



LTP - have your say! Open now!

Council is pleased to be in the midst of consulting on what we think is an exciting Long Term Plan proposal. Public consultation closes on Monday 26 April. We would love it if you made a submission.

All information can be found at www.southwaikato.govt.nz. Click on LTP – have your say!

We think the South Waikato is a great place to live, work and play. We have great people. Relaxed rural living. A central location that attracts opportunity. We have beautiful bush walks, magnificent lakes and rivers, awesome towns, and the very best people.

He tangata, he tangata, he tangata.

From 22 March, Councillors and staff have been out and about in the community to find out what you think about our proposals for the next ten years.

Our ten year plan looks after the nuts and bolts of our district – our water supply network, our roads, libraries, open spaces and all the other facilities that Council brings to our community.

Our growing population needs bigger facilities and more spaces to connect with whanau and friends. We need to make sure we are looking after our community today and planning for our future community.

We also need to make sure we have the right size pipes in the ground, that our roads are safe

to get you from A to B and that our open spaces feed our souls.

You can have your say on anything in our LTP but we're looking for specific feedback on a few key kaupapa.

We are proposing changes to the future of the SW Indoor Heated Pools, Tokoroa Library, the Putāruru skatebowl, the way we fund things to make rates as affordable as possible for all ratepayers and how to deliver on healthy homes for our pensioner housing which comes with a rent increase.

These key topics are *summarised* in this issue of In Touch on page four. Check it out.

To get a full understanding, you **need** to read the Consultation Document!

To be heard, you **need** to make a submission.

There's heaps more packed into our Consultation Document – major projects, smaller localised projects, rate examples and much more. Grab yourself a copy from the offices or libraries.

Give your local Councillor a call - they'll have some on hand. Catch up with the Engagement team. Or come along to one

of the many public drop-in sessions or public meetings. These are listed on our website and are in the Consultation Document.



We can't wait to hear what you have to say.

Kāore e taea e matou te tatari ki te whakarongo i tāu korero!

www.southwaikato.govt.nz

Click on LTP – have your say!

Submissions close Monday 26 April 2021

IN brief

- After eighteen months of preparation work, Council is pleased that the Long Term Plan is now open for public consultation.
- Planning for autumn sportsfield and reserve turf renovations is underway.
- Vandalism is still an issue across our parks and reserves.
- Following lengthy investigation and debate, Council's new procedures at the airfield is that white crosses won't be placed if there is a NOTAM in place. Pilots need to check for NOTAMs before flying. White crosses will only be used in emergency situations when there is no time to issue a NOTAM.

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Produced in-house for the South Waikato community by the SWDC Communications Team.

Editorial:

Kerry Fabrie
Renee Renata
Anthony Momoemausu
07 885 0340

Print: GASP Designs

Civil Defence - Emergency Management

Emergency Management is all about people helping people. It is all of us working together to take care of community needs in an event. We are all civil defence. If there is an emergency, everyone needs to be self-reliant, prepared to survive in their homes for up to three days without assistance, other than from neighbours.

Recent Putāruru events showed just how quickly trouble can unfold and people can become isolated.

Each activation is going to be different and requires different management. As such the right location for a Civil Defence Centre (CDC) will be appointed at the time of a Civil Defence activation. Schools for example are no longer promoted as CDC sites, as they are the last places we want to stop running normally and first places we want to get back up and running after an activation. The South Waikato Sport & Events Centre in Tokoroa and The Plaza in Putāruru are currently registered CDCs, with more locations being assessed.

In short everyone needs to pay close attention to instructions from Civil Defence and be guided to the right location in an emergency by staying tuned to news and social media sites.

In an emergency it is important to know where to get information:

- Council's website - www.southwaikato.govt.nz.
- Listen to Raukawa FM 95.7, 90.6 & 93.2.
- Download Antenna for up-to-date notifications. Free from Google Play or the App Store.
- Follow Council's Facebook page.
- Community group leaders can contact the Civil Defence team on 07 885 0340 to discuss templates and guide materials that will assist you in developing a Community Response Plan.

