



# On the Radar

On the Radar is your fortnightly hub for essential information, updates and reminders. In this edition, we update you on the latest Resource Management Act reform announcements, bring you up-to-date on work underway with Cambridge Connections and share some Matariki activities at our libraries.

## Save the date! Upcoming events and notable dates



Leamington Playground re-opening

Saturday, July 5  
10am-noon

# Community Services

Libraries, museum and heritage



## Matariki mā Puanga art competition

We are running an art competition for tamariki aged up to 13 to celebrate Matariki, in conjunction with Te Wānanga o Aotearoa. Children can come into either library branch to collect an entry form and an information sheet to help inspire them.

The theme of Matariki mā Puanga is all about inclusion, embracing diversity and celebrating Matariki together. Matariki and Puanga are stars that sit in the night sky, signalling the start of the Māori New Year for different iwi.

Matariki mā Puanga acknowledges and embraces the different traditions, stars and tikanga around celebrating the Māori New Year, recognising the regional variations.

Tamariki have until 5pm on Tuesday, July 15 to bring their completed artwork into the library to be in with a chance to win a prize for themselves, and a prize pack for their school or community group, thanks to Te Wānanga o Aotearoa.

You can learn more about the competition here: [Matariki mā Puanga Art Competition](#) | [Waipa Libraries](#)

## Matariki printmaking workshop



An antique mobile printing press – dating back to 1833 – will be at the Te Awamutu Library on Wednesday, July 16, for some unique and hands-on Matariki workshops!

This is a rare opportunity for the community to get creative using traditional printing techniques. An adults' workshop will run from 10am – 1pm followed by a free children's drop-in activity session from 3.30 – 5pm. Both will be held in Te Puna Kōrero Community Room, and are jointly hosted by the Te Awamutu Museum team.

Printing presses have an interesting history and unique connection to our district, as for the last 80 years the museum has been home to the taonga, Te Hokioi (pictured left).

This cast iron press was gifted in 1860 to Hemara Te Rerehau of Ngāti Maniapoto and Wiremu Toetoe of Ngāti Apakura by Austrian Emperor, Franz Josef. It was used to print a Kingitanga newspaper, Te Hokioi e Rere Atu Na, before the invasion of the Waikato in 1863.

You can learn more about [Te Hokioi here](#)

## Winter reading challenge



Get Lit is the libraries' winter reading challenge for teenagers and adults, which runs through until Saturday, August 30.

It's free to enter, with a section for rangatahi aged 13 to 17 and another for those aged 18 and over. The idea is to encourage people to try reading different types of books, marking off the bingo-style challenge sheet as they go, to be in the draw to win prizes.

For more information, follow this link [Get Lit: Teen and Adult Winter Reading Challenge | Waipa Libraries](#)

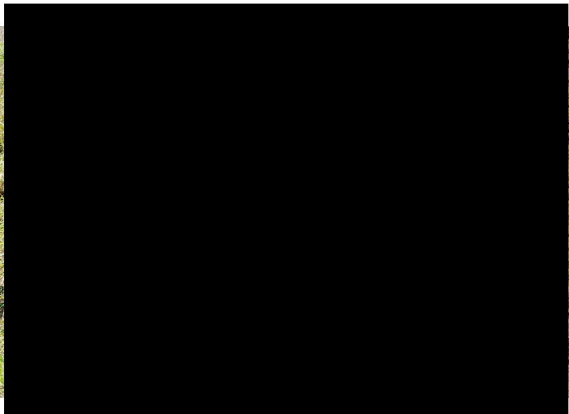
## Wriggle and Rhyme

Wriggle and Rhyme is more popular than ever at the Cambridge Library! This term, the library team has trialled adding a Monday morning session, and with numbers ever increasing, we've decided to continue this on a permanent basis. The trial has achieved the goal of balancing the numbers across Mondays and Tuesdays, and this means both sessions are now easier to manage with enough room for everyone to enjoy themselves.

Wriggle and Rhyme is aimed at children from birth to age two.



