

Annual surveying

Annual **sealed road condition survey work** gets underway across the district from today (Friday, April 11) to the end of May. A special van with lasers, cameras and GPS records road smoothness, ruts, surface texture and cracking. These measurements are used to report road condition and guide pavement management and renewal decision making.

Arterial roads are measured every year and lower volume roads every two or three years. NZTA funds this work to ensure it is done consistently across the whole of New Zealand.

Inspection Vehicle



Growth

Resource Management Act reforms



The reforms of the Resource Management Act (RMA) are in phase 3, with Central Government advising that Cabinet has made in-principle decisions on a range of features for the new planning system and agreed on the overall shape of the replacement legislation.

This comes after the Expert Advisory Group released its blueprint for the RMA reforms.

Cabinet has agreed the blueprint delivers a workable basis for the new system, and will now look through the policy detail, introducing two new Acts into Parliament before the end of the year. A Planning Act will focus on regulating the use, development and enjoyment of land, and a Natural Environment Act will focus on the use, protection and enhancement of the natural environment.

The key features of the new system include:

- **A narrowed approach to effects management:** The new system will be based on the economic concept of “externalities”. Effects that are borne solely by the party undertaking the activity will not be controlled by the new system (for example, interior building layouts or exterior aspects of buildings that have no impact on neighbouring properties such as the size and configuration of apartments, the provision of balconies, and the configuration of outdoor open spaces for a private dwelling). Matters such as effects on trade competition will be excluded.
- **Property Rights:** Both Acts will include starting presumptions that a land use is enabled, unless there is a significant enough impact on either the ability of others to use their own land or on the natural environment. This will reduce the scope of effects being regulated and enable more activities to take place as of right. There will be clear protection for lawfully established existing use rights, including the potential for the reasonable expansion of existing activities over time where the site is ‘zoned or owned’. There will be a requirement for regulatory justification reports if departing from approaches to regulation standardised at the national level. Compensation may happen for regulatory takings in some circumstances. There will be an expansion in the range of permitted activities.
- **Simplified National Direction:** One set of national policy direction under each Act will simplify, streamline, and direct local government plans and decision-making in the system. Direction under the Natural Environment Act will cover freshwater, indigenous biodiversity and coastal policy. Direction under the new Planning Act will cover urban development, infrastructure (including renewable energy) and natural hazards.
- **Environmental limits:** A clearer legislative basis for setting environmental limits for our natural environment will provide more certainty around where development can and should be enabled, whilst protecting the environment.
- **Greater use of standardisation:** Nationally set standards, including standardised land use zones, will provide significant system benefits and efficiencies. The new legislation will provide for greater standardisation, while still maintaining local decision making over the things that matter.
- **Spatial Plans:** Each region will be required to have a spatial plan, focused on identifying sufficient future urban development areas, development areas that are being prioritised for public investment and existing and planned infrastructure corridors and strategic sites.
- **Streamlining of council plans:** A combined plan will include a spatial planning chapter, an environment chapter and planning chapters (one per territorial authority district).
- **Strengthening environmental compliance monitoring and enforcement:** To safeguard the environment, a national compliance regulator with a regional presence will be established.

More information, the fact sheet and the blueprint documents, can be found [here](#).

We will continue to monitor the progression of the development of the Bills for public input. The Government will likely be seeking to get the legislation approved in 2026 prior to the next election.

Submission on SH1 realignment proposal

We have lodged a submission with the Environmental Protection Authority supporting NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi's fast-track proposal to realign State Highway 1 between Cambridge and Piarere.

The submission is a joint effort between Waikato Regional Council, Waipā District Council and Matamata Piako District Council and can be read in full [here](#).

Waters

Te Awamutu water main upgrades



The small rose garden located at the corner of Arawata Street and Scout Lane (pictured above) needs to be removed so we can install the new water main pipes. The removal of the rose bushes is planned to take place the week beginning April 21.

Our contractor tried to work around the bushes but unfortunately, the connection point is directly underneath them. Removing the roses will also give the work crew more space when they come to work on the bridge, without needing traffic management to keep safe.

The roses concerned are not rare, and as the plants are older than five years old, they are unlikely to survive being transplanted.

Once the water main work is complete, the area will be reinstated to topsoil and grass, and our parks team are considering planting some replacement roses nearby around the Scout Hall.

Property

Karāpiro Lake Domain

Analysis of the initial feedback received for the Reserve Management plan review is underway. Feedback can be found here:

[Karāpiro Lake Domain Reserve Management Plan review and Masterplan | Have your say Waipā](#)

Cambridge Town Hall

The Cambridge Town Hall renovation project, which is being implemented by the Cambridge Town Hall Community Trust, is progressing well. The Victorian Room is nearly completed, and work will begin soon on the Edwardian Room.