The South Waikato Civil Defence Emergency Management is there to help people during an emergency event. The South Waikato District Council, or the Police, Fire and Ambulance services may not be able to manage the situation on their own. The Civil Defence Emergency Management network is able to bring together extra resources to support these services to cope. It is for this reason that Council is putting some effort into helping communities develop a Community Response Plan.



Civil Defence Controller, Sharon Robinson



Welfare staff during the 2020 COVID lockdown

Tokoroa Digester works on track

Progress on the digester at the Tokoroa Wastewater Treatment Plant continues. Works have started on the main building with block walls being constructed. The final tank foundation is also in the process of being poured.

The next steps will see the precast panels being installed on the final tank followed by the roof installations for all the tanks and main building. This marks a big step towards completion of this project as the main components take shape.

Process and mechanical equipment is arriving with some components having been in transit for 18-26 weeks! It's good to know that they are in the country! Electrical components for the main building which will run the plant are being manufactured off site.

One of the next and final steps will be working out the process and method for seeding the new digester. This is effectively where we introduce a bug to kick start the digester's processes.



WHAT'S HOT



Above: The lovely whanau from Pikitū Marae and Practice Parakore (Zero Waste) need a big round of applause! They took care of the rubbish and recycling at the Putāruru Water Festival; walking around picking up rubbish, rinsing all food containers before recycling, collecting food waste (food scraps for pig food) and advising people how to recycle properly. They are an amazing example to others!

Below: Roadworks aren't often hot, but the roadworks in Mannering Street in Tokoroa have been particularly well planned, with great engagement with the retailers; and even the weather didn't delay works too badly.



Hats off to the people - emergency services, Police, Downer, Council staff and members of the public - who were out in the thick of the recent weather event tackling the many issues, redirecting cars, making roads safe, clearing drains and other jobs in difficult conditions.

Mother Nature is wonderful, but sometimes she can be a bit vicious (!)... as the recent lightning storm, heavy rain and hailstorm in the northern parts of our district showed us!

WHAT'S NOT



Historic Tūkorehe Scenic Reserve



Hidden away beside State Highway 5, just south of Tirau there is a small parcel of whenua (land) called the Tūkorehe Scenic Reserve (Fitzgerald Glade). It is here that the Government installed a memorial stone in memory of Tūkorehe, a well-known Raukawa tūpuna (ancestor) who once owned the surrounding whenua.

Over time, local farmers and Government agencies donated parcels of whenua back to help preserve the surrounding ngahere (bush). The entire Fitzgerald Glade area is jointly owned by Council, Department of Conservation and local marae. The Tūkorehe Scenic Reserve was initially vested to the Matamata County Council and now South Waikato District Council. This reserve is significant to the iwi, Raukawa and local hapū (subtribe), namely Ngāti Tūkorehe (named after the ancestor Tūkorehe).

Tūkorehe was married to Ngaparetaihinu and many of their children became well known tūpuna in this area. After many generations and intermarriages, the association and connection to the whenua is still strong for many descendants from the nearby marae of Tāpapa, Paparaamu and especially Ruapeka that is nestled beside the reserve.

The current location of the Tūkorehe memorial stone is potentially dangerous and hard to access due to the lack of space beside State Highway 5, so be careful in the area when you stop in for your next visit.

Council has contracted xFactor Detailing to do regular maintenance and cleaning of the memorial stone and surrounding site.

LTP Key Consultation Issues

Following on from the Long Term Plan article on page 1 of this issue of In Touch, we thought we would touch on the five key consultation issues in the Consultation Document (CD) that we would love your feedback on. If you are interested in any of the key topics below and a few other highlighted things, please get a copy of the Consultation Document and find out more. There's not enough information here to make a submission, it's just a teaser to get involved and have your say! Consultation Documents are available online at www.southwaikato.govt.nz. Click on *LTP - have your say!* Or pick up a copy from a library, Council office or i-SITE (The Dog). Our Engagement staff have copies too, or get in touch with your Elected Member.

South Waikato Heated Indoor Pools

The South Waikato Heated Indoor Pools facility is now 25 years old and requires significant refurbishment of plant and equipment. This opens the door to possibly upgrade, enhance and future-proof the facility.

In the CD, Council tables three broad options. We highlight recent community engagement with users, schools and community regarding what they want to see in the pools facility. We include a list of building renovation and upgrades that need to happen, a list of some nice to have enhanced features and some choices around the spa pools and changing room/community room area.

