost-effective net that fits inside a stormwater grate, trapping plastic and other litter that would otherwise be carried by stormwater straight into the river and out to sea.

The traps are designed by the company 'Enviropod', world leaders in the development of stormwater treatment solutions and the prevention of marine plastic pollution.

Stormwater that runs across the pavement can pick up all sorts of pollutants and rubbish which then flows into the nearest stormwater drain.

LittaTraps are installed to sit within curbside stormwater drains so instead of the rubbish making its way into the river, the LittaTraps capture litter, leaves and other gross pollutants preventing them from entering our awa.

Maintenance is simple and LittaTraps can be easily cleaned out and the rubbish disposed of appropriately.

Group Manager Community Assets and Services Stephen Heath said the aim is to reduce the amount of rubbish getting into our waterways. Rubbish is responsible for the degradation of our beaches and waterways and stormwater runoff from existing piping infrastructure in our town flows untreated into our marine environment and can have negative effects on water quality and marine life.

"We have heard from other organisations which have had great results from LittaTraps and if they prove as successful in Wairoa as they have elsewhere, we will install more traps within our stormwater system.

"The LittaTraps will be monitored over the next few months studying the volumes of rubbish caught and the main types of pollutants. This will help to build a better understanding of areas where we as a town can improve and reduce pollutants getting into the waterways."

**Caption:** A LittaTrap trial aimed at catching rubbish before it gets into Wairoa's waterways is being carried out by the Wairoa District Council.





November 2021

# WATER CONSERVATION

## SIMPLE WAYS TO SAVE WATER IN YOUR HOME



Use a water efficient flush toilet



Fix dripping taps as soon as possible



Take a quick shower, aim for 5 minutes or less



Choose a water efficient washing machine



Find and repair pipe leaks



Keep a jug of water in the fridge to save running the tap until its cold enough to drink



Water plants during the coolest part of the day



Use a cup of water when brushing your teeth rather than running the tap

## WATER CONSERVATION THAT YOU CAN DO THIS SUMMER

Water conservation is extremely important, particularly as we move into the warmer summer months and there is less rainfall. Reducing unnecessary water usage during summertime is key to ensuring the community has enough water to last throughout the season.

In Wairoa, the Water Treatment Plant extracts and treats 1.2 billion litres of water every year for the Wairoa community to drink and use. More than 2,000 properties are connected to the water network.

The Wairoa District Council has been focussing on water preservation and aims to reduce water loss down to just 3% which would create 5-7 days of water supply in the town's reservoir.

In 2017, water loss was recorded at 52% which meant less than a day's water storage in the town's reservoirs. Wairoa's current water loss is recorded at around 15%.

Reducing water loss and building resilience is the aim of new water supply technology being introduced throughout the Wairoa township. Less than 2% of the Earth's water supply is fresh water so it is very important to look after what we have available to us.

Around 2,500 household connections are being fitted with new compliant water toby systems with a back flow prevention manifold and smart meters which will improve the understanding of water consumption and water loss.

### *Water Conservation Tips:*

*Turn off the Tap:* Turning off the tap when you are brushing your teeth can save thousands of litres of water a year.

*Manage water flow:* Turn the tap on part of the way when you wash your hands, you'll still get enough water to wash your hands with and you won't get splashed.

*Fix Leaks:* Fix leaking taps and running toilets promptly. One dripping tap at two drips per second can use 1,300 litres per month, and one running toilet can easily use 150,000 litres in one month.

*Being smart in the kitchen and laundry:* Nearly a third of all household water is used in the kitchen and laundry and much of this water is wasted. Choose appliances with high water efficiency labelling to reduce water wastage. Use the eco-settings to save water and energy.

*Use the plug:* Part-fill the sink to scrape and rinse off dishes before putting them in the dishwasher rather than running the tap the whole time.

*Take showers not baths:* Cut down your showers to five minutes or less, and if you can, choose a shower over a bath. The average five-minute shower uses 45 litres of water, while a bath can be 100 to 150 litres of water per fill, depending on the water depth.