## Park operations



We're planting 17,000 natives this season! Council's biodiversity planner has been managing a number of planting days at some of our restoration sites – Lake Rotopiko, Daphne Street Esplanade (Enviroschools Climate Leaders Summit), Sainsbury Road Reserve and Lake Ngā Roto Reserve, with more planned.

Pictured above are a young nature lover, and our own Group Manager Customer and Community Services, Sally Sheedy, at the Sainsbury Road Reserve community planting day.

The community has been very enthusiastic about the project, as we've had around 150 volunteers help out with planting so far.

## Transport

### Cambridge Connections



Executive director Katie Mayes has been onboard for a month now, and has provided the following overview of where she is at with the reset of Cambridge Connections.

"I have spent much of my time meeting with interested members of the community, key organisations and Cambridge-based Elected Members to understand their perspectives. I have started regular updates to those on the Cambridge Connections mailing list, and am working with the Communications & Engagement team to develop a plan to inform the broader community about key upcoming milestones.

I am also working with staff to reset the project internally. This will see a refreshed approach to managing risk and a rebranding of the project to recognise the commitment council has made to the project reset.

I will be providing the Cambridge Community Board with an informal update about Cambridge Connections at its meeting on Wednesday, June 25. Similar to the agenda for the Council workshop on Thursday, June 26, I will also be seeking feedback from the Community Board about desired forms of community engagement and what success looks like for them for the reset project. This will inform the proposed project approach (including the proposed communications and engagement) that I will be putting to the Strategic Planning & Policy Committee for approval on Wednesday, August 6."

## Major roadworks on Raynes Road

Work is underway on the Waikato Regional Airport Northern Precinct land development, which will create new industrial and commercial land north of the runway.

The first stage will be accessed via Raynes Road, which is being upgraded to include a new intersection, a shared path and street lighting.

Some of this work has started, but within a few weeks (dates to be confirmed) part of Raynes Road from south of Narrows Road to Sharpe Road will be closed to traffic for up to two months.

Please note this work is all funded by the developer and Council is not involved in the construction delivery.

### What's changing?

The new intersection (see map below) has been shaped by Plan Change 20 and public consultation, which confirmed the following turn restrictions:

- No right turns into the new development from Raynes Road
- Left turns only out of the development, heading north on Raynes Road

These restrictions are designed to keep increased development traffic away from residential parts of Raynes Road and instead direct it towards SH21 (Airport Road).

