

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 1. Find out more at www.covid19.govt.nz

Help Us Make South Taranaki the Most Liveable District

We live in one of the best places in the world and our Council's vision is to continue to build on our many strengths to make South Taranaki the Most Liveable District. To work towards this, we've been working on our 2021 – 2031 Long Term Plan. The proposed Plan, which is currently available for public comment, outlines the projects, activities and services we intend to carry out in our community over the next ten years, along with how we will fund these.

In the 8 April issue of the Star we published a Consultation Document

outlining the key issues and proposals in the Plan and the impact on rates. If you didn't get a copy of the Consultation Document you can go onto our website www.southtaranaki.com or call into any one of our seven LibraryPlus centres to pick up a copy.

The key themes in our Plan include actions that will encourage economic growth, maintain and improve our infrastructure, support environmental sustainability while keeping rates affordable. In today's Southlink we outline one of the key proposals that we want your feedback on - our Environment and Sustainability Strategy.

Environment and Sustainability Strategy

Environmental sustainability and climate change are important issues that affect the way we live, work and play in South Taranaki, both now and into the future. To meet these challenges and the legal requirements set by the Government, we have developed an Environment and Sustainability Strategy that identifies the impact we have on our environment and

3 Develop and implement an **energy** and **carbon reduction plan**, setting three yearly carbon budgets and carbon reduction pathways, so we are a carbon neutral organisation by 2035 (excluding biogenic methane and nitrous oxide).

4 Plant more trees on Council owned land and use these as **carbon sinks** (places that absorb more carbon than they release) to **offset our carbon emissions**.

5 Develop a District **Climate Change Adaptation Plan** to minimise the impacts that climate change related events will have on South Taranaki.

6 In partnership with the Stratford and New Plymouth District Councils, investigate building a **commercial composting facility** in South Taranaki that will provide alternative local disposal options to reduce the amount of organic waste going to landfill.

Cost

Implementing the **Environment and Sustainability Strategy** will cost on average \$213,000 each year over ten years, which would be an extra 24 cents a week for the average urban residential ratepayer (based on property value of \$350,000). The strategy will be funded by a combination of rates and loans.

looks at changes we can make to increase our sustainability.

Proposal

To introduce an **Environment and Sustainability Strategy** that includes the following actions:

- 1 Carry out a **Biodiversity Restoration Project** that supports planting and restoring native species on Council properties and reserves, particularly at sites where riparian planting (planting by stream/river banks) is required and/or where community restoration groups are actively working.
- 2 Identify, map and protect the District's remaining indigenous vegetation and ecosystems through a network of **Significant Natural Areas**.

Options and Funding

Option 1: The Council's preferred option is to fully fund the proposed Environment and Sustainability Strategy. The Strategy contributes to our vision of making South Taranaki the Most Liveable District and helps us to meet Government requirements around climate change and other environmental legislation relating to biodiversity and waterways.

Option 2: Partially support the Council's proposed Environment and Sustainability Strategy with changes. We are required by law to undertake actions 1, 2 and 5, but not, at this time, 3, 4 and 6. We could leave actions 3, 4 and 6 out of the Strategy, or a mixture of these, which would reduce the overall cost.

For more information: This information is a very short summary of our Environment and Sustainability Strategy. You can find the full strategy, on our website under Long Term Plan or at any one of our local LibraryPlus facilities.

Have your Say by 5pm, Friday 7 May at www.southtaranaki.com/longtermplan

Remaining Public Meetings

Public

Cape Egmont Boat Club
Thursday 29 April 10am

Zoom Meeting

Monday 3 May 5.30pm

Casual 'coffee' Meetings

Kaponga LibraryPlus
Friday 30 April, 3pm

Waverley LibraryPlus

Wednesday 5 May, 10.30am

Ōpunakē LibraryPlus

Thursday 6 May, 10am



Zoom into our Long Term Plan Online Presentation

Mayor Phil Nixon is holding an online Zoom presentation at 5.30pm on Monday 3 May for those interested in finding out more about our 2021-2031 Long Term Plan.

"On top of the 25 or so public and community meetings that we've attended so far, we are holding an online presentation for people who haven't been able to get to these meetings. Everyone's busy these days, and this is just another way people can be informed, without having to leave home.

Participants will be able to ask questions and join or leave the online meeting at their leisure," he says.

To join the online Zoom meeting at 5.30pm on Monday 3 May click the link: <https://bit.ly/3dU4iGh>

Or if you have the Zoom App simply enter the following details:

Meeting ID: 833 7060 0113

Passcode: 54321

Upcoming meetings

Policy and Strategy Committee
Monday 3 May at 1pm

Extraordinary Environment and Hearings Committee – to consider a limited notified resource consent
Monday 3 May at 4pm

Long Term Plan Hearing
Monday 17 May at 9am

Ordinary Council
Monday 17 May at 7pm

Audit and Risk Committee
Wednesday 19 May at 11am

If not otherwise stated, meetings are held in the Council Chamber, Albion Street, Hāwera

Design Chosen for Eltham Sign

The votes for the new Eltham entranceway signs have been collated and the image selected by the community is the entry from local artist Maree Liddington.

Six options were put up for consideration and 170 votes were cast, with Maree's coming out on top. Maree says her image features some of the native birds found at Rotokare Scenic Reserve with the lake as a circle symbolising wholeness.

Now the design has been chosen, Council staff will work with a graphic designer to adapt the final image and wording and get the necessary approvals to erect them.



www.southtaranaki.com

Ph: (06) 278 0555 or 0800 111 323