Interested in the future of the South Waikato Heated Indoor Pools?

Get a CD and make a submission!

Putāruru Skatepark

The skate bowl in Putāruru was due for refurbishment in the coming year. Requests from the community and our youth indicated that there was a desire to see the skate bowl expanded to include additional skate features. We took the feedback on board and have proposed a couple of options.

Interested in the future of the Putāruru skatepark?

Get a CD and make a submission!

Rate ratio changes

Council's rate revenue is collected by a mixture of rates on properties based on Capital Value (CV), Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC) and targeted rates (eg, urban water supply).

We can and do change the amount on the UAGC (and some targeted rates), as long as that amount does not exceed 30% of the total rates revenue.

Currently the UAGC is set at 25% and Council is proposing to change this.

Interested in the future level of the UAGC?

Get a CD and make a submission!

Rental increases for Council's Pensioner Housing

This service of Council does not have rate input.

By the time this issue of In Touch reaches your mailbox, Council will already have met directly with current tenants in targeted meetings in all three towns.

But we are also interested in submissions from everyone, tenants, community and possible future tenants.

Interested in the future of rentals for Council's Pensioner Housing?

Get a CD and make a submission!

Tokoroa Library

The Tokoroa Library building has several significant building issues. Fixing these will be expensive and Council believes it does not provide value for money for our community and has risks. As with the pool consultation, this LTP provides an opportunity for us to consider an enhanced future-proofed facility.

In the CD, Council tables three options. We discuss existing community feedback regarding more spaces, a more modern facility, growing population, the changing face of libraries and the opportunity to build a new facility from the ground up.

Interested in the future of the Tokoroa Library?

Get a CD and make a submission!

The Consultation Document contains a lot of other information over and above the key consultation issues outlined on this page.

We look at our vision, outcomes and strategies, challenges facing local government, policies, fees and charges, activity funding ratios and a snapshot of some of our larger and smaller proposed projects coming up across the district.

Check out www.southwaikato.govt.nz. Click on *LTP - have your say!*

Want to talk to someone at Council? Need more information?

Contact our Engagement team on 07 885 0340. Or speak with one of our Elected Members - their contact details can be found on the back page of In Touch.



Government Changes Update

There are two legislative and government structural changes currently underway – three waters reform and a review of the Resource Management Act.

Our community needs to be aware of these, but at the time of writing, outcomes and impacts on our community cannot be fully known. What we do know is that the impact on Council and our communities will be significant, and we probably have little choice but to work with and accept these changes.

Three waters reform

The first is the three waters* reform, which is a body of work driven by Central Government working with local government, iwi and other partners. Three waters infrastructure and services are currently owned and managed by Council. It is likely that these will be moved to multi-regional entities that will own and manage the assets. Some form of public ownership to protect against privatisation is likely.

Councils are facing urgent challenges in providing three waters services including funding infrastructure, safety and environmental compliance, building resilience to natural hazards and climate change and supporting growth. Central Government wants a comprehensive reform to achieve lasting benefits for the local government sector, communities and the environment.

The three waters accounts for 32% of Council's operating costs and 18% of its assets so the reform could impact the size and scale of Council. Communities in urban areas will still get fresh clean water and wastewater removal services as they do now, but the amount of local input communities have, could change.

* wastewater, water and stormwater

A general timeline includes:

- Government decision on reform proposal expected in May 2021.
- Council decision on whether to continue to own and manage these assets or pass these to a new entity by October 2021. The community will be involved in this.
- Full changes implemented by 1 July 2024.

Resource Management Act (RMA) review

In order to improve environmental and cultural outcomes while allowing for urban growth now and in the future, the RMA is being reviewed by Central Government, working with local government, iwi and other partners.

The outcome of this review could change how Council delivers planning, strategic policy, resource consenting and monitoring and compliance. Smaller rural communities may be low on the list of priorities for spatial planning and access to resources, eg, for new growth areas or changes to land use.

Infrastructure modelling for Tirau and Tokoroa is due soon and staff will continue working on a district-wide strategic planning exercise.