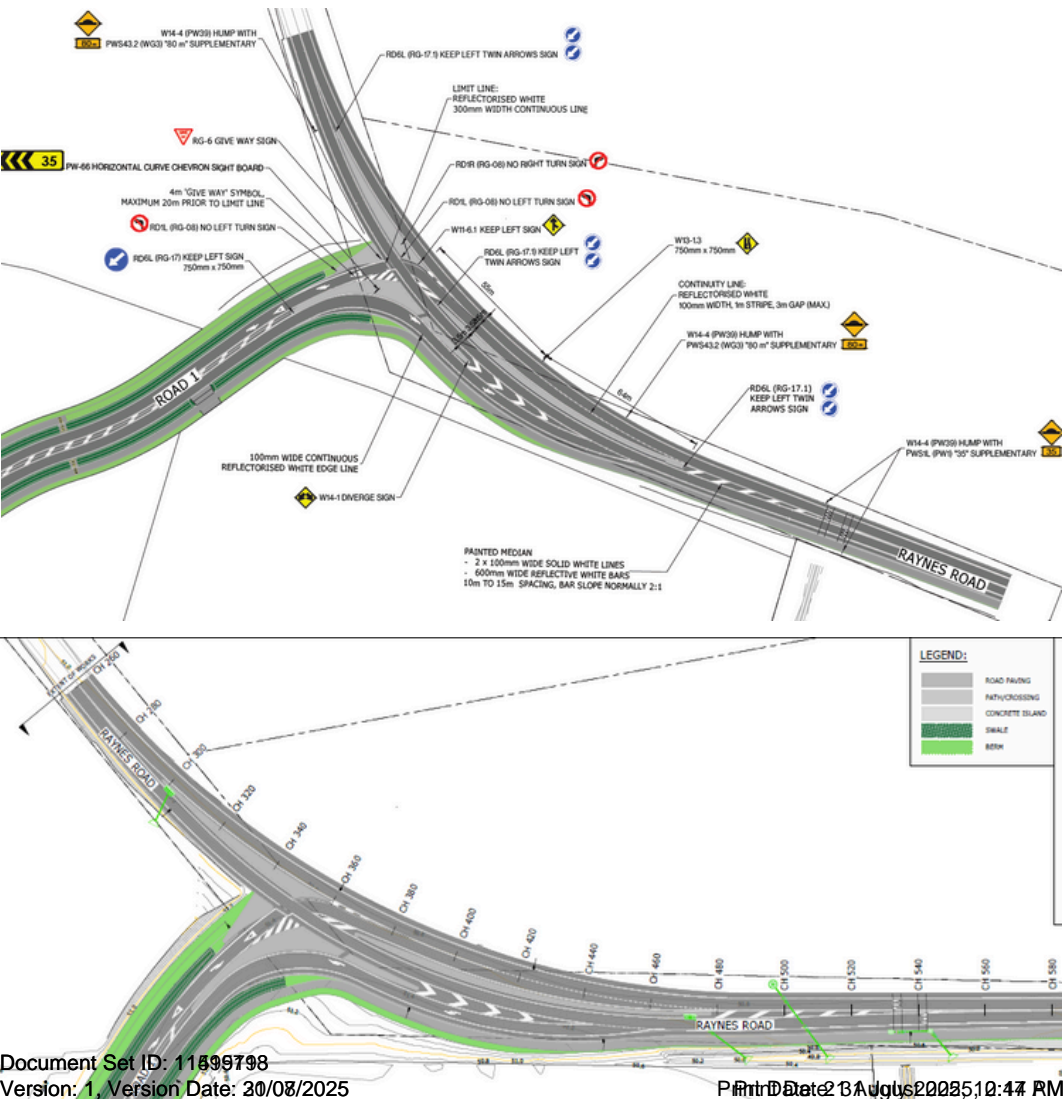
The traffic islands allow through traffic and limits turns to and from SH21.

This information is provided from Waipa District Council

This is an unusual intersection form, and to make sure that traffic speeds through the intersection are controlled, raised safety platforms will be installed on Raynes Road either side of the intersection traffic merge area. These platforms will have very gentle slopes, so will be safe and fully suitable for the heavy vehicles that will drive through. The posted speed limit here is 80km/h but the curve and intersection is designed for 60km/h speeds.

While this part of Raynes Road is closed, through traffic will be directed to stay on SH21 and SH3 to go around the work site. This will cause only a minor delay to motorists who would ordinarily pass through Raynes Road, but residents on Raynes Road, Lowe Road, Middle Road and Narrows Road may have a longer trip if they previously used Raynes Road to travel south to SH1.

We are working with the developers and Waikato Regional Airport Ltd to ensure the affected residents and the wider community are kept informed, and will provide you with more details, including confirmed dates, as soon as they are available.



## Upcoming road closures

There will be night closures next week on Victoria Street, Cambridge (including Victoria Bridge) and Jacobs Street, Te Awamutu for planned essential road repairs and resealing.

### Victoria Street

Sections of Victoria Street between the Pope Terrace intersection and Queen Street will be closed from 8pm to 6am for three nights from Sunday, June 22 to Tuesday, June 24.

Closures will happen one block at a time, starting at the Pope Terrace intersection, with the Victoria Bridge being closed from 8pm Sunday, June 22 until 6am Monday, June 23.

Emergency services, as well as hospitality staff and patrons, will have full access during the work.

The Victoria Square bus stop will be out of action from 8pm to 6am on Monday, June 23 and Tuesday, June 24. We have installed signage to let patrons know that there will be temporary bus stops during this time:

- Empire Street outside Woolworths for the 20 Cambridge service
- Queen Street outside Mobil for the northbound intercity bus service
- Victoria Street outside the BP for the southbound intercity bus service

Surrounding residents and businesses have been communicated with, and the web alert is live. We've let the Chamber of Commerce know directly, and the wider community via social media and Antenno.