*Fill a jug:* During summer keep a jug of cold water in the fridge so you don't have to run the tap for ages to get your water to run cold enough for a drink.

*Toilet:* Check for leaks in your toilet. Do this by adding a few drops of food colouring inside the toilet tank and wait. If it appears in the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. You can save up to 2.5 million litres of water (35,000 bathtubs) a year by fixing your leaky loo.

*Only flush the 3 P's:* Poo, Pee and Paper. Don't use the toilet as a rubbish bin by flushing tissues or other bits of rubbish that should be put in the bin.

*When watering the garden:* Water your garden in the cool of the morning or evening as this won't cause leaf burn and will reduce the amount of water evaporated. Remove weeds and use as mulch, as they compete with your plants for water.



OCTOBER 2021



## **BE A CONSCIOUS CONSUMER THIS CHRISTMAS**

**OVER CHRISTMAS KIWIS SEND AN EXTRA 50,000 TONNES OF WASTE TO LANDFILL**

**HELP US REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF WASTE WE SEND TO LANDFILL THIS HOLIDAY BY USING SOME OF THE BEST FESTIVE SEASON TIPS FOR REDUCING YOUR WASTE AND BE A CONSCIOUS CONSUMER THIS CHRISTMAS**



## BE A CONSCIOUS CONSUMER THIS CHRISTMAS

In the week after Christmas, New Zealanders send an extra 50,000 tonnes of waste to landfill. This is enough waste to fill over 14,000 twenty-foot shipping containers, which, if staked on top of the other would stretch 105 times higher than the Sky Tower.

The good news is that it doesn't have to be this way.

Here are some of the best festive season tips for being a better consumer this Christmas. Even if you can't do all these tips, being more consumer conscious, this Christmas holiday will help to reduce our waste production.

### 1. Gifts and Wrapping

- Making gifts at home is a great alternative to buying. Ideas for this includes wooden gifts, preserves and baking, sewn, and knitted or crocheted items.
- Giving 'experience' gifts rather than material items.
- Spreading the low waste living message, gift a 'zero waste' starter pack to help your family and friends reduce their waste each day. Items in this pack could include reusable cloth produce bag, reusable takeaway cups, drink bottles, metal straws and beeswax wraps.
- Wrapping paper is expensive, often non-recyclable, and resource-intensive to produce. Alternately, try wrapping you represents in materials that are both upcycled and/ or composable, such as newspaper or reuse old wrapping paper or cloth bags.

### 2. Christmas Dinner Pre-Plan

- Plan meals a head of Christmas so that you can buy what you need, and you can have a plan for your leftovers too.
- Make your own Christmas Crackers out of upcycled toilet paper, three toilet rolls and some string. This has the added benefit that you can put whatever you want in it- great activity for kids over the holiday as well.
- Over the festive season, use real plates and cutlery rather than disposables.

### 3. Christmas Decorations

- As much as we love glitter and tinsel, these shed millions of micro-plastics into the environment. Swap these out of natural decorations, such as flowers, pinecones or leaves. You could also make paper chains and fabric bunting and you can reuse these each Christmas.

### 4. Before going away this summer, get to know your destination

- Check out the local council websites for what is and is not recycled in the local area, and how the recycling system works (be prepared to take you recycling home with you).

### 5. Be prepared – fill your life with reusables

- Whenever you are out and about it's a great idea to carry reusable items, whether they are kept in your car or in a day bag you will always be prepared to be sustainable. This will help you to swap out wasteful items with reusable coffee cups, cloth bags, a container for takeaways and metal straws.

### 6. Food on the go

- Take homemade and/or unpackaged snacks around with you rather than buying pre-made snacks in a packet. Some great options include homemade crackers and muesli bars, fruit and nuts and pick and mix from supermarkets.
- You can wrap your food in reusable cloth bags, paper bags or beeswax wraps instead of using Glad Warp or zip locks.

Let's do what we can to enjoy the Christmas holidays while being kind to the natural environment whose beauty allows us to rejuvenate and recharge at the end of every year.

Merry Christmas.



