



On the Radar

On the Radar is your fortnightly hub for essential information, updates and reminders. In this edition, Lake Te Koo Utu update, draft LTP and water services consultation in full swing, demolition recycling plant and papakāinga in Waipā.

Save the date! Upcoming events and notable dates



LTP and LWDW consultation events this week

7.30am Tuesday, May 27: Cambridge Business Chamber event, Bridges Church

3pm Tuesday, May 27: Pak n Save Te Awamutu pop up

4.30pm Wednesday, May 28: Drop-in Te Awamutu Council office


4.30pm Thursday, May 29: Kihikihi main street pop up

10am Friday, May 30: Te Awamutu Business Chamber event, Fahrenheit



Parallel Road Water Treatment Plant open day

10am to 2pm,
Saturday, May 31
Parallel Road,
Cambridge



Sainsbury Road Reserve planting day

From 10 am
Saturday, June 7
Sainsbury Road,
Pirongia

Community Services



Lake Te Koo Utu update

A definitive cause for the **recent fish deaths at Lake Te Koo Utu in Cambridge** is yet to be identified with testing ruling out a number of possible explanations.

The good news is that the numbers of deaths have decreased significantly over the last two weeks. Only pest species of goldfish are affected. Staff found only a few dead fish last week – two on Monday, none on Tuesday, and just one each on Wednesday and Thursday.

The water quality was tested on Friday, May 2, with levels of heavy metals, hydrocarbons and pesticides all below the detection limit.

Ministry for Primary Industries has been testing samples of the dead fish, and preliminary results show nothing unusual. The autopsies have tested negative for koi herpesvirus, KHV, and show nothing to specifically indicate a cause of death.

We have tested the conductivity and dissolved oxygen in different points around the lake, with normal results. Waikato Regional Council is due to conduct their monthly round of water testing at the lake this week which includes nutrients, chlorophyll, suspended solids and e. coli.

The next step is to gather more water samples from the lake's inflows during the next significant rain event to test for biological oxygen demand, dissolved oxygen, total suspended sediment and faecal bacteria, and retest for heavy metals, hydrocarbons and pesticides.

We'll send samples of any more newly-found dead fish to MPI for another round of analysis and Waikato Regional Council would like to conduct their own autopsies too.

Our current understanding is that this is a natural event caused by spawning stress along with the dry and hot conditions we have had over the summer.

Additionally, there could be some sort of contaminant flowing into the lake through the stormwater system. Goldfish are a particularly sensitive species, which might explain why they are the only ones being affected.

Reserves planning



Sainsbury Road Reserve planting day

Elected Members are invited to join the Sainsbury Road Reserve community planting day in Pirongia on Saturday, June 7 from 10am to 12pm.

With the community's help we aim to plant more than 5000 natives over the wetland and surrounding slopes, to kick start the ecological restoration.

This event is open to all ages and is family-friendly. We kindly ask attendees, if possible, to bring gumboots, gloves, and a spade.

In the event of poor weather, the planting day will be postponed to Saturday, June 14.

[Please RSVP here](#) by Friday, May 30.

Waipuke Park tree planting



We're planting **33 new trees at Waipuke Park from June 9 to 12** – some new additions and some to replace trees that have not survived.

Waipuke Park is a site of cultural and archaeological significance, and we're working closely with mana whenua to guide the selection of tree species and planting locations. The species have been carefully chosen for their ability to thrive in local soil conditions and adapt to our changing climate.

Archaeological and cultural monitoring will also be in place during the planting.

At the same time, we'll be doing some much-needed weed clearing along the lake edge to help restore and support the native ecosystem.

We're looking forward to seeing these trees grow and contribute to the long-term health and beauty of the park.

Tree removal in Cambridge

Unfortunately, the large tulip tree on the corner of Victoria and Whitaker Streets in Cambridge (in front of Good Union) is not doing well. An independent arboricultural consultant has advised that it has declined to a point that it will not recover to full health, and should be removed and replaced.

The tree has been declining since root damage occurred as part of previous construction works.

