

Tuia te Taitonga tāpiringa

Southlink Extra

Summer 2022



Welcome to Southlink Extra

Welcome to the Summer edition of *Southlink Extra*. This quarterly newsletter complements our Council *Southlink* publication, which appears weekly in the Taranaki Star and provides another way for us to keep you informed about what the Council is doing in our District.

Elections 2022 – are you enrolled?



Now is the time for you and your whānau to get enrolled for this year's Local Body Elections. This is your opportunity to choose who will represent you in the South Taranaki District for the next three years.

In this election, there will be two new Māori Ward Councillors elected from Te Kūrae Māori Ward and Te Tai Tonga Māori Ward.

Our District will be represented by the Mayor, 11 general ward councillors, two Māori ward councillors and 16 community board members. If you have never enrolled to vote before, are 18 years or over, and a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident of New Zealand, you can scan the QR code to the left, contact the

Electoral Commission or visit www.southtaranaki.com/vote2022 for more information on how to enrol.

The next local body elections will held be on Saturday 8 October 2022, by postal vote. It is important that you have your say in who represents you by voting in the local body elections.

If you are community minded, now is also the right time to consider being a candidate in the local elections. Nominations open in July. Visit www.southtaranaki.com/vote2022 for more information about standing for this year's election.

Triennial Property Revaluations Delayed



Every three years, all properties in the District are valued to help Council assess annual rates. The latest valuations were completed by QV to reflect market value as at 1 September 2021. Due to unforeseen circumstances, there has been a delay with the auditing process, but you should get your property's valuation at the end of February 2022.

Keep in mind that a big increase in your property's value doesn't necessarily mean a proportionately big increase for your rates. When rates are set on 1 July each year, the Capital Value of your property is only one of

several elements that help us work out how much you pay in rates. Also, the total amount of rates collected does not change as a result of the total value of properties in the District. Put simply, your rates will only be affected if your property value has increased (or decreased) by more (or less) than the average movement across the District. There will be a period where property owners can object to their valuations and the new rating values will not be used for rating purposes until 1 July 2022 when the new financial year begins.

Whakapā mai / Contact us

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The easiest way to stay up-to-date



The fastest and easiest way of hearing about Council news is by downloading the free mobile app Antenno.

Antenno sends you alerts and notifications about places and topics you care about. It doesn't ask for any personal information or log in details, so it's a nice easy way to stay informed.

There are two ways you can use Antenno

to receive notifications from Council about the places you have marked as important to you, or reporting back to Council on issues or feedback. Other ways to stay up-to-date

like and follow our Facebook page. Simply log in to www.facebook.com and search for 'South Taranaki District Council'.

Head to our website

www.southtaranaki.com



Call us 24/7 0800 111 323



www.southtaranaki.com



www.facebook.com/SouthTaranakiDistrictCouncil

Everyone needs to do their bit to save water - every little bit counts



New consent conditions around the District mean water restrictions are likely to be our new normal - not just in South Taranaki, but the whole of New Zealand.

These new conditions are all part of the government's freshwater reforms, which have a greater focus on preserving the health and vitality of our streams and rivers than previously. We are fortunate in that we've got enough water to go around, but not enough to waste.

We just need people to conserve, fix leaks, use water wisely and not be wasteful. If we can do that, we can protect the health of our streams and rivers. Visit www.southtaranaki.com/waterconservation to find tips and hints on how to use water wisely.



Council Joins Campaign Against Central Government's Three Waters Decision

In December, Council joined a group of 23 councils opposed to central Government's Three Waters Reforms.

South Taranaki Mayor Phil Nixon says Councillors were unanimous in their support for signing a Memorandum of Understanding to partner with councils to oppose the Government's proposed reform model in favour of other three waters options that meet the needs of community, councils and government. As part of joining, Councillors agreed to contribute \$15,000 to the campaign.

Mayor Nixon says the Council decided to join the campaign after Government ignored requests to change its decision. "While we accept there are some things that need changing, what really upset us and many of our ratepayers was Government's decision to force councils to be part of the Three Waters Reform without any consultation. We were consistently told by the Government that there would be opportunity for full public consultation on this hugely important matter. But now, after the majority of councils asked the Government to pause and rethink, they ignored us and took the decision making completely out of our hands. It's wrong and it's anti-democratic," he says. "Subsequent requests we've made to



the Government to change their decision and consult with the public have fallen on deaf ears, so perhaps the combined voice of 23 plus councils will be more successful."

Mayor Nixon says in all his years as an elected official he's never seen so many residents so angry over a single issue. "Given the Government hasn't provided opportunities for genuine participation in the Three Waters Reform, we think it's entirely appropriate for our Council to use all means at our disposal for representing the residents of South Taranaki and giving them a voice."

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