February 2022

# ALL THINGS WATER



In Wairoa, the Water Treatment Plant extracts and treats 1.2 billion litres of water every year for the Wairoa community to drink and use. There are more than 2,000 properties connected to the water network.

You might think you are pretty solid, but 65% of your body weight is water. If you lose just 1% of that water you feel thirsty. Lose 10% or more, this can be fatal. Humans can only survive three days without water.

The average person tends to use more than 200 litres of water per day.

How to reduce drinking water wastage:

- Take shorter showers
- Check for leaks in pipes
- Run full loads of laundry and dishes
- Check your toilet for leaks using a dye test in the toilet tank



Stormwater comes from rain and it the water that does not soak into the ground before surface runoff. Stormwater runoff becomes polluted as it flows along roads, car parks and eventually into the nearest waterway.

Stormwater is not typically treated before entering a waterway and this contaminated water can be lethal to small aquatic animals. The chemicals found in one cigarette butt alone can contaminate approximately 7.5 Litres of water within one hour.

How to reduce stormwater pollution:

- Never dump anything down the stormwater drain
- Wash your car on your lawn rather than the driveway
- Reduce impervious surfaces; install permeable pavement instead
- Reduce driving; try taking a bike or carpooling once a week



Wastewater is water that has already been used. So, when you flush your toilet, drain your sink, or your washing machine you are getting rid of wastewater that you have used.

If your home doesn't have a septic tank then your wastewater is pumped to your local Wastewater Treatment Plant where various processes occur to clean the sewage and water so that it can be returned to the environment.

How to look after our Wastewater Treatment Plant:

- Only flush the 3 P's down your toilet (Pee, Poo and Paper)
- Cut down on the volume of wastewater by reducing your water consumption
- Reduce the amount of harsh chemicals used in your home
- Reuse water where you can, such as watering your garden or washing your car



# WAIROA'S WATER



## WHERE DOES THE WATER COME FROM?

Wairoa townships water is sourced from the Waiau River which rises in the rugged Urewera National Park and flows southeast to join the Wairoa River near Frasertown. The drinking water supply provides water to a population of approximately 5,000 people in Wairoa and Frasertown. Being used all over the town, such as schools, the hospital, commercial buildings, shops, and households. AFFCO Wairoa freezing works consumes around half of the towns water supply.

From the Waiau River around 1.2 billion litres are extracted per year to meet the needs of Wairoa, Frasertown and AFFCO. With an average of flow rate of 7,000 m<sup>3</sup> of water being treated each day. This river water undergoes treatment at the Frasertown Water Treatment Plant to remove any bugs before being pumped to the Boundary Reservoirs where the water is finally distributed to the Wairoa township and AFFCO Wairoa. This scheme is run and managed by qualified staff from the Wairoa District Council.

## TREATMENT PLANT HISTORY:

The Wairoa water supply scheme was built in the 1940's where the supply was mostly untreated, apart from sedimentation naturally occurring in the tanks. This is where particles in the water settle out of the water and drop to the bottom of the tank due to gravity. Further expansion of the plant occurred in the 1980's with a sand filter being installed. The plant now has been upgraded to carry out four processes to treat the water.

The aim of water treatment is to remove contaminants or reduce them to a concentration that means the water is safe to drink. Contaminates include sediments and pathogens, such as bacteria, viruses, salts, and toxins.

## THE TREATMENT PROCESS:

1. Coagulation and Flocculation- The two processes neutralise the charges in the particles floating in the water, this then enabled them to bind together, and drop to the bottom of the tank, this is called sedimentation.
2. Chlorination- This process inactivates the microorganisms in the water preventing them from replicating.
3. Sand filtration- Used for the removal of suspended matter as well as floating and sinkable particles.
4. UV- This last treatment step uses Ultraviolet wavelengths to scramble the DNA of living organisms in the water so they can no longer reproduce and make people sick.

Regular sampling of the water leaving the treatment plant is critical to keeping a good handle on the quality of the water. This is carried out by the fully qualified staff who are IANZ certified. National water treatment ratings for Wairoa's drinking water quality sits at 7 Log Credit, which is high for the age of the plant, with most plants around New Zealand only averaging at 5 Log Credit.