### Jacobs Street

Jacobs Street between Rewi and Teasdale Streets will be closed on Wednesday, June 25, Thursday, June 26 and Sunday, June 29 from 7pm to 6am.

Residents, their visitors, emergency services, and business customers using the car park off Jacobs Street will have access at all times.

Surrounding residents and businesses have been communicated with, and the web alert is live. Facebook post and Antenno will go up at the start of next week.

## Queen Street closure

Queen Street will be closed between Dick and Bryce Streets, on Monday, June 23, from 9am to 4pm, while our contractors grind down the raised pedestrian crossing on Queen Street to ensure a smoother drive for vehicles.

This work was originally planned for April, but since it requires a full road closure, it was rescheduled for to a time that will minimise disruption.



# Waters

## Alpha Street Water Treatment Plant

Further to the discussion at the recent Audit and Risk Committee, this is the current planned project timeline for milestones at the Alpha Street Water Treatment Plant.

- Initial site investigation studies are now completed
- Consultant engagement and commence detail design of process currently underway
- Tender for membranes and peripherals currently in market with expected award by the end of July
- Tender main civil contract by the end of September, with review by independent Quantity Surveyor for the award of contract by December this year
- Commence construction mid to late March 2026 (after the peak summer period of water demand 2025-2026)
- Construction and commissioning complete / plant in service by January 2027 (ahead of peak summer period of water demand 2026-2027).

# Growth

## Resource Management Law Reform (phase 2)



The Government is proposing major updates to the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) through four reform packages to the National Directions. These changes were advised by the Ministry for the Environment on Thursday, May 29.

The changes are comprised in four packages as follows:

- Package 1 – Infrastructure and Development
- Package 2 – Primary Sector
- Package 3 – Freshwater
- Package 4 – Going for Housing Growth

Packages 1 – 3 propose updates to National Policy Statements, National Environmental Standards and Resource Management Regulations. Submissions close 11.59pm Sunday, July 27.

Package 4 (received Wednesday, June 18) is a discussion document seeking feedback on how the Government's Going for Housing Growth policy could be implemented. Submissions close 11.59pm Sunday, August 17.



This information is provided from Waipā District Council

## **Packages 1 and 2: Proposed changes to National Policy Statements and Environmental Standards**

The Government wants to improve how planning decisions support national priorities — particularly for infrastructure, natural hazards, renewable energy and land use.

### **Two new National Policy Statements are proposed**

**NPS – Infrastructure (NPS-I):** Covers all infrastructure (except renewable electricity generation and electricity transmission, which already have their own National Policy Statement). It aims to ensure infrastructure is efficient, resilient, and benefits communities and the environment. It includes 10 policies to guide planning decisions, emphasising infrastructure benefits and Māori interests.

**NPS – Natural Hazards (NPS-NH):** Introduces a risk-based approach to managing natural hazards like floods, landslips and liquefaction. It applies to all activities except primary production and infrastructure, requires development controls based on risk and considers climate change over a 100-year horizon.

### **Amendments to six existing National Policy Statements are proposed**

**1. Renewable Electricity Generation (NPS-REG):** Updated to reflect New Zealand’s emissions targets, promoting increased renewable energy generation, resilience, and Māori involvement. It introduces new policies to support consenting and upgrading existing assets.

**2. Electricity Transmission (renamed NPS – Electricity Networks or NPS-EN):** Expanded and updated to include distribution networks and EV infrastructure, this aims to integrate electricity networks with urban planning.

**3. Highly Productive Land (NPS-HPL):** Proposes removing protections for Class 3 soils. Introduces Special Agricultural Areas and allows mineral extraction where there’s a national or regional benefit. These changes aim to balance food production with urban development needs.

**4. Mining and Quarrying:** Minor changes proposed to the NPS – Indigenous Biodiversity (NPS-IB) and NPS – Highly Productive Land (NPS-HPL) to make it easier to use and develop significant natural areas and highly productive land for mineral extraction and quarrying.