We have previously asked 'should we grow'. This changes to 'how do we grow to meet current needs and provide for the needs of future generations within environmental limits'. South Waikato towns will need to tackle critical national issues such as housing, biodiversity management, climate change and freshwater quality and others set out by Central Government.

The rollout is anticipated between 18 months to two years.



TALKING ROAD SAFETY

Beware Sunstrike!



With winter approaching, we thought we'd highlight a danger of winter driving - sunstrike.

While sunstrike can occur at any time of the year, it is most likely during the winter months when the sun lingers lower in the sky.

Sunstrike is most likely to happen an hour after sunrise and before sunset when the sun's rays hit your windscreen at a low angle.

Roads that are orientated East to West (think Bridge Street or Arapuni Street) can be badly affected by sunstrike so if possible avoid travelling on them in the early morning or late evening or be prepared for the possibility of sunstrike.

The most common crashes caused by sunstrike are at intersections when drivers fail to see a vehicle approaching. Rear end crashes are the second most common, with drivers not seeing the vehicle in front of them slowing down or stopped.

What can I do to avoid or reduce the chance of sunstrike?

- Keep your windscreen clean inside and out. Dust and grime on your windscreen can make the effects of sunstrike much worse.
- Use your car's sun visor to block out the sun.
- Wear sunglasses when driving if you know the sun will be in your eyes.
- Be aware that shadows will appear darker when the sun is lower in the sky. Watch out for pedestrians stepping out from the shadows especially around pedestrian crossings and schools.
- If you experience sunstrike, it may be best to pull over and wait a few minutes until your eyes adjust or visibility improves.

Timely time to capture rainwater

A recent donation of a water tank by Fonterra to the Putāruru Community Gardens was well timed, installed in recent weeks and full in record time following the Putāruru weather bomb in mid-March. This supports further environmental self-sufficiency for the team. The new sponsors sign expresses their appreciation for all community and business support.



Festival of Cultures

The 2021 Festival of Cultures is an event that supports and celebrates the cultural diversity in the South Waikato community and Te Tiriti o Waitangi. This year the Waitangi Day karakia and the Festival of Cultures event were held on the same day - Saturday 6 February at the South Waikato Sport & Events Centre.

To start the celebrations, Raukawa hosted an 8am karakia with all stall holders and special guests followed by a morning tea. This was followed by the opening of the much anticipated Festival of Cultures.

A range of local and cultural entertainment was on show and a yummy range of ethnic food, along with lots of local arts and crafts stalls featured. This celebration proved to be a huge success with an estimated 1,500 people attending across both events.

This year the Festival of Cultures was co-hosted by the South Waikato District Council, South Waikato Pacific Islands Community Services Trust, Toi Ohomai, Te Wānanga o Aotearoa and the Raukawa Settlement Trust.



Annual Putāruru Water & Food Festival

The annual Putāruru Water & Food Festival was a huge success. Around 2,000 people attended the festival at Glenshea Park, Putāruru. With a great variety of food stalls, community group kiosks and amusement rides on offer, you always know it's going to be a great day.

Council staff were out in force promoting our wide range of services and activities, including animal control, civil defence, Antenno, communications, warm homes clean air and leisure services - libraries, pools and events centre. Huge thanks to the team at Pride in Putāruru and Putāruru Moving Forward for their tremendous effort in putting this event together for the entire community.



Report dumping to Council

There are still a number of people in our district who don't care about the environment or take responsibility for their own rubbish. As a result we still get a bit of dumping in public spaces around the district.

Dumping can be reported to us via Antenno, Facebook, phone or email and now via our website on a newly created form. This is available online at www.southwaikato.govt.nz. Click on the **Do It Online** button. The **Report Illegal Dumping** form can be found under the **Say It** section.

Council needs to know a number of details to send warning letters, infringe and/or prosecute.

These include a description of what was dumped, the location, any photos you may have taken and your contact details (for record purposes only; these will never be disclosed). If you witness the dumping and can safely obtain the vehicle registration details or even names (if you know the person) this is extremely useful.

Prosecuting successfully through the courts requires a high level of detail.



When it's already happened and the danger is over... call Police 105

To help keep New Zealanders as safe as possible, the Police introduced a new way to contact them for non-emergencies: call 105 or go to www.105police.govt.nz.

