

We hosted a **delegation from the Cook Islands** this week (below), visiting as part of an international project to help improve asset management in the Cook Islands.



Growth

Cambridge to Piarere

NZTA is progressing its work to gain the necessary consents for the Cambridge to Piarere State Highway 1 realignment.

Consents are required from Waikato Regional Council, Waipā District Council and Matamata Piako District Council.

The 'fast track' application has been accepted for processing with the following panel members appointed:

- [Simon Berry](#) (chair - nominated by the local authorities)
- [Tim Manukau](#) (also nominated by the local authorities)
- [Alethea Hikuroa](#) (nominated by Te Whakakitenga)

The next steps are estimated below based on the statutory timeframes under the NBEA:

- Submissions invited by the panel – March 17
- Submissions close – April 14
- Decision due if no hearing held – July 14
- Decision due if hearing held – August 25

Waipā District Council is **invited to make a submission** on the substantive matters, which staff are



Property

Roche Street update

With about three months of work done, the **seismic strengthening and refurbishment** project for 135 Roche Street is running smoothly.

Progress to date includes:

- Scaffolding/shrink wrapping installed
- Old roof cladding removed
- Construction of the new structural plywood diaphragm over much of the roof area including the annex area completed
- Removal of old steel window frames and replacement with new aluminium frames to the chambers open plan office area
- Concrete infill wall lintels, boxing and installation of reinforcement for infill shear walls completed
- Timber framing for roof structure underway
- Delivery of timber trusses for roof completed
- Construction of wall opening for internal museum lift completed
- Mechanical services installation commenced in museum ceiling space
- Timber wall framing installed inside the museum area.

The next steps include roof framing work and the installation of roof trusses, more window replacements and the installation of mechanical services in the museum ceiling space.



Roof trusses being delivered

Cambridge Water Tower

After the dangerous metalwork was removed from the outside of the upper level late last year, we have decontaminated the inside and carried out sampling and testing of the brick work and mortar. The measured strength of the tower materials will be used to complete a new detailed seismic assessment ready for peer review due to be completed by mid-March. Preliminary design and costing of strengthening options will follow.



Strategy

Sustainability and Climate Change

The upcoming Sustainability and Climate Change Sub-committee meeting and workshop on March 24 will be a full and interesting day – and all Elected Members will be invited.

The workshop will include an update from the Climate Change Commission which will likely focus on their adaptation work, an overview from James Hughes of Tonkin & Taylor on our organisational climate change risk assessment, and an update from Waikato Regional Council. We will also have a second workshop to progress the development of a Climate Change Strategy.

The meeting agenda includes updates on delivery of the sustainability and climate change work programme, our energy use and our associated emissions, and a report on how climate change is considered in our district plan.



Grant Johnson of Rocketspark, Waipā District Council economic development advisor, Joy Mickleson, Kate Wightman of Soda Inc, Thinus du Preez of CompuHubNZ Ltd (rear).

Waipā Tech Meetups

The first of our **new series of tech meetups** was a great success – held in partnership with Rocketspark and regional business partner SODA Inc.

This was on the back of our adoption of the Anchor Institution Framework and implementation plan last year, which resulted in discussions about supporting and growing industry clusters. A pilot series of four [Waipā Tech Meetups](#) was planned, and the first event held on Wednesday February 12 was a resounding success, with more than 65 people attending to hear Cambridge-based tech entrepreneur David Booth present on accessing venture capital and alternative methods of capital raising for new tech ventures.

One outcome of the first meetup was the formation of a smaller group of local venture capitalists who can collectively support the development of emerging local tech businesses.

The second event is being held at Storyteller Bar in Te Awamutu on Thursday April 3. [Registrations are open here.](#)

Once the series is complete in June, we will evaluate the outcomes before committing to continue. The aim of the organisers is to pass the future running of the Tech Meetups over to the cluster itself, ensuring continuing organic growth.

Regional Economic Development Forum – a unified voiced Climate Change

A strong focus remains on economic development despite the closure of Te Waka. Economic development teams from 10 local councils and the Waikato Regional Council have formed a Regional Economic Development Forum. This will help enhance cross-organisational engagement, and allows us to speak with a unified voice.

The forum meets monthly online and is chaired our economic development advisor Joy Mickleson.

