

# Southlink

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



## SOUTH TARANAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL ADOPTS ZERO RATE INCREASE IN 2020-21 ANNUAL PLAN

The South Taranaki District Council adopted its Annual Plan at Monday night's meeting which, amongst other measures, includes a zero rate increase for the 2020 – 2021 financial year.

South Taranaki Mayor, Phil Nixon says in light of the COVID-19 pandemic the Council's focus for the next year will be on ways it can support the community through the recovery and undertake activities to stimulate economic growth using, where possible, local businesses and contractors.

"This Annual Plan includes a range of measures aimed at bringing relief to residents and businesses, some of which can be actioned immediately while others are more long term and will require additional planning before being implemented," says Mayor Nixon.

"Under the Council's 2018-28 Long Term Plan, rates were projected to increase by about 3.36%. However, given the financial burden COVID-19 will place on many families and businesses Council has agreed to have a zero % rate rise. In addition, the Council is putting a freeze on fees and charges and is offering payment plans and remission of rate penalties for those experiencing financial hardship," he says.

Mayor Nixon says the Council is able to achieve the zero rates rise due to the prudent and effective financial management of the organisation by staff and elected members over many years.

"This Council is in a sound financial position and we are able to take an additional one-off (\$722,500) contribution from our Long Term Investment Fund to achieve this result. There will be no changes in levels of service, and we will continue to meet our current and future infrastructure needs without



compromising future plans or our overall financial position," he says.

"It is disappointing that we haven't been able to support some worthy community funding requests at this time, but to be able to follow through on our zero% rate increase it just wasn't possible."

"We will continue to focus on revitalising the Hāwera CBD, (primarily through the development of Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga – the new library culture and arts centre), developing town centre strategies for Eltham, Manaia, Ōpunakē, Pātea and Waverley, and making further improvements to our roading, stormwater, water and wastewater infrastructure including new reservoir for Waimate-West water supply."

Mayor Nixon says these are just the first of several initiatives Council will consider over the coming year.

"We will look to work closely with businesses, Iwi and other partners to develop further measures that will support the ongoing welfare of our District."

**Key Relief Measures the Council is proposing include:**

- Zero % rate increase
- Nil increase to Fees and Charges
- Payment Plans and Rate Penalty Remissions for those experiencing financial hardship

**Ongoing Economic Recovery Measures:** We will look at how we can support longer term economic recovery by:

- Seeking Government financial assistance for undertaking six significant 'shovel ready' projects. These are: Nukumaru Station Road, Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga, Waimate West water mains replacement, desludging the Hāwera WWTP Anaerobic Lagoon, South Taranaki Business Park infrastructure and Waimate West Reservoir
- Proceeding with projects such as the Manaia Community Facility and Swimming Pool upgrade, District pathways programme
- Bringing some of our capital projects and other development initiatives forward in our 2021-2031 LTP (such as the South Taranaki Business Park and associated infrastructure work and the Eltham, Manaia, Ōpunakē, Pātea and Waverley Town Centre upgrades)

You can view the full 2020/21 Annual Plan, as well as the Fees and Charges Schedule on our website, [www.southtaranaki.com](http://www.southtaranaki.com) under Plans, Strategies and Reports.



## Choose to refuse single use plastic this July

Welcome to Plastic Free July – the month where you are challenged to live without single-use plastic.

Did you know that some simple swaps and being a little bit prepared can make all the difference and easily cut out up to 70% of your daily plastic use? Below are just a couple of examples of swaps – head to [www.southtaranaki.com](http://www.southtaranaki.com) to find out more!

- Use a bamboo toothbrush – you can even get them on subscription, so they arrive at your door!
- Use shampoo/body wash bars – there are some really awesome New Zealand companies that offer this
- Take a reusable coffee cup to the café for your coffee – not only is this better for the environment, you can get one that matches your personality/style
- Speaking of drinks – say no to plastic straws, use stainless steel, cardboard, glass or just say no!
- Did you know that a large number of tea bags are made from plastic? How about trying some loose leaf instead

2020 South Taranaki  
Community Awards

Nominations are now open for the 2020 South Taranaki Community Awards - and we want to hear from you! Nominations are open until Thursday 30 July. Nomination forms are available from any LibraryPlus centre, the Council Administration Building in Hāwera, South Taranaki i-SITE Visitor Centre and on [www.southtaranaki.com](http://www.southtaranaki.com)

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## Nominations now open for South Taranaki Sporting Hall of Fame

We're on the hunt for two new inductees to join the South Taranaki Sporting Hall of Fame.

