



## On the Radar

Welcome to *On the Radar*, your new fortnightly hub for essential information, updates and reminders about upcoming projects and programmes. We've collected the media links and media releases here all in one place for you, too. To provide feedback or ask questions, please email: [rowan.dixon@waipadc.govt.nz](mailto:rowan.dixon@waipadc.govt.nz)

## Save the date! Upcoming events and notable dates

Cambridge Menzshed  
open day

10am

Saturday 15 Feb

Papatakohe playground  
opening celebration

12.30-2.30pm

Saturday 15 Feb

LTP and Local Waters  
Done Well consultation  
opens

Friday 21 March



## Playgrounds

We've had some great progress on play spaces in the new growth areas of the district. We're gearing up for the **opening of the Papatakohe Park in Bridleways Estate this weekend** (above). This will be a true destination playground and the biggest in the Waipā District, and a celebration opening event planned for Saturday is already rousing huge community interest.

If you are planning to come along, there will be reserved parking for you on Tangaroa Street, please enter from Hugo Shaw Drive and traffic management will direct you where to park. When leaving please exit out of Tangaroa Street onto Ngaki Drive. Please refer to the event manual (emailed separately) for a map. Mayor Susan will speak at 1pm, followed by the basketball free throw competition.

We are looking forward to seeing you there.

Construction has started at **Leamington Domain's playground**, which aligns with the Masterplan completed last February (and was approved in the 2024-25 Enhanced Annual Plan). Plans are progressing for a **playground renewal in Hiskens Place Reserve, Te Awamutu**, with initial mana whenua engagement and a customer survey completed. Construction is planned for 2025-26.



## Reserve planning and park operations

**Monitoring for Dutch Elm Disease** in Waipā continues with no further confirmed or suspected cases since the confirmed case in Victoria Square late 2024. There are now confirmed cases in Hamilton city and Ōtorohanga – unlikely through any connection to the Waipā cases.

Staff are working with archaeologists and mana whenua (Ngāti Apakura and Ngāti Hikairo) following a **potential discovery of what may be a waka at Lake Mangakaware**.

**Ngā Roto health warning** remains in place due to the cyanobacteria levels. Staff and contractors continue to monitor for impact on fauna with no deaths at this point.

The next **Te Awamutu War Memorial Park Partners and Stakeholders Forum** will be on Thursday February 27. Discussions will include project work on the Peace Fountain, Perfume Garden and gazebo relocation, renewal projects and potential relocation of the sundial.

## Museums, libraries and heritage

After reopening in January, our libraries saw their biggest ever day for book renewals (aside from when the libraries first re-opened post-Covid). Cambridge issued 3064 and Te Awamutu 1535 physical items.

The libraries team are now preparing to take part in the Te Awamutu Museum's upcoming Tui & Tama Club Eco Expo in March.

### Public art collection now online

Did you know we care for more than 100 artworks, all of which have been donated or commissioned over the last 80 years? Due to limited appropriate locations (and as part of good art management), we cannot physically display all of it at once. So, the **collection of both indoor and outdoor work is now available online**, so people can view it at any time.

Waipā's public art can be viewed online at [tamuseum.org.nz/publicart](https://tamuseum.org.nz/publicart), or visitors can pick up a brochure from the Te Awamutu Museum or one of the council offices.

We've also **produced a brochure** showcasing the 29 works in the outdoor collection, encouraging people to explore and discover art around the district. Notable works include the iconic bronze mare and foal sculpture outside Cambridge Town Hall (above), pieces in Te Awamutu's Sculpture Park, and pou at Mātakitaki Pā in Pirongia, as well as five pieces by acclaimed sculptor Fred Graham (Ngāti Korokī Kahukura, Waikato-Tainui).

One of the most recent pieces of art added to the collection is *The Atrocities of Rangiaowhia* by Richard Lewer (below), which depicts a significant Waipā event during the New Zealand Wars. The piece was purchased by an anonymous benefactor from Te Awamutu, and donated to Council to ensure it remained in the Waipā District.



The work will be displayed outside the Mayor's office following a blessing and unveiling event with Ngāti Apakura planned for March 3.