Roche Street

At 135 Roche Street, the new roof is well advanced with trusses installed and the horizontal plywood diaphragm in place. The roofing iron has been delivered and its installation is underway. We are on track for completion on May 30.

Cambridge Water Tower

The draft detailed seismic assessment of the water tower is completed and is now under peer review. Preliminary design and costings will follow.

Events

Funding boost big opportunity for Waipā events



It's great news for our events industry with **Waipā's inclusion as a district eligible to apply to the Regional Events Promotional Fund (REPF)**.

The fund is administered by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, through Regional Tourism Organisations and local councils. Its aim is to boost the advertising and promotion budgets of regional events, encouraging visitors to explore New Zealand beyond the key tourism locations.

The application timeframe is tight, but staff are working quickly and collaboratively with event organisers, and Hamilton and Waikato Tourism, to identify a range of events from across the district that meet the funding criteria. We will pull together an application on their behalf early next week. This could bring significant economic and social benefits to our district, as events play a vital role connecting people and creating vibrant, thriving communities.

Media releases

[April 10: Tamariki leading the charge to a more sustainable future](#)

[April 7: Pirongia kids score new dirt jump zone](#)

[April 4: Autumn weather marks end of water restrictions for Waipā](#)

[April 4: Lou Brown appointed chair of Waikato CDEM Group Joint Committee](#)

[April 2: Next steps for Cambridge Connections project](#)

[March 31: Waipā's Resource Recovery Centre takes the next step](#)

Media clippings

[One day's rainfall could near totals for all of March](#)

Waikato Times • Madeleine Powers • 05 Apr 2025

[Panels unveiled on five bridges](#)

Te Awamutu News • Jesse Wood • 03 Apr 2025

[Cambridge roundabout completion getting closer](#)

Waikato Times • 03 Apr 2025

[Water strength in numbers](#)

Te Awamutu News • Chris Gardner • 03 Apr 2025

[Claims denied](#)

Te Awamutu News • Chris Gardner • 03 Apr 2025

[It's goodbye Ngā Roto](#)

Te Awamutu News • Chris Gardner • 03 Apr 2025

[Many more take the plunge](#)

Te Awamutu News • Jesse Wood • 03 Apr 2025

[-Site keeps its eyes open](#)

Te Awamutu News • Jesse Wood • 03 Apr 2025

[Economic plans](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • 03 Apr 2025

[Water, water everywhere](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • 02 Apr 2025

[Expressway toll on horizon](#)

Waikato Times • Stephen Ward • 02 Apr 2025

[Millions needed to make airport international](#)

Cambridge Edition • Stephen Ward • 02 Apr 2025

[Wastewater treatment plant ahead of schedule](#)

Waikato Times • 31 Mar 2025

[A semblance of sanity at council](#)

Waikato Times • Matthew Martin • 28 Mar 2025

[Surprise at multi-million dollar figure to make airport international](#)

Waikato Times • Stephen Ward • 27 Mar 2025

[Council boosts media following](#)

Cambridge News • 27 Mar 2025

[Listening to people](#)

Cambridge News • Jo Davies-Colley • 27 Mar 2025

[Another bridge too far](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • 27 Mar 2025

[Rowing's in the family](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • 27 Mar 2025

[Maadi parade – no cause for alarm](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • 27 Mar 2025

[Inflation welcomed...](#)

Te Awamutu News • Jesse Wood • 27 Mar 2025

[End of road for i-Site](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • 27 Mar 2025

[Doctor disputes plant evidence](#)

Te Awamutu News • Chris Gardner • 27 Mar 2025

[What we'll focus on](#)

Te Awamutu News • Angela Holt • 27 Mar 2025

[Waitomo backs team approach](#)

King Country News • Chris Gardner • 27 Mar 2025

[Water, water everywhere and Waipā has a drink](#)

Cambridge Edition • Matthew Martin • 26 Mar 2025

[Fluoride coming to Cambridge water](#)

Cambridge Edition • Matthew Martin • 26 Mar 2025

[Checkout operator challenges mayor](#)

Cambridge Edition • Matthew Martin • 26 Mar 2025

[What is Waikato Water Done Well?](#)

Waikato Times • Matthew Martin • 26 Mar 2025

[Chase on for unpaid rates](#)

Waikato Times • Stephen Ward • 26 Mar 2025

