

Tuia te Taitonga tāpiringa

Southlink Extra

Summer 2024



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.

Fortnightly waste collection in Oct '24

South Taranaki District councillors agreed on a fortnightly urban kerbside collection service, with weekly food scraps collection, an Extraordinary Council meeting held in November last year. The decision, which won't be implemented until October 2024, was made as part of adopting the Council's Waste Management and Minimisation Plan and followed public consultation which saw 777 submissions received.

South Taranaki Mayor Phil Nixon said the decision wasn't easy given the near even 50/50 split between those wanting weekly and fortnightly collection.

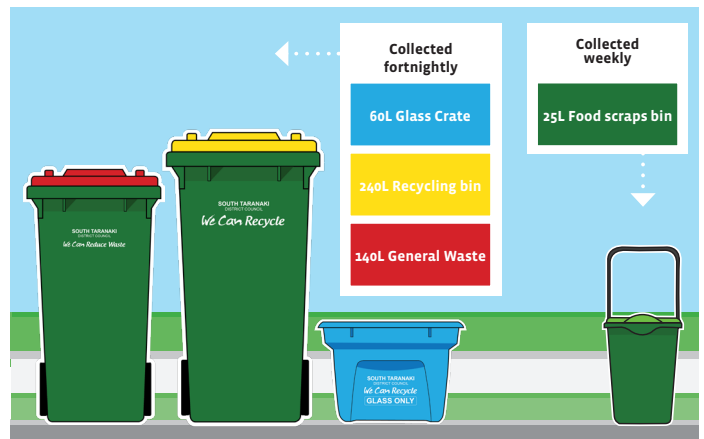
"Ultimately, we felt the fortnightly option provided the best balance between keeping costs down (fortnightly was considerably cheaper than weekly collection) while encouraging people to send less waste to landfill," says Nixon.

Councillors also decided that residents would be able to purchase an extra general waste bin if they had special circumstances (such as larger families).

Currently, South Taranaki residents send around 120kgs of waste per person to landfill each year, which is 30kgs more per person than New Plymouth residents.

"Part of the reason for that is New Plymouth's kerbside waste is only collected fortnightly, with food waste collected weekly. We also know that about 60% of what we're putting in our rubbish bins could be recycled or composted."

Mayor Nixon says managing the District's waste is only going to get more expensive due to government levies being placed on all waste sent to landfill and increased costs for the kerbside collection service such as fuel and new collection trucks. For every tonne of waste sent to landfill, the Council must pay the government a \$50 levy, which goes up to \$60 next July. Government legislation also requires all councils to have a kerbside food scrap collection in place by 2030.



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Summer Water Restrictions the new normal unless we conserve

Due to an expected long, warm summer combined with new water regulations, parts of South Taranaki could see water restrictions this summer.

Council Group Manager of Infrastructure Services Herbert Denton says these new conditions are all part of the previous government's freshwater reforms which have a greater focus on preserving the health and vitality of our streams and rivers.

"We need to appreciate that this is the new normal, not just for South Taranaki, but the whole of New Zealand," says Denton. "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 and get through summer without needing widespread restrictions."

Head to www.southtaranaki.com/waterconservation for tips and tricks on how you can save water everyday by implementing small daily habits that can make a big difference to your overall water consumption - especially if you get the whole household involved.



Pātea Loop Pathway Progressing

Work is progressing well on developing a \$450,000 5km multi-use loop track for Pātea.

Council's Community Development Manager Ella Borrows says as part of the Council's 2019 Pathways Programme, the Pātea Loop Track was agreed on as a project.

"Council has been working for the better part of a year with Ngāti Ruanui, Department of Conservation and several key stakeholders," she says. "This is now in the physical works stage where you will see things change about the town with footpaths being installed in York and Kent streets."

When work has been completed, at the end of summer, there will be a 5km loop for people to use, with the option of a shorter 3.5km loop.

The route will start either on York Street or at Bourke's Lookout. The 5km pathway from York Street will take our travellers up Bedford Street towards the Garden of Tutunui, left on to Egmont Street, through the Riverview lookout to Bourke's Lookout down the slope to Beach Road and back onto Turi Street to finish the route back at York Street. A shorter 3.5km pathway has also been added through Kent Street.

There will be sections of concrete footpath, metal and boardwalk, and with the exception of one steep section with stairs, the pathway will be multi use for walkers, runners, cyclists and prams.

"We are looking forward to seeing this pathway come to fruition and the community being able to enjoy it," says Ella.

Safe to swim?

People heading out to swimming spots across Taranaki this summer are being encouraged to wait a few days after heavy rain before diving in.

"The biggest precaution you can take is to avoid swimming for three days after heavy or prolonged rainfall. That means any rain that leads to surface run-off, where you might see lots of water flowing in the gutters," says Water Quality Scientist Angela Collins. "Any time water doesn't look or smell right, it's safest to stay out."

Check first

The warmer temperatures and extended sunlight hours over summer also make for good conditions for cyanobacteria (also known as blue-green algae) to form algal blooms. For more information on the Can I Swim Here? monitoring programme, including long-term swimmability grades, weekly test results and current health warnings, go to the Taranaki Regional Council website at www.trc.govt.nz