

## Mayor welcomes National's announcement on water reform



South Taranaki Mayor, Phil Nixon has welcomed the National Party's announcement (Saturday 25 February), of a water reform policy that better protects property rights and local voice. "Although our Council still needs to look at National's policy in more detail, it appears to meet all of our requirements for common sense water

infrastructure reform that can gain broad support," said Nixon. "In particular it retains local ownership and avoids the confiscation of local assets and stripping of local influence which is at the core of the Government's present policy. Nixon said that on the face of it, the plan aligns with STDC's position on placing local control and voice back at the centre of community water services and puts the right measures in place to ensure overall accountability.

"We feel there is sufficient rigour in the proposed regulatory

regime, and with Taumata Arowai now in place, to ensure that Council water services will meet the needs of their communities and can evolve to meet the challenges of climate change in an affordable manner," he said.

"At first glance, this seems a sensible and appropriate response to genuine concerns about the state of water infrastructure in New Zealand. It recognises that different areas are in different positions, and it encourages regional collaboration to address these differing needs. This approach ensures that local knowledge of complex systems is valued, rather than the 'Wellington knows best' system being proposed," says Nixon. "I think National's policy is more in line with the strong community support for ownership, influence and effective control staying with their local council. But for reform as important as this is there needs to be cross-party support, and I am encouraged by the Government's recent call to take a fresh look at their model. I hope that party politics can be put aside, and we can work together to get a pragmatic, workable solution."

## A mighty Totara has fallen - tribute to Chester

South Taranaki and the whole of New Zealand have lost one of our best says South Taranaki Mayor Phil Nixon when paying tribute to former Whanganui MP, policeman, lawyer and archdeacon Chester Borrows who passed away on Monday. "He was always a real people person and would be there for anyone who needed assistance of any sort. His heart was always about making people's lives better. He just had that nature of quickly sorting the facts with people, then wisely guiding them along the right path."

Nixon says as an MP Chester tirelessly worked for the electorate and wider community.

"Geographically he had a big electorate but that did not stop him from supporting and being seen in every part of his patch, regularly. He commanded huge respect in all parts of our community due to his hard work and dedication. I thank him sincerely for all he has done for our community and for the guidance and support he has given me over the years. Chester, Ella and the family have sadly been robbed of many years



together – with the good Chester has done for so many he thoroughly deserved to have had more years of quality life. Rest in peace Chester – you have earned it and deserve it."

### Upcoming Meetings

#### Te Hāwera Community Board

Monday 6 March 2023 at 11 am  
Taiporohēnui Marae, Ōhangai Road, Ōhangai

#### Pātea Community Board

Monday 6 March 2023 at 4 pm  
Pariroa Pā, 98 Pariroa Road, Kakaramea

#### Eltham-Kaponga Community Board

Wednesday 8 March 2023 at 10.30 am  
War Memorial Hall, Victoria Street, Kaponga

#### Taranaki Coastal Community Board

Wednesday 8 March 2023 at 2.30 pm  
Manaia Golf Club, 117 Bennett Drive, Manaia

#### Te Kāhui Matauraura

Wednesday 15 March 2023 at 10 am

#### Environment and Hearings Committee

Wednesday 15 March 2023 at 4 pm

#### Policy and Strategy Committee

Monday 20 March 2023 at 1 pm  
Camberwell Lounge, TSB Hub, Camberwell Road, Hāwera

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

### Community Pools season ending early

Due to a reduced number of qualified staff at our Community Summer Pools, we are having to close a week earlier than planned.

Bouts of COVID paired with student lifeguards returning to university have left Council's Aquatic Team a little bit light.

"We are unable to staff all of our six free pools around the District (Pātea, Waverley, Manaia, Rāwhitiroa, Kaponga and Eltham) with qualified lifeguards so Sunday 5 March will be the last day of operation - a week earlier than planned," says Council's Property and Facilities Operations Manager Phil Waite. "Please continue to check the Hāwera Aquatic Centre facebook page daily to ensure the pool you want to visit is open as we navigate this."

The Hāwera Aquatic Centre is also temporarily opening later during the weekends at 10.30am.

## Speed Limit Review for Schools

Speed management is about achieving safe and appropriate vehicle speeds on roads that reflect the road's function, design, safety, and use.

We want everyone to be able to get home safely every time, and to feel comfortable choosing from a range of safe travel options - be it driving, walking, biking or scootering.

As a Road Controlling Authority, the Council must follow the Government's Land Transport Rule which requires a safe and acceptable speed on all roads, that we develop a Speed Management Plan and that the speeds around 40% of our schools must be

reduced before 1 July 2024.

The Council has developed a Proposed Interim Speed Management Plan that focuses on reducing speeds around all South Taranaki schools.

Over the coming weeks we will be out and about in our communities advertising and discussing the consultation document.

Please ensure you have your say in the Speed Limit Review.

The consultation period is now open and closes on Friday 31 March 2023.