Until then people either called their local Police station or called 111 if they wanted to get hold of the Police.

Remember in an emergency always call 111.

Call 105 to report things that have already happened that don't need urgent Police assistance.

You can call 105 from both mobile and landline phones. It's a free nationwide service available day and night for New Zealanders and overseas visitors.

If you have discovered you have been robbed but the burglar is long gone, call 105.

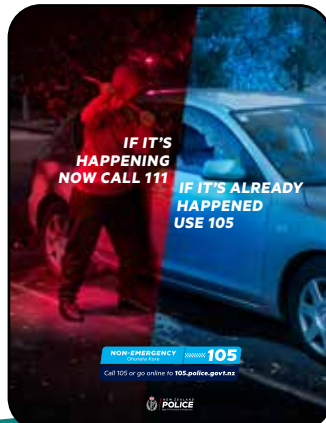
If you find your fence tagged in the morning, call 105.

If you discover your car was broken in to during the night, call 105.

You can also call 105 to get an update on an existing report that is already being handled.

But always call 111 if a crime is happening now - and the offenders are still there or just left.

Also call 111 if someone is in danger or badly injured, if you see a major public hazard like a tree blocking the road, or something that could cause serious harm to human life or property.



April Sunday Movie

PENGUIN BLOOM (2020) - Sun 18 April, 2pm. Samantha Bloom breaks her back in an accident and is paralysed from the chest down. A year later, an injured magpie makes a difference. *Tickets: \$5 students & \$8 adults*



April School Holiday Movies

TROLLS: WORLD TOUR - Wed 21 April, 2pm. An exciting story about colourful trolls.



Tickets: \$5 students & \$8 adults

WITCHES (PG13) - Wed 28 April, 2pm. In late 1967, a young orphaned boy goes to live with his loving grandma in the rural Alabama town of Demopolis, and encounters some interesting witches. *Tickets: \$5 students & \$8 adults*



07 883 8596/0276 559 715
www.plaza.org.nz
 Email: theplaza@plaza.org.nz
 Facebook: [theplazaputaruru](https://www.facebook.com/theplazaputaruru)

IN date



ANZAC Day

Sunday 25 April 2021

Public holiday will be observed on Monday 26 April 2021.

Annual Dawn parades and memorial services times to be confirmed.



South Waikato Future Career Pathways Expo

Monday 31 May, 2021

South Waikato Sport & Events Centre, Tokoroa.

Free entry. 9am - 2.30pm.

Exhibitors: tertiary providers, training/apprenticeship institutes, industry, Government departments and corporate businesses.

Check out Council's website for more events:

www.southwaikato.govt.nz

Anyone can submit an event using the blue SUBMIT EVENT button on the right of the Events Calendar page to display their event here.



Scan QR codes and turn on Bluetooth tracing

Contact tracing reduces the spread of COVID-19 to keep our whānau and communities safe

Find out more at [Covid19.govt.nz](https://www.covid19.govt.nz)

New Zealand Government
 Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri

Unite against COVID-19

IN brief

- Leslie Road seal widening to accommodate additional parking will start soon.
- The skatepark car park is progressing well.
- The Warm Homes Clean Air project is progressing well with close to 80% of budget committed to date.
- Building improvements are scheduled to start at the Tirau i-SITE.
- The Chorus cabinet art project is almost complete. The cabinets have received fantastic community feedback. Well done artists!
- Staff are investigating new bus shelters for the Urban Connector route.
- Ninety nine children participated in the Libraries' Summer Reading Programme.
- The number of service requests received during January of this year was 966, compared with 741 in the same month last year. Noise complaints, water leaks, parks maintenance, and dog queries (roaming, regos, barking and general) were the most common service requests.

IN the know

You can keep up to date with council information via:

www.southwaikato.govt.nz

[www.facebook/
SouthWaikatoDistrictCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/SouthWaikatoDistrictCouncil)

Download Antenna FREE

or email
info@southwaikato.govt.nz

IN view

If you would like to receive this newsletter via email contact: kerry.fabrie@southwaikato.govt.nz.

