

# Southlink

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



Unite  
against  
COVID-19

## Be kind, be patient and support each other



We are living in unprecedented times. When becoming Mayor I did give thought to the fact one day I could be working with the community through an emergency situation. Never did I think it would be as part of a National

State of Emergency that we are seeing now with COVID-19.

**It is vital that we follow all instructions being given out by authorities.** We can and will get through this but it does mean those not working in essential services must stay at home and stop all interactions with others outside of their household.

**This will put a lot of strain on families and test relationships.** For families, please use it as a time to do some of the good basic things together that don't always happen these days as we are all so busy. There is

a huge amount of craft activities on the internet which can be created out of materials that you will already have at home. Cook with the whole family and start a roster of whose turn it is to cook a meal a day. Get the garden up to date. Show the teenagers how to check the oil and water and change a tyre on the car.

**Please be kind to each other** – we are all feeling the pressures of this. Think of the elderly and those home alone. These people may need to have some groceries or medicine delivered, which could be done by your “nominated” supermarket shopper.

**Make a phone call, skype, Facetime and email people** throughout this isolation to make sure you are still communicating and supporting each other. As a community we are in this together.

**Spare a thought for those who still need to go to work to keep the vital needs functioning.** The medical workers, emergency service workers, civil defence staff, council staff keeping water, sewage, rubbish and roads running, supermarket staff, truck drivers, essential trade workers, farmers, dairy and meat processing workers - to name but a few. These people are in a lot of cases having to self-isolate from families during this lockdown.

It is very unsettling for all of us and a lot of what we are seeing in print is not always helping our anxieties. People are going to be affected in so many ways, there is stress and panic from people getting wrong information – follow what are the actual facts from the Ministry of Health and DHB – the government has a one-stop-shop website for all information and advice about COVID-19. Use this website [www.covid19.govt.nz](http://www.covid19.govt.nz) rather than other sources.

Practice good personal hygiene, wash hands regularly, use hand sanitiser, be serious about physical distancing. Do not panic buy in supermarkets – there is enough of all to go around if purchased in a normal way. It's important as a community that we continue to unite against COVID-19, be kind to each other and provide support to our friends, whanau, colleagues and those in the community. Continue to enjoy life but just do it in different ways.

While we will be separated physically, we will come out the other side of this by working together. Above all be patient and be kind to people, we are all affected and feeling the pains of this unprecedented event.



Phil Nixon  
Mayor of South Taranaki

## Keep up-to-date

**Websites** - [www.covid19.govt.nz](http://www.covid19.govt.nz) and [www.southtaranaki.com](http://www.southtaranaki.com)  
**Facebook** - like 'South Taranaki District Council', 'Uncovid - South Taranaki' and 'Unite Against Covid-19'  
**Antenno** - join Antenno! Visit [www.southtaranaki.com](http://www.southtaranaki.com)

## What you need to know about Council Services

### RUBBISH AND RECYCLING KERBSIDE COLLECTION

- During the lockdown, we are only collecting general waste. Your red-lidded wheelie bin will be collected on your normal collection day.
- We're encouraging people to compost their green waste, food scraps and store other recyclables for now, but you can put them in the red lid general waste wheelie bin if you can't.
- We can't process glass at this time. Please stockpile this and do not throw it in the red-lidded bin.

### TRANSFER STATIONS

- Transfer Stations will be operating during their normal opening hours, but this will be reviewed.
- Please pay fees by eftpos as we will not be taking cash during this time.
- The 24/7 recycling bins have been removed. Recycling will still be taken for free during operating hours - but will be sent to landfill. Please stockpile recycling if you can.

### LIBRARYPLUS CENTRES

- LibraryPlus Centres are closed.
- Please do not return any library items until further notice. Don't worry - we have turned off all fines
- If you don't have a library card for accessing online services, email or phone us and we can set it up.
- If you've got an account you can't use because of fines - we've removed them for you.

- We can help you access eBooks and eAudio and more - contact us by phoning 0800 111 323 or email [librarycontact@stdc.govt.nz](mailto:librarycontact@stdc.govt.nz)

### PUBLIC TOILETS

- Our 38 public toilets will be kept open. Our toilets will be regularly cleaned, so people can use them while getting fresh air, but stick to the physical distancing and alert level rules.

### PLAYGROUNDS

- There is no way for us to close down the district's playgrounds. However, there is an expectation that the public don't use the equipment.

### LAND INFORMATION MEMORANDUMS (LIMS)

- Land Information Memorandums (LIMs) can still be ordered but will only be provided electronically. Please practice patience at this time, as preparing these documents may take longer than usual.

### ANIMAL SERVICES

- At this stage, our Animal Management service will run as per normal. Please call 0800 111 323 if you need to make a service request.

### BUILDING

- We are still processing Building Consents. Please be

aware that these might take a little bit more time to process than usual.

- Inspections for work that is not related to essential services and critical infrastructure, or required immediately to maintain human health and safety at home or work will not be undertaken until the restrictions are lifted.
- Enquiries can be directed to [building@stdc.govt.nz](mailto:building@stdc.govt.nz)

### PLANNING AND RESOURCE CONSENTS

- We are still processing Resource Consents electronically. Please be aware that these might take a little bit more time to process than usual.
- Enquiries can be directed to [planning@stdc.govt.nz](mailto:planning@stdc.govt.nz)

### WASTEWATER

- Please do not dispose unsuitable items down the toilet (eg. wet wipes)

### CONTACTING COUNCIL DURING THE LOCKDOWN

- Call us on 0800 111 323 or (06) 278 0555
- Email [contact@stdc.govt.nz](mailto:contact@stdc.govt.nz)
- Visit [www.southtaranaki.com](http://www.southtaranaki.com)
- Like 'South Taranaki District Council' on Facebook
- Download the Antenno app to send through customer requests from your cellphone, and to receive messages from council. Visit [www.southtaranaki.com](http://www.southtaranaki.com) to find out more.