**Round 24 of the Heritage Fund** closed with two applications – from the Alpha Hotel in Kihikihi and from St Andrews Church in Cambridge. The Heritage Sub-Committee will meet on February 20 to assess the applications.

# Transportation

## Shakespeare Street road - Cook Street to Fergusson Bridge

Interim repair work will begin soon on this busy thoroughfare, with a more substantial rebuild now rescheduled for the next construction season to allow us sufficient time to engage with businesses and residents and formulate the best and least disruptive traffic management and safety plan.

The rebuild will involve removing pavement layers and building a thicker, stronger pavement to cope with the heavy traffic on this street. The interim repairs will address much of the uneven road surface that drivers are currently having to negotiate.

## SH3 Ōhaupō Village road rehabilitation by NZTA

Work continues on the northside of the village with completion expected by February 27. Raised safety platforms north and south of the signal crossing are being reinstated as part of this work and the south one is already back in place.

## SH3 Rukuhia Village road rehabilitation by NZTA

NZTA are planning pavement strengthening work through the Rukuhia village starting in late February. While planning work is still underway, a three-week construction period and detour route via Raynes Road and SH21 is anticipated.

## Parking time limit trials

The Te Awamutu CBD change from 60 to 120 minutes was implemented before Christmas and some positive feedback has been received.

The Cambridge CBD trial from 60 to 90 minutes is still in planning with change maps being prepared to share in February and all going well implementation in March.

## On ya bike, Waipā!

With the new Cambridge and Te Ara Rimu Kihikihi pathways finished and ready to ride, we are celebrating by calling all Waipā businesses and schools to get cycling and join the Aotearoa Bike Challenge this month. All those who take part will go in a draw to win a lunch shout and a \$200 bike store voucher, thanks to the project activation funding we received from NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi. We're encouraging Council staff and Elected Members to join in too – register at [lovetoride.net](https://lovetoride.net) and select Waipā District Council as your workplace.

To help promote cycling in Kihikihi, we are also planning a bicycle repair workshop series in partnership with Kihikihi School – this will be managed by the school and funded by NZTA.

## Road reseals

Roads set to be resealed around the district next week:

**Maungatautari:** Maungatautari Road, Luck At Last Road

**Pukeatua:** Arapuni Road

**Cambridge and Leamington:** Mansfield Street, Mason Place, Hunt Grove, Lake Street (South), and Swift Place

**Te Awamutu:** Ascot Place, Bowden Place, George Melrose Drive, McKenna Place, Wainui Ave, Churchill Street

**Ngāhinapōuri:** Holmwood Drive

## Updates from the waters team

As Waipā moved into water restrictions this week, our focus is on leak repair to demonstrate to our community that Council is doing our part to be responsible with water.

Our annual backflow testing work is in full swing, with the eighth and last phase for Te Awamutu beginning shortly, while the networks team is about to start phase three in Cambridge. It's a testing time in general for our team, as the five-yearly fire hydrant inspections will soon start too – we expect to review around 320 hydrants over the coming months.

As part of the comprehensive requirements for the Cambridge water take consent, our compliance team is about to start the annual water management report. The report this year will help us develop a Council-owned water forecast model.

We are also investigating biological remediation technologies, with the aim of reducing the decommissioning costs of the Tuhikarama pond.

At the new Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant, we are desludging the old sedimentation pond, ready for a new storage pond to be built, (pictured below).



Looking ahead, we are reconciling and revaluating our water services asset database, and revising our Asset Management Plans so we are ready for future water service arrangements.

The 2025-26 network renewals programme is under development, alongside a new stormwater maintenance contract for tender to meet future consent requirements.



## Sub-regional strategy and planning

### Future Proof

Future Proof have two one-year spatial studies that start in early 2025 that impact the district and in which Waipā will play an important role.

The first is the North Waipā South Hamilton Spatial Study that will focus on the area between Hamilton's southern boundary and the State Highway 21 (Airport Road). The purpose of this study is to outline the key land use and infrastructure investments needed to develop the South Hamilton/North Waipā area, which includes Southern Links, Mystery Creek, Rukuhia, and Hamilton Airport.

The second spatial study aims to provide a high-level spatial analysis of growth opportunities within the Future Proof subregion's part of the Hamilton to Tauranga transport corridor. The study is to focus economic development and land use in relation to the road corridor.