"We are looking for the next two inductees to join the seven fantastic sports people we have inducted over the past three years," says Council Community Events Coordinator, Hayley Old. "Some of the great sporting talents in our country have come from South Taranaki and we want to acknowledge that."

A nominee must meet at least one of the following criteria to be considered for the Sporting Hall of Fame;

- Achieved international success by winning Gold, Silver or Bronze at either the Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games, World Championship or an officially approved elite level event; or
- Been a senior athlete or a significant contributor of a national representative team at an elite international level; or
- Made a significant contribution and distinguished service to elite sport which has brought credit to South Taranaki.

As well as these criteria, inductees must have a strong association to South Taranaki and have spent a

significant period of their life living in the District.

"Anyone who hasn't been chosen in the past is still eligible to be nominated for the 2020 round, so get in and nominate someone you think is deserving!" says Hayley.

The Sporting Hall of Fame is a partnership between the Hāwera Rotary Club - the main funders, and the South Taranaki District Council.

A nomination form can be picked up from TSB Hub, South Taranaki i-SITE, any South Taranaki LibraryPlus or downloaded from [www.southtaranaki.com](http://www.southtaranaki.com)

Nominations close on 31 July. For more information, email [events@stdc.govt.nz](mailto:events@stdc.govt.nz).

**SOUTH TARANAKI  
SPORTING  
HALL OF FAME**

### Current Inductees

Roger Cox - Shearing  
James 'Jimmy' Hunter - Rugby  
Adine Wilson - Netball  
Stan Lay - Athletics  
Graham Mourie - Rugby  
Michael Campbell - Golf  
Graeme West - Rugby League

## Reducing organic waste going to landfill

The South Taranaki District Council is on a mission to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill. Council has partnered commercial composting company EasyEarth, using funding from the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) Waste Disposal Levy, to run an opt-in weekly commercial composting collection for South Taranaki residents and businesses.

Our trial with EasyEarth for the last 6 months was really successful, with about 2 tonnes of organic waste being diverted from landfill weekly.

If you are interested, visit [www.easyearth.co.nz](http://www.easyearth.co.nz), pay the fee and sign up for the collection service. Then you'll get a bin dropped at your property for organic waste/food waste/compostable waste, which will be picked up every week and replaced with a clean one. Several Council facilities have already signed up for the service.

If you are keen to try it out or find out more, visit [www.easyearth.co.nz](http://www.easyearth.co.nz)

## Upcoming Meetings

**Eltham-Kaponga Community Board**  
Monday 13 July, 10am  
Kaponga War Memorial Hall, Victoria Street, Kaponga

**Te Hāwera Community Board**  
Monday 13 July, 1.30pm

**Taranaki Coastal Community Board**  
Tuesday 14 July, 2.30pm  
Te Niho Marae, Mid Parihaka Road, Pungarehu

**Pātea Community Board**  
Wednesday 15 July, 4pm  
Hunter Shaw Building, Egmont Street, Pātea

**Iwi Liaison Committee**  
Wednesday 22 July, 10am

**Environment and Hearings Committee**  
Wednesday 22 July, 4pm

*Unless specified, meetings are held in the Council Chamber, Administration Building, Albion St, Hāwera*

## Eltham LibraryPlus closed

Eltham LibraryPlus will be closed on Saturday 4 July while interior painting is completed. It will re-open Monday 6 July at 9am. We apologise for any inconvenience.

## Tree planting in Pātea

As part of an important ecological restoration project, the Pātea Planting Trust are planting hundreds of native trees along the Pātea River Walkway and need some help! Meet at 10am on Saturday 4 July at the boat ramp on Turi Street, alongside the Pātea River. Please bring your own spade, gloves, covered-in shoes, and a drink. The native trees for this project have been gifted by South Taranaki District Council and Trees That Count.



## BEN HURLEY THE STRAIGHT-OUT-OF-LOCKDOWN TOUR

**TICKETS ON SALE FRIDAY 3 JULY**

**THU 6 AUG - WAVERLEY**  
\$40 FROM WAVERLEY LIBRARYPLUS

**FRI 7 AUG - PIHAMA**  
\$40 FROM ŌPUNAKĒ LIBRARYPLUS

**SAT 8 AUG - OHANGAI**  
\$50 FROM SOUTH TARANAKI I-SITE  
TRANSPORT AVAILABLE FOR OHANGAI SHOW \$5 PER PERSON



BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOUR LOCAL DISTRICT COUNCIL  
[EVENTS@STDC.GOVT.NZ](mailto:EVENTS@STDC.GOVT.NZ) / 0800 111 323