Councillor Arama Ngapo

Tena koutou katoa,

I hope that this month's In Touch newsletter finds you all well. As you know we have Council meetings every three weeks. Before Council we also hold an Open Public Forum which gives you, the community the opportunity to attend Council and present any issues, concerns or even notify Council of any upcoming events and notices that you may want shared.

The Open Public Forum is always one of my favourite parts of a Council meeting as you never quite know who will turn up and what issues will be raised. Over the past year we have had presenters speak about the skatepark, parking issues, dog control, speeding around town, truck parking and many other issues. The key though is that every person who presents is well listened to by all of the Councillors and our Mayor. We always acknowledge the presenter and often enter into a robust debate or seek clarification of issues raised. I really want to encourage our community to use the forum to bring any issues forward. It is part of our democratic process at Council and I value this forum greatly.

By the time this issue of In Touch hits the street we will be full swing into our community consultation for the Long Term Plan. This document helps shape what projects and work Council does over ten years. Important decisions are made as a result of our consultation with you so again we would love to hear from you all regarding the issues that are being decided on.

I hope you can attend the consultation meetings that are advertised. In order to represent our community we need to know your views on issues and what you think, do and say matters.

Councillor Hans Nelis

The Government is wanting to centralise the three waters - being drinking water supply, wastewater and possibly stormwater. A lot of NZ councils have got ancient, old, unattended, unloved underground infrastructure that has not been dealt with over the last decades. Instead, certain councils have spent ratepayers' money otherwise. I believe that our Council is managing our underground assets correctly, and in the case of our drinking water supplies, SWDC is doing well. However, the Government is very focused on creating a National institution to manage the drinking water supply and delivery.

I am of the opinion that this will create a couple more layers of hierarchy with additional price increases for the service of getting drinking water supplied to urban homes. At the end of this month several Councillors along with relevant staff will travel to Rotorua to hear more about what drives this Government to discharge councils from their three waters operations.

The Government's freshwater policies are affecting every person in our district. The farmers have been active to put correct infrastructure in place to comply with the regional regulations. Further on, it has been requested that every farm needs an audit on a regular basis as a license to farm, called a Farm Environmental Plan. Our Council has to meet the regulations under Waikato Regional Council as well. SWDC is spending considerable capital currently to improve the wastewater treatment procedures to alleviate the effects of the treatment stations on our water courses. But this new capital infrastructure comes at a cost to the urban ratepayers as you will notice in our Long Term Plan, that is currently out for public consultation.



Mayor Jenny Shattock

0274 416 230
Jenny.Shattock
[@southwaikato.govt.nz](https://www.facebook.com/southwaikato.govt.nz)

Tokoroa Ward



**Bill Machen
Deputy Mayor**

0274 715 899
Bill.Machen
[@southwaikato.govt.nz](https://www.facebook.com/southwaikato.govt.nz)



**Arama
Ngapo**

0275 339 988
Arama.Ngapo
[@southwaikato.govt.nz](https://www.facebook.com/southwaikato.govt.nz)



Thomas Lee

0273 321 292
Thomas.Lee
[@southwaikato.govt.nz](https://www.facebook.com/southwaikato.govt.nz)



Marin Glucina

0210 284 3214
Marin.Glucina
[@southwaikato.govt.nz](https://www.facebook.com/southwaikato.govt.nz)



Hamish Daine

021 125 9225
Hamish.Daine
[@southwaikato.govt.nz](https://www.facebook.com/southwaikato.govt.nz)



Alex Jansen

0279 581 906
Alex.Jansen
[@southwaikato.govt.nz](https://www.facebook.com/southwaikato.govt.nz)

Putāruru Ward



Sandra Wallace

0210 291 3702
Sandra.Wallace
[@southwaikato.govt.nz](https://www.facebook.com/southwaikato.govt.nz)



Hans Nelis

0210 552 306
Hans.Nelis
[@southwaikato.govt.nz](https://www.facebook.com/southwaikato.govt.nz)



Gary Petley

0274 836 809
Gary.Petley
[@southwaikato.govt.nz](https://www.facebook.com/southwaikato.govt.nz)

Tirau Ward



Peter Schulte

021 434 933
Peter.Schulte
[@southwaikato.govt.nz](https://www.facebook.com/southwaikato.govt.nz)