## Council-Led Plan Changes

We have a number of proposed plan changes in the works.

The hearing for PC14 (Hautapu C10 rezoning) is set for March 6-7; our planner's recommendations and the commissioner directions have been sent to the submitters.

PC26 (Residential Zone Intensification) became operative last August and the last piece of work is to finalise the process for collecting financial contributions. This is expected to be in place in February or March.

Draft PC23 (papakāinga housing) is progressing. We've met with Ministry for the Environment and Te Puni Kokiri officials and provided them a copy of the draft provisions. At the meeting we were advised that a National Policy Statement and National Environmental Standards are being prepared – this will have implications for the nature and form of PC23's future development.

## Consents of interest

New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi is seeking the necessary consents to construct the Cambridge to Piarere (C2P) State Highway 1 realignment. Consents are required from Waikato Regional Council, Waipā District Council and Matamata Piako District Council.

Waka Kotahi have lodged a 'fast track' application which has been accepted by the Minister for the Environment.

Waipā District Council has been invited to nominate a panel member and then make a submission on the substantive matters. We have put forward three members of our approved pool of hearing commissioners for the panel and await to be advised of the date for submissions.

## LTP update

All the documentation approved by the Council is currently undergoing the audit process, with audit clearance scheduled for March 12.

The Local Government Funding Authority application has been submitted, and we expect a decision by February 24.

The big job ahead now is preparing for community engagement with both the LTP and water reform consultations running in parallel. Planning is progressing well, and the community consultation will be open from March 21 to April 21.

## Media releases

[12 Feb: Waikato Water Done Well likely option for Waipā](#)

[11 Feb: Water restrictions now all bad news](#)

[4 Feb: Governance shake-up for Waipā District Council](#)

[4 Feb: Explore Waipā newest destination playground](#)

[29 Jan: Council speaks out on 'divisive, harmful' Treaty Principles Bill](#)

[29 Jan: Resilience in numbers – Civil Defence Local Controller appointed](#)

[29 Jan: Use water – but keep it shorter](#)

## Media clippings

[Taupō hailed by world travellers](#)

Daily Post • Malisha Kumar • Newspaper • 10 Feb 2025, 12:00 am

[Is this the best Waikato playground yet?](#)

Waikato Times • Waipa Avina Vidyadharan • Newspaper • 07 Feb 2025, 12:00 am

[Cambridge Town Hall refurbishment begins](#)

Waikato Times • Avina Vidyadharan • Newspaper • 06 Feb 2025, 12:00 am

[Tourism angle to waste plan](#)

Te Awamutu News • Chris Gardner • Internet • 06 Feb 2025, 6:03 am

[Tapping into Waipā](#)

Te Awamutu News • Chris Gardner • Internet • 06 Feb 2025, 5:02 am

[Governance shake-up for Waipā District Council](#)

Inside Government NZ • Kelly Nealon • Internet • 06 Feb 2025, 7:18 pm

[Mayor hits back at misinformation jibe](#)

Cambridge Edition • Benn Bathgate • Newspaper • 05 Feb 2025, 12:00 am

[New playground](#)

Waikato Times • Newspaper • 04 Feb 2025, 12:00 am

[Rats! Time for something different in endless bird battle](#)

Waikato Times • Richard Walker • Newspaper • 01 Feb 2025, 12:00 am

[Saluting Jared's work](#)

Cambridge News • Jo Davies-Colley • Internet • 30 Jan 2025, 11:01 am

[New sign honours former chief](#)

Cambridge News • Viv Posselt • Internet • 30 Jan 2025, 6:03 am

[Council switch shock](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 30 Jan 2025, 5:02 am

[Plan offered for park seats](#)

Te Awamutu News • Chris Gardner • Internet • 30 Jan 2025, 12:02 pm

[Waste plan: Wood at odds](#)

Te Awamutu News • Chris Gardner • Internet • 30 Jan 2025, 5:02 am

[Ōhaupō Road works begin](#)

Waikato Times • Newspaper • 29 Jan 2025, 12:00 am

[Council accused of bowing to minority](#)

Cambridge Edition • Benn Bathgate • Newspaper • 29 Jan 2025, 12:00 am