The Water treatment plant operators do an amazing job at always supplying Wairoa with great quality water all year around for everyone to enjoy.





APRIL 2022

# THE 3 P'S

## ONLY FLUSH THE 3 P'S – PEE, POO AND PAPER

Flushing anything other than the 3P's- pee, poo and toilet paper- may result in a sewer overflow in your home, or a blockage known as a 'fatberg' in our sewers.

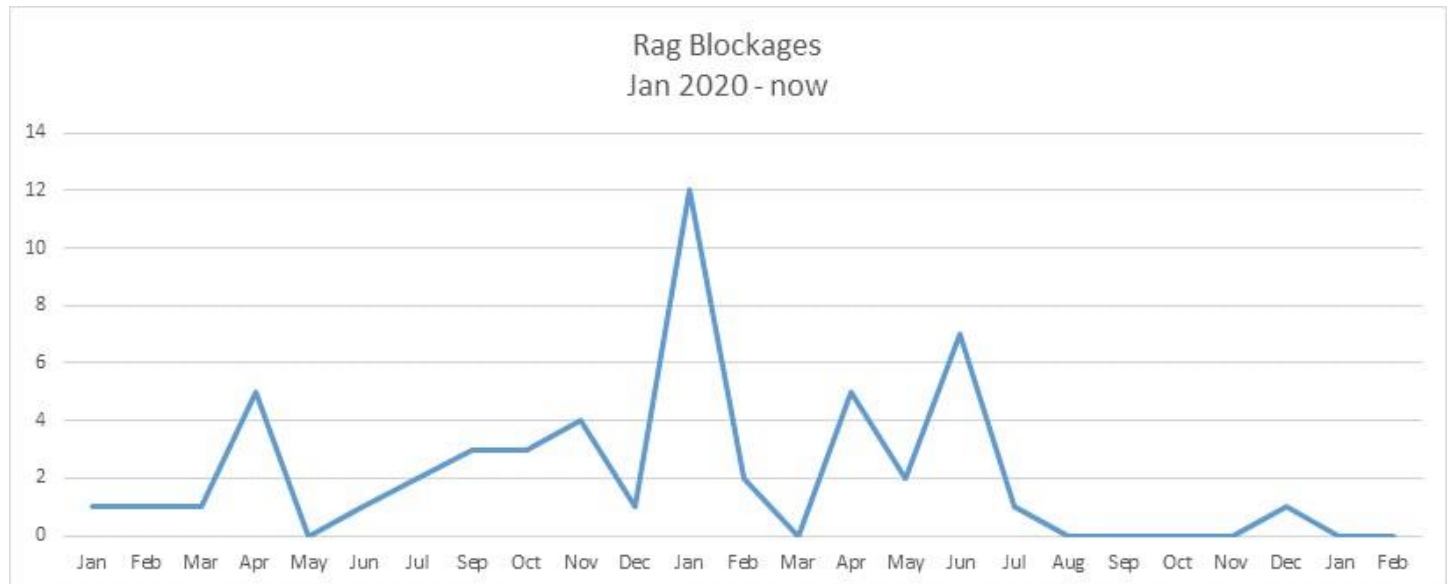
Every year, water utilities remove hundreds of sewerage system blockages caused by wipes and other rubbish. This build-up of flushed rubbish can also cause significant damage to your household pipes and lead to overflows in our natural environment.

All this damage and cost are completely avoidable.

Wipes, even those labeled as flushable, do not break down as efficiently as toilet paper. The best way to dispose of wipes, face tissues and cotton buds is in the bin.









**9 PUBLIC EXCLUDED ITEMS****RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC****RECOMMENDATION**

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject matter of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

<b>General subject of each matter to be considered</b>	<b>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</b>	<b>Ground(s) under section 48 for the passing of this resolution</b>
<b>9.1 - Community Assets and Services Department - Update</b>	s7(2)(b)(ii) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information  s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities	s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7