

Southlink

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



Council Activates Coronavirus Pandemic Response Plan

The South Taranaki District Council has stepped up its response and activated its **Pandemic Response Plan** following the stricter border controls put in place by the Government on Monday (16 March) to try and stem the spread of COVID-19 cases in New Zealand.

Council's Chief Executive, Waid Crockett, says **“while the risk of widespread community outbreak in NZ is still assessed as low, the Council's Response Plan has been activated to ensure essential services are kept operating should the community and council staff be widely affected.”**

We want to be prepared to make sure we can best serve the community during this situation and have established our Pandemic Response Team (PRT) who meet daily, to monitor and action the Pandemic Response Plan and the Ministry of Health's (MoH) latest advice and guidelines.

One of our key strategies is to promote basic hygiene messages at our public facilities and through our regular communication channels for both staff and members of the public. According to the MoH these basic hygiene measures are the most important way to stop the spread of this virus.

As well as following the MoH hygiene guidelines we're putting in place more cleaning and sanitising for our facilities, including installing hand sanitiser and wipes for our staff and residents to use.

At this stage, the MoH does not propose changing arrangements for smaller public meetings or gatherings (of less than 500 people) so for the time being we are continuing with Council meetings as scheduled, albeit with hygiene related guidelines.

However, following the Government's recent directive prohibiting events or gatherings of 500 plus people, a number of events in South Taranaki have been cancelled or postponed e.g. the NZHL XRACE which was going to be held in Hāwera on Sunday. We will be keeping a watching brief on developments in the events space and our team will be working with event organisers on a

case-by-case basis.

Right across the organisation we're following the government's requirements around self-isolation for any of our staff members who are returning to New Zealand from overseas and we have brought forward our annual flu vaccinations for all staff to 2 April. While this vaccine is not for COVID-19 it will have the desired effect of

reducing pressure on the health system. Council's key responsibility is to maintain the essential services which keep our communities running so we are making preparations for the possibility of staff needing to work from home, and we are looking at how we can ramp up efforts to further limit social contact if required. This graduated approach will be monitored by our Pandemic Response Team based on the MoH most up-to-date advice.

In the meantime, we encourage residents, where possible, to conduct Council business via phone (0800 111 323), on our website (www.southtaranaki.com) or by email (contact@stdc.govt.nz).

The Council is following the advice and guidelines of the MoH for all matters related to COVID-19.

Basic Hygiene Measures

- hand hygiene – wash your hands regularly with soap and water, or cleanse with hand sanitiser
- stay at home if you are sick or feel unwell
- cough or sneeze into a tissue or your elbow and then perform hand hygiene as described above
- clean surfaces regularly
- physical distancing – eliminate physical contact such as handshakes and try to stay at least 1 metre away from other people where possible

Check the MoH website for the latest information on the current situation in New Zealand:
www.health.govt.nz

For COVID-19 health advice and information, contact the Healthline team (free) on 0800 358 5453

For other non-health related support call 0800 779 997.



Protect yourself and others against COVID-19

Cover your coughs or sneezes with tissues or your elbow

Put your used tissue in the rubbish bin or in a plastic bag

Wash and dry your hands often, especially after coughing or sneezing – use soap or hand sanitiser

Stay away from others if you're unwell

COVID-19 HEALTH ADVICE
0800 358 5453
For international SIMs call +64 9 358 5453

health.govt.nz/COVID-19
Protect your family/whānau from COVID-19 (coronavirus)

New Zealand Government

Does your creative project need funding?

The next funding application round for Creative Communities is now open and closes on Friday 27 March. This fund provides assistance for community-based arts activities in South Taranaki that take place after 16 April 2020 and meet one or more of the following funding criteria:

- **Broad community involvement** - a project that will create opportunities for local communities to engage with and participate in art activities
- **Diversity** - a project that will support the diverse arts and cultural traditions of local communities, enriching and

promoting their uniqueness and cultural diversity

- **Young people** - a project that will enable and encourage young people (under 18 years) to engage with and actively participate in the arts.

Applications are now available on the South Taranaki District Council website www.southtaranaki.com or at your local LibraryPlus centre.

For more information call 0800 111 323 or email funding@stdc.govt.nz

Upcoming meetings

Ordinary Council

Monday 6 April 7.00 pm

Audit and Risk Committee

Wednesday 8 April 1.00 pm

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



Smoke Testing in Hāwera

If you see people in high-vis vests walking the streets of Hāwera with a smoke generator and blower - don't panic.

Our council contractors are carrying out "smoke testing" to help identify where stormwater is entering the wastewater network.

We have completed some of the smoke testing in Hāwera – and will continue for the next few weeks (approximately 880 properties).

This is part of our programme to improve our wastewater network – by identifying where water is getting into the wastewater networks.

POSTPONED
XRACE

The NZHL XRACE which was going to be held in Hāwera on Sunday, 22 March has now been postponed until a new date is established.
www.xrace.co.nz

