

Tuia Taitonga Southlink



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

The South Taranaki District is now at COVID-19 Alert Level 2. Find out more at www.covid19.govt.nz

Council shares serious Three Waters concerns with Govt

The South Taranaki District Council formally expressed its concerns to the Government about its Three Waters reform proposal at an extraordinary meeting on Monday.

The move comes after councils around the country were given eight weeks to analyse the Government's reform proposal and provide feedback before 1 October 2021.

Central Government is proposing to set up four new entities nationwide to take over the service, delivery and management of water, wastewater and stormwater (three waters) infrastructure currently done by councils. For South Taranaki, this would mean that our three waters assets (as well as the debt attached to these assets) would be taken over by a new entity (Entity B) that would include 22 councils across the Waikato (including Hamilton), Bay of Plenty (including Tauranga and Whakatāne) and Taranaki Regions and the Ruapehu, Whanganui and Rangitikei Districts.

South Taranaki Mayor, Phil Nixon says the Council is not convinced of the case for wholesale change which the Government is proposing. "While we acknowledge that better regulation of the water sector is needed, we are seriously concerned about the impacts of a 'one-size fits all' and centralisation approach will have on our communities," says Mayor Nixon. "Effectively we'll have no direct control over the proposed water services entities as presented and we can't see how the new entities will be responsive and accountable to our communities. The complex accountability framework, with performance overseen by regulators, guidance coming from a national policy statement, oversight from a regional representative group, board performance oversight from an independent selection panel and regulatory oversight from regional councils, is nothing short of unnecessary bureaucracy."

The Council also questioned the assumptions used by the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) which concluded that, with their reforms it would cost the average household \$1,220 per annum for Three Waters by 2051 compared to \$7,460 per annum without reform. "We need to know more about how the government came to those figures because I doubt that they will guarantee that any new entity will have water accounts not exceeding \$1,220 per annum in 30 years' time," he says.

One of the biggest concerns Council expressed was how local priorities would be met and delivered in a large entity. "What guarantee is there that the priorities we've identified won't change when our area is reviewed against the other 21 council areas in Entity B? We are gravely concerned that our growth and development aspirations, albeit small compared to other high growth areas, will have to wait in line."

Councillors also expressed concern about the potential future privatisation of the water assets. "No matter how many safeguards the Government puts in place, once these are in the hands of a new centralised entity the path to privatisation will be easier."

Mayor Nixon says once the Government has considered Councils' feedback, they will need to outline the mechanisms for community consultation. "The assets we are talking about have been paid for by our communities and as such we expect that the Government will, or at least will give us the ability to, effectively consult with our communities before any decisions are made on whether to support these reforms or not."

For more information about the Proposal, you can go to the Department of Internal Affairs website www.dia.govt.nz/Three-Waters-Reform-Programme or www.southtaranaki.com.

Upcoming meetings

Eltham-Kaponga Community Board
Monday 4 October, 10.30am
Kaponga War Memorial Hall,
Victoria Street, Kaponga

Te Hāwera Community Board
Monday 4 October, 1.30pm
Community Centre Hall,
Albion St, Hāwera

Taranaki Coastal Community Board
Tuesday 5 October, 2.30pm
Cape Egmont Boat Club,
332 Bayly Road, Warea

Pātea Community Board
Wednesday 6 October, 4pm
Waverley Community Centre,
Chester Street, Waverley

Extraordinary Council Meeting
*Representation Review Hearing,
Deliberations and Decision*
Monday 11 October, 1pm
Venue to be advised

Iwi Liaison Committee
Wednesday 13 October, 10am
Venue to be advised

Environment and Hearings Committee
Wednesday 13 October, 4pm
Venue to be advised

Policy and Strategy Committee
Monday 18 October, 1pm
Venue to be advised

Updated Privacy Policy

The Council has recently adopted an updated Privacy Policy. This policy provides information to the public on:

- why the Council collects personal information
- how information is collected
- some ways in which information is required to be provided (for example: when a person uses Council services)
- a person's right to have access to their personal information
- limits on the use of the information and
- how long the Council keeps personal information.

If you would like to view the updated Privacy Policy, it can be found on the Council's website www.southtaranaki.com or can be viewed at the Council Administration Building or any LibraryPlus.

Greenwaste stickers now available

Greenwaste stickers are now available from Council, i-SITE or any LibraryPlus.

This service is a voluntary fortnightly collection using a large 240L wheelie bin.

The registration year begins in October and ends the following September. Don't forget your Gold Card if you have one for a discount.

If you don't want to subscribe to the fortnightly kerbside collection service, you can also drop off greenwaste at your local transfer station for a fee.



Calling all local artists!

Established in 1996 to support and nurture our creative community, the Arts Lease Programme showcases a selection of work from talented local artists and offer their work for sale in our foyer with no commission. Artists are paid \$150 for a year lease, paid in November. Only wall hanging artworks are eligible. To submit artworks (up to four), include:

- Name, address, daytime phone number and email.
- A clear photograph or scan of the artwork(s). Digital files at least 1 MB file size please.
- Title, dimensions, medium and date of each artwork.

Send to Michaela Stoneman, South Taranaki District Council, Private Bag 902, Hāwera 4640 or drop it into our Administration Building. Submissions close 5pm Monday 4 October. For more information, please phone 0800 111 323 or email michaela.stoneman@stdc.govt.nz.

Bridger Park's New Mobility Access



Improvements continue to the new mobility access at Eltham's Bridger Park with a handrail installed and plants planted. The Council's Horticultural Services team have planted over 270 plants that will tie this new area in with the older more established plantings. Council's Parks Curator, David Bruce says over 30% of the plants have been propagated at King Edward Park's nursery from parent plants around the District. The lawn repair will follow shortly, new edging will be installed, areas will be levelled and the seed will be sown. Other areas such as Pātea, Manaia and Kaponga have also had empty areas filled with plants ranging from Roses, *Aeonium* and *Aloe* varieties.

www.southtaranaki.com

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