**5. New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement:** Not applicable to Waipā District.

**6. Freshwater Management (NPS-FW):** Under review

### **Two new National Environmental Standards are proposed**

**New NES for Minor Residential Units (Granny Flats):** Allows one minor residential unit per site (in addition to an existing dwelling) in residential and rural zones as a permitted activity, provided it is designed and located to meet specific standards. These include a minimum internal floor area of 70m<sup>2</sup>, shared ownership with the main dwelling, and specified setbacks and site coverage. These rules will override the existing District Plan provisions and changes to the District Plan will be needed to account for this.

**New NES for Papakāinga:** This will apply specifically to Māori ancestral land and Treaty Settlement land (which are defined by the standard). On ancestral land, it permits up to 10 residential units per site, and associated non-residential and cultural activities within rural, residential, and Māori purpose zones. Resource consents are required for papakāinga on Treaty Settlement land and for developments of more than 10 residential units. The standard is very similar to and in most instances is more lenient than the provisions that have been developed for Plan Change 23.s.

## Amendments to the below existing National Environmental Standards are proposed

**Amended NES for Electricity Transmission (renamed NES – Electricity Network Activities):** Adds EV infrastructure and expands what's allowed for power lines and equipment, except in Auckland.

**Amended NES for Telecommunications Facilities:** Supports faster 5G rollout, modern off-grid options, and renewable energy. Eases size, height, and siting rules for antennas and cabinets.

**Amended NES for Commercial Forestry:** This reduces circumstances where councils can apply stricter rules for forestry, removes requirements for afforestation and replanting plans for be provided to Council, and strengthens requirements for managing wilding pine and slash mobilisation risks.

**Stock Exclusion Regulations (SER):** Proposed changes would exempt non-intensively grazed cattle and deer from wetland exclusion rules.

## Implementation

All changes will take effect as soon as they are officially gazetted. Councils will need to review District Plans to ensure they align with the new national direction. In most instances, changes will be able to be made without the full public (Schedule 1) process.

There is no fixed deadline for updating District Plans. However, Councils must consider the amended rules when making decisions on plan changes, resource consents and designations.

### Package 3 – National Policy Statement (Freshwater)

Proposed changes to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) and National Environmental Standards for Freshwater (NES-F) aim to simplify freshwater regulation and better balance environmental, economic, and community needs.

### Package 4 – Going for Housing Growth discussion paper

The discussion paper outlines Pillar 1 of the Government's Going for Housing Growth programme. Key proposals include requiring councils plan for 30 years of housing demand, removing rural-urban boundaries, strengthening intensification, and promoting mixed-use development.

The paper supports a shift to a more flexible, market-responsive planning system, with standardised zones and streamlined land release. It also proposes removing minimum floor area and balcony rules.

Feedback is sought to shape how these changes are implemented under the new Planning and Natural Environment Acts expected in 2027.

The requested feedback includes:

- Whether setting the same requirements for all Councils within the same urban environment (eg. treating Waipā and Waikato the same as Hamilton) is fit for purpose; and
- Whether requirements to prepare or review Housing Business Assessments and Future Development Strategies ahead of 2027 should be retained or suspended to allow a focus on implementation of Phase 3 reforms

For more information, the full discussion document is [available at this link](#).

### Next steps

- The provisions will be workshopped with Council on Thursday, July 3.
- Staff will be identifying issues with each package and preparing submissions in relation to matters of support and concern that become apparent.

Legislation changes

We actively monitor the changes to legislation being proposed by Central Government, and want to keep Elected Members across the latest changes, submissions and directions.

The table below lists the changes that have occurred over the last fortnight.

