

Tuia Taitonga Southlink



He karere tā te Kaunihera ō 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 appalled and angry at Govt's Three Waters decision



"We're angry and appalled with the Government's decision to mandate that councils have to be part of the Three Waters Reform. We were consistently told by the Government that there would be opportunity for full public consultation on this hugely important matter. But now, and after the majority of councils have asked the Government to pause and rethink, they have ignored us and taken any decision making completely out of our hands. It's wrong and it's anti-democratic. This Government seems determined to centralise everything. Let's not forget that the assets we're talking about have been paid for by our communities, not the Government. To say that our Council will retain ownership under the existing proposal is a joke. The claims the system is in crisis are highly inflated as are the benefits of reform. While we accepted that things needed some change, this move to force councils to participate without public consultation is totally unacceptable. Our Council will be letting the Government know our dissatisfaction in no uncertain terms, however **I'd also encourage every resident to contact their local MP** to let them know what they think about the Government's decision."

South Taranaki Mayor, Phil Nixon

Council Investment Performs Strongly

Strong market conditions saw the South Taranaki District Council's Long Term Investment Fund (LTIF) earn almost \$20 million in the 2020/21 financial year according to its Annual Report, which was adopted at Monday night's Council meeting (1 November). Council chief executive Waid Crockett says the fund's strong performance was the key driver of the Council's \$26.5 million surplus.

"The LTIF returned \$19.96 million which was \$11.5 million more than we budgeted. As at 30 June 2021 and, after taking out the annual \$5.8 million rate subsidy, the value of the fund increased to \$159 million – up from \$144.65 million the year before." Mr Crockett says each year the Council's draws on average \$5.8 million from the LTIF which provides \$3.87 million to subsidise general rates and a further \$1.93 million to service loans for specific community projects.

"In this way the LTIF has returned more than \$112 million back to the South Taranaki Community since it was started in 1997," he says. "All revenue over and above the annual drawdown of \$5.8 million is returned to the Fund to build it up for those years when it doesn't perform so well."

The remaining (\$15.8 million) surplus was for revenue received from central government or other organisations for projects that were just starting or about to start (Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga the District's new Library, Culture and Arts Centre), or for interest rate swaps (gains on derivative contracts) which are purely an accounting

entry and have no impact on rates.

Total debt also decreased from \$133.99 million to \$129.11 million (including \$16.91 million of internal borrowing).

South Taranaki District Mayor, Phil Nixon, says the LTIF's strong result and Council's prudent financial management means it's well placed to weather any COVID-19 related economic downturn while keeping rates affordable.

"The LTIF's performance gives Council options as we continue to look at ways

to minimise the impact of COVID-19 on our community while also undertaking projects that

will stimulate sustainable economic growth, such as the town centre upgrades and District business park," he says. "It's a very strong result. The Report shows we are fiscally very sound, we've upgraded much of our key infrastructure, have high levels of community satisfaction, and have a clear direction for the future."

A full version of the Council's 2020/21 Annual Report can be found on the Council's website www.southtaranaki.com.



Upcoming meetings

Extraordinary Environment and Hearings Committee

Wednesday 10 November, 4pm
To consider a subdivision
Resource Consent
Southern Lounge, TSB Hub,
Camberwell Road, Hāwera

Eltham-Kaponga Community Board

Monday 15 November, 10.30am
Taumata Recreation Centre,
Preston Street, Eltham

Te Hāwera Community Board

Monday 15 November, 1.30pm
Council Chamber, Albion Street,
Hāwera

Taranaki Coastal Community Board

Tuesday 16 November, 2.30pm
Sandfords Event Centre,
Tasman Street, Ōpunakē

Pātea Community Board

Wednesday 17 November, 4pm
Hunter Shaw Building, Egmont
Street, Pātea

Iwi Liaison Committee

Wednesday 24 November, 10am
Venue to be advised

Environment and Hearings Committee

Wednesday 24 November, 4pm
Venue to be advised

Rates notice

Ratepayers are reminded that the last day for payment of the second instalment of rates for 2021/2022 without incurring a penalty will be Wednesday 24 November 2021.



SOUTH TARANAKI

EMPLOYMENT EXPO

WEDNESDAY 10 NOV • 12-3PM
CAMBERWELL LOUNGE, TSB HUB HĀWERA

An Open Invitation to all Job Seekers

If you are currently looking for work or just wanting to chat with potential future employers - here's the perfect opportunity.

Chamber Hub South, in conjunction with Mayors Taskforce for Jobs, is hosting an Employment Expo hoping to connect job seekers with a wide variety of local businesses who have upcoming employment opportunities. The tradeshow-styled event is open to the public and free to attend on Wednesday 10 November at the TSB Hub between 12pm and 3pm.

This is an awesome opportunity for our youth to come along and talk to employers

in the area who are looking for workers, to ask about vacancies and see what these jobs are all about. Transport will be available from Pātea, Waverley, Ōpunakē, Manaia and Eltham. Pre-registration is recommended and there will be five \$50 pressie card prizes drawn for registrants. Walk-ins are also welcome. You can register for the event and for transport at www.taranakichamber.co.nz. You can also contact the Chamber Hub on (06) 759 9080 if you would like a table to exhibit.

www.southtaranaki.com
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