Future Proof - Economic Development Working Group

Two spatial studies are currently under way - Waipā North/Hamilton South, and the Waikato to Tauranga corridor. Economic development teams from the Future Proof Councils (Hamilton City, Waipā, Waikato and Matamata Piako District Councils) joined the Future Proof project in late 2024, to bring an economic lens on spatial planning.

Media releases

[27 Feb: Waipā's great outdoor celebration](#)

[26 Feb: Waipā confirms support for Waikato Water Done Well](#)

[26 Feb: Temporary alcohol ban for Night of Champions](#)

[26 Feb: Reshuffle of committee chairs for two key council committees](#)

[26 Feb: Shakespeare Street to get interim repairs](#)

[25 Feb: Big boost for conservation in Waipā](#)

[25 Feb: Waipā lends a helping hand in the Pacific](#)

[24 Feb: Cambridge Pathway completed at last](#)

[20 Feb: Cambridge Menzshed gives council building new life](#)

[19 Feb: AA battery causes fire at recycling centre](#)

[19 Feb: Waipā to farewell deputy chief executive](#)

[14 Feb: Waipā public art goes digital](#)

[14 Feb: Lake Ngā Roto's future open for feedback](#)

Media clippings

[Defiance and threats as councils fluoride deadlines loom](#)

Radio New Zealand • Internet • 22 Feb 2025, 11:48 am

[Hornwort weed warning for Lake Karāpiro as Maadi Regatta approaches](#)

Waikato Times • Internet • 22 Feb 2025, 6:50 am

[Stolwyk dumped as chair](#)

Cambridge News • Internet • 21 Feb 2025, 4:44 pm

[Improving biodiversity on farm for the next generation](#)

stuff.co.nz • Internet • 20 Feb 2025, 2:02 pm

[Local govt clashes may lead to new code of conduct](#)

newsroom.co.nz • Internet • 20 Feb 2025, 5:04 am

[Three decades, no improvement](#)

Cambridge News • Internet • 20 Feb 2025, 12:01 pm

[Waipā council to farewell deputy chief executive](#)

Waikato Times • Newspaper • 20 Feb 2025, 12:00 am

[Paying for public transport](#)

Te Awamutu News • Internet • 20 Feb 2025, 11:00 am

[Waipā takes regional option](#)

Te Awamutu News • Internet • 20 Feb 2025, 1:03 pm

[New rules for kiwifruit](#)

Te Awamutu News • Internet • 20 Feb 2025, 11:01 am

[Fluoride bill welcomed](#)

Te Awamutu News • Internet • 20 Feb 2025, 9:02 am

[Waste plant 'best option we have'](#)

Te Awamutu News • Internet • 20 Feb 2025, 8:04 am

[Raceway challenged](#)

Cambridge News • Internet • 20 Feb 2025, 5:00 am

[Playtime draws hundreds](#)

Cambridge News • Internet • 20 Feb 2025, 8:00 am

[Help, but no school on horizon](#)

Cambridge News • Internet • 20 Feb 2025, 7:03 am

[\\$3.7m destination playground opens](#)

Cambridge Edition • Newspaper • 19 Feb 2025, 12:00 am

[We're under water restriction](#)

Cambridge Edition • Newspaper • 19 Feb 2025, 12:00 am

[Plans for Ngā Roto](#)

Waikato Times • Newspaper • 18 Feb 2025, 12:00 am

[Public art goes online](#)

Waikato Times • Newspaper • 17 Feb 2025, 12:00 am

[Waipā prefers seven council deal](#)

Waikato Business News • Internet • 13 Feb 2025, 7:55 am

[Water under the bridge?](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 13 Feb 2025, 5:02 am

[Wetlands celebrated](#)

Te Awamutu News • Viv Posselt • Internet • 13 Feb 2025, 10:02 am

[Council told to join fight](#)

Te Awamutu News • Chris Gardner • Internet • 13 Feb 2025, 9:06 am

[The hidden cinema in Cambridge Town Hall](#)

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

[News in brief](#)

Cambridge News • Internet • 12 Feb 2025, 8:02 pm

[Hall getting a spruce up](#)

Cambridge Edition • Avina Vidyadharan • Newspaper • 12 Feb 2025, 12:00 am

[Water restrictions for Hamilton and Waipā](#)

Inside Government NZ • Kelly Nealon • Internet • 11 Feb 2025, 12:47 pm