Item Name	Description	Status comments
Open for submissions		
<a href="#">Regulatory Standards Bill</a>	<p>The bill aims to support Parliament’s scrutiny of legislation, and its oversight and control of the use of delegated powers to make legislation.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Introduce a set of regulatory principles that new and existing regulations would be measured against. These include the rule of law, personal liberties, taking of property, taxes, fees, and levies, and the role of courts.</li><li>2. Responsible Ministers, administering agencies, and other makers of legislation would be required to assess the consistency of proposed and existing legislation against these principles. Ministers, as well as makers of secondary legislation, would be required to publish or present to the House of Representatives the results of those assessments.</li><li>3. The bill would also establish a Regulatory Standards Board to independently consider the consistency of legislation with the principles. The members of the board would be appointed by the Minister for Regulation. The board would carry out inquiries into whether legislation is inconsistent with the principles following a complaint, at the direction of the Minister, or on its own accord.</li><li>4. Strengthen the regulatory oversight of the Ministry of Regulation by requiring the Ministry to report on the overall state of the regulatory management system. It would empower the Ministry to require agencies to supply information as a part of its oversight of the regulatory management system. This would include public service agencies, makers and administrators of secondary legislation, and agencies and contractors that perform a statutory function.</li></ol>	<p>Consultation closes 1pm Monday, June 23.</p> <p>Staff recommendation – do not submit; however, recommend supporting Taituarā submission. Please find <a href="#">the final draft submission here.</a></p> <p>The bill focuses on how central government makes legislation.</p> <p>The main point of contention is the lack of a ‘Tiriti principle’.</p> <p>Currently, we are not resourced to make a submission.</p>

Item Name	Description	Status comments
<a href="#">Building and Construction (Small Stand-alone Dwellings) Amendment Bill</a>	<p><b>About this change process:</b></p> <p>This Bill will change the Building Act, Local Government Act 2002, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act, Plumbers, Gasfitters, and Drainlayers Act, Electricity (Safety) Regulations, Gas (Safety and Measurement) Regulations, and related regulations.</p> <p>The purpose is to reduce the time and cost of building a granny flat by permitting small stand-alone dwellings up to 70 square metres to be built without obtaining a building consent, given certain conditions are met.</p> <p>These conditions are that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>the granny flat must be simple in its design and meet the building code</li><li>building work must be carried out by authorised professionals</li><li>councils must be notified prior to and on completion of building work.</li></ul>	<p>Consultation closes Monday, June 23.</p> <p>Staff recommendation – do not submit. We are not resourced to submit within the required timeframe.</p>
Updated		
Changes to MPI's cost recovery settings: 2025 annual review	<p>The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) is making changes to its cost recovery settings. Following consultation, it published the following regulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Animal Welfare (Cost Recovery) Amendment Regulations 2025</li><li>Food (Fees, Charges, and Levies) Amendment Regulations 2025.</li></ul> <p>For a schedule of the upcoming changes, see the Ministry for Primary Industries update on <a href="#">proposed changes to cost recovery settings: 2025 annual review</a>.</p>	<p>Regulations come into force on Tuesday, July 1.</p>
<a href="#">Supercharging residential solar power generation</a>	<p>The Government is proposing changes to support more rooftop solar panels and reduce electricity costs. The proposals include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>expanding the permitted voltage range from about 6 percent to about 10 percent so households can send more solar power back to the grid</li><li>clarifying that a building consent is not needed to install rooftop solar panels on existing buildings</li><li>requiring councils to process building consents for new homes with rooftop solar panels in 10 working days instead of 20 working days.</li></ul>	<p>Staff recommendation: Keep a watching brief for further information.</p>

## Media releases

- [June 17: Pirongia pitches in to plant thousands of natives](#)
  - [June 16: Welcome to Waipā: international flights return to Hamilton Airport](#)
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## Media clippings

### [We have touchdown!](#)

Waikato Times • Stephen Ward • Newspaper • 17 Jun 2025, 12:00 am

### [Controversial waste plant would burn plastic and tyres](#)

Waikato Times • Matthew Martin • Newspaper • 17 Jun 2025, 12:00 am

### [Opinion heats up close to site of proposed plant](#)

Waikato Times • Benn Bathgate • Newspaper • 16 Jun 2025, 12:00 am

### [So long tree](#)

Waikato Times • Newspaper • 16 Jun 2025, 12:00 am

### [The Aussies are landing](#)

Waikato Times • Hamilton Airport Matthew Martin • Newspaper • 16 Jun 2025, 12:00 am

