

Tuia Taitonga Southlink



He karere tā te Kaunihera o Taranaki ki te Tonga News from the South Taranaki District Council

South Taranaki

LONG TERM PLAN
2024-2034



Open for consultation until Monday 6 May. Find out more at southtaranaki.com/longtermplan

Have your say!

- www.southtaranaki.com/longtermplan
- Email longtermplan@stde.govt.nz
- Hard copy feedback form
- Phone 06 278 0555 or toll free 0800 111 323

Upcoming Meetings

Extraordinary Council

To hear submissions on the Trade Waste Bylaw
Monday 13 May, 2pm

Ordinary Council

Monday 13 May, 4pm

Risk and Assurance Committee

Wednesday 15 May, 11am

Extraordinary Council

Long Term Plan Hearing

Monday 20 May, 9am

Extraordinary Council

Long Term Plan Hearing

Wednesday 22 May, 3pm

Unless specified, meetings are held in the Council Chambers, Administration Building, Albion Street, Hāwera.

Time running out to have a say on Council's Long Term Plan

Consultation closes on Monday 6 May

Consultation on the Council's 2024-2034 Long Term Plan proposal closes at 5pm on Monday 6 May.

South Taranaki Mayor, Phil Nixon and Deputy Mayor Robert Northcott have presented the Council's proposal at more than 15 community sessions across the District, including an online presentation.

Mayor Nixon says increased spending on roads and wastewater infrastructure, and a commitment to getting on with town centre upgrades in the District's smaller communities were some of the big-ticket items presented in the draft 10-year plan.

"The District is on an upward trajectory and the Council's draft Long Term Plan is about maintaining that momentum while also doing what's needed to look after the District's assets," says Mayor Nixon. "In previous feedback, our residents told us they want to see better roads, our towns' amenities and gardens looking good and an improved dog control service. In response, over the next three years, we're proposing to increase our roading expenditure, we have committed to continuing town centre upgrades in Hāwera, Manaia, Eltham, Ōpunakē, Pātea and Waverley, and have budgeted to increase resources in the animal control team."

"The big challenge for us is how we afford to do this at a time when local government is facing unprecedented cost increases. Like households and businesses across the country, Council is facing increased costs for the things we buy.

"This means we need to pay more just to keep doing what we are already doing, without adding anything else," says Mayor Nixon. He says the Council worked tirelessly to find savings across all activities to keep the rates increase as low as possible in the proposed plan. This has included reducing budgets for the Hāwera Town revitalisation project, tourism, and events, delaying some non-urgent capital project works, increasing borrowing and increasing the amount Council's Long Term Investment Fund subsidises rates each year by an additional \$350,000. Despite this, the average total rate increase for the 2024/25 Year is 11.29% with an average rate increase over the next ten years of 5.47%.

"We know the rate increase will be really hard for a lot of ratepayers. It's higher than we want and higher than we've had over the previous ten years, but it reflects what it costs to simply maintain existing services while ensuring our critical infrastructure meets our community's needs and Government requirements," says Mayor Nixon. "If we don't maintain our assets well, they will cost us more in the long term if we have to replace them sooner than expected or all at once. You don't have to look hard to see places around the country where years of underinvestment by councils has led to unacceptable infrastructure failures and we don't want South Taranaki to be in that situation."

Small Garden Tool Workshop



Friends of Hāwera Parks along with David Bruce are holding a 'Hands On Small Garden Tool Workshop'. Bring along

your favourite hand tool, maybe your secateurs or spade and have a go! Meet at King Edward Park Observatory, Wednesday 8 May, 9.45am. All welcome!

Impounded Stock

Section 49, Part 8 of the Impounding Act 1955

1 x billy goat black/grey/white with horns approximately 2-years-old found wandering in Pātea on Saturday 27 April 2024.

The goat will be sold by public auction at the South Taranaki District Council Pound, Beach Road, Hāwera on 9 May 2024 at 9am, or otherwise disposed of in accordance with the Impounding Act 1955 unless claimed by the owners.

What is driving rates rises?

LGNZ commissioned Infometrics to analyse increases in the local government costs that are driving rates rises. They found costs for councils were up 20% across the board. The following essential services are, on average, more expensive than three years ago:

Civil construction costs are up

27%

The cost to build bridges is up

38%

Sewerage systems are up

30%

Roads and water supply systems are up

27%

According to Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) of 48 Councils surveyed almost 80% are proposing rate increases above 12%, with the average being a 15.3% increase.

Rates Due

Ratepayers are reminded that the last day for payment of the fourth instalment of rates for 2023/24 without incurring a penalty will be Wednesday 29 May 2024.



www.southtaranaki.com

Ph: (06) 278 0555 or 0800 111 323