### [Principal Pettit to contest mayoralty](#)

Waikato Times • Matthew Martin • Newspaper • 14 Jun 2025, 12:00 am

### [St Pierre to contest mayoralty](#)

Waikato Times • Matthew Martin • Newspaper • 13 Jun 2025, 12:00 am

### [Taupō still in water done well equation](#)

Cambridge News • Internet • 12 Jun 2025, 3:01 pm

### [Airport future proofed](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 12 Jun 2025, 8:01 am

### [Council defends comms](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 12 Jun 2025, 6:01 am

### [Reserve plan date delayed](#)

Te Awamutu News • Chris Gardner • Internet • 12 Jun 2025, 10:51 am

### [A 'declaration of intent'](#)

Te Awamutu News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 12 Jun 2025, 10:05 am

### [Vandalism – who is to blame?](#)

Te Awamutu News • Chris Gardner • Internet • 12 Jun 2025, 8:00 am



[Kokako for Maungatautari](#)

Te Awamutu News • Chris Gardner • Internet • 12 Jun 2025, 7:01 am

[Fieldays growth discussed](#)

Te Awamutu News • Chris Gardner • Internet • 12 Jun 2025, 6:00 am

[Pressure on sanctuary](#)

Waikato Times • Newspaper • 11 Jun 2025, 12:00 am

[Cause of Waipā gastro outbreak found](#)

Cambridge Edition • Paora Manuel • Newspaper • 11 Jun 2025, 12:00 am

[Two years of road works completed](#)

Cambridge Edition • Newspaper • 11 Jun 2025, 12:00 am

[Toilet busting for upgrade](#)

Cambridge Edition • Newspaper • 11 Jun 2025, 12:00 am

[Waipā wants feral cats on the Predator Free hit-list](#)

Cambridge Edition • Madeleine Powers • Newspaper • 11 Jun 2025, 12:00 am

[Free library internet access remains](#)

Cambridge Edition • Newspaper • 11 Jun 2025, 12:00 am

['Better Hamilton' leaders band together to contest elections](#)

Waikato Times • Stephen Ward • Newspaper • 10 Jun 2025, 12:00 am

[Submitters speak: Just 1.6% favour Te Awamutu waste-to-energy plant proposal](#)

Waikato Times • Benn Bathgate • Internet • 09 Jun 2025, 5:17 am

[More than 2000 submitters say no to facility](#)

Waikato Times • Benn Bathgate • Newspaper • 09 Jun 2025, 12:00 am

[Feedback 'average at best' for Waikato's Water Done Well](#)

Waikato Times • Matthew Martin • Newspaper • 09 Jun 2025, 12:00 am

[This isn't your average stormwater outlet](#)

Waikato Times • Madeleine Powers • Newspaper • 07 Jun 2025, 12:00 am

[Call for feral cats to be added to predator free hit list](#)

Radio New Zealand • Internet • 06 Jun 2025, 5:01 pm

[Hautapu substation commissioned](#)

Cambridge News • Internet • 06 Jun 2025, 1:55 pm

[From hangers to King's honour](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 05 Jun 2025, 2:05 pm

[Cambridge reconnections](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 05 Jun 2025, 10:01 am

[Plan change review begins](#)

Te Awamutu News • Chris Gardner • Internet • 05 Jun 2025, 2:03 pm

[Community asset available](#)

Te Awamutu News • Jesse Wood • Internet • 05 Jun 2025, 11:03 am

[Letters to the Editor – 5 June 2025](#)

Te Awamutu News • Internet • 05 Jun 2025, 5:02 am

[It's plankety blank](#)

Te Awamutu News • Chris Gardner • Internet • 05 Jun 2025, 5:01 am

[Letters to the Editor – 5 June 2025](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 04 Jun 2025, 9:01 pm

[Cambridge recycle plant has residents concerned](#)

Cambridge Edition • Madeleine Powers • Newspaper • 04 Jun 2025, 12:00 am

[New player in Waipā poll](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 04 Jun 2025, 5:16 pm

[New appointments – June 2025](#)

Waikato Business News • Internet • 04 Jun 2025, 6:00 pm

[Internet access to remain free at Waipā libraries](#)

Waikato Business News • Internet • 04 Jun 2025, 10:45 am

[Time to study the form](#)

Cambridge News • Peter Carr • Internet • 02 Jun 2025, 9:16 am