While it is not in immediate danger of falling, we will be carrying out the removal within the next month. We will work closely with the Communications team to ensure the community is informed, and will inform the Cambridge Tree Trust.

Libraries



Our libraries have some fun events coming up to celebrate New Zealand Music Month.

On Saturday, Te Awamutu Library held a Ukulele Jam in Selwyn Park, and this Saturday it hosts a singing performance by the Centreplace Quartet and New Zealand barbershop champion Takiri Southon from 10.30am to 11am.

Meanwhile, on Saturday that Cambridge Library had a performance by the Hamilton Classical Guitar Society.

Communications & Engagement

With consultation for both the draft Long Term Plan and Local Water Done Well reaching the halfway point today, it's been an exceptionally busy time for the Communications and Engagement team.

In the digital space, as well as updating our main Council website, we have created two new webpages on Social Pinpoint, where people can find out more about the consultations and have their say:

- [Local Water Done Well:](#)
- [Draft 2025-34 Long Term Plan:](#)

We've crafted and scheduled a variety of content across our social media channels, including eight educational videos for Facebook and YouTube, and 10 Facebook event listings. These are supported with Facebook stories to remind our followers about each event 24 hours before as well as during each event, and educational stories. We have reminder posts and stories scheduled ahead of consultation closing on Monday, June 9.

The consultations are also supported using Antenno, with posts offering more information, reminding people about each event, and a rates calculator post.

We have utilised the business social network LinkedIn too, with a video introducing the consultations and a suite of posts promoting the various drop-in sessions and events.

Feel free to **keep an eye out for our content and share it** on your own social media platforms.

We've also done a maildrop with 25,000 copies going to both residential and rural letterboxes across the district, issued media releases and placed advertisements in local newspapers.

We have organised drop-in sessions and pop-ups across the district, which you have all been invited to, and developed a series of webinars for specific stakeholders – mana whenua and iwi partners, high water users and developers.

We've also sent direct email invitations to stakeholders including mana whenua and iwi partners, business chamber members, high water users, developers, service groups and the rural community.

The final engagement event is the Parallel Road Water Treatment Plant open day on Saturday, May 31, which is proving popular with the community – several of the tour slots have already been booked out.



Planning

Demolition recycling facility



You may have seen recent media and social media coverage about the **ResourceCo recycling facility** at 3831 Cambridge Road, Cambridge. Given the public interest, we want to provide some background and outline the steps Council staff have taken in response to concerns raised by nearby residents.

In July 2024, ResourceCo was granted resource consent to establish a construction and demolition waste recycling facility on land formerly used as a sand quarry. The application was assessed under the District Plan, and written approvals from neighbours were not required, as council specialists determined the activity could meet rules for managing noise and dust.

The consent includes strict conditions to mitigate environmental effects, such as requiring noise control measures and prohibiting dust or odour from crossing the site boundary.

Late last month, we began receiving complaints about noise, dust, and vibration from nearby residents. Council enforcement officers visited the site and found the source was a vibratory roller being used for site preparation — not part of the recycling operation itself.

In response, ResourceCo voluntarily paused operations and took part in a meeting with residents and Council staff on Monday, May 5. This provided a platform for residents to share concerns and receive direct responses from the operator. Following the meeting, ResourceCo confirmed the roller would no longer be used. Since May 13, we have not received any further complaints.

To clarify:

- The facility is consented to recycle **clean building waste only**. It is not permitted to process or dispose of contaminated or toxic materials.
- Every load must be **inspected before acceptance**, ensuring compliance with consent conditions and minimising environmental risk.
- The site also holds **Cleanfill consent** from Waikato Regional Council.
- Concerns about silica in waterways have been raised. While silica dust can pose a health risk if inhaled, it is **not a risk in water**. Water suppression is required during concrete crushing to control dust emissions.
- Earlier dust complaints were linked to the construction of an internal road, which has now been completed.

Council will continue to actively monitor the site to ensure it operates within the conditions of its consent and maintains a responsible approach to community concerns.

Papakāinga update



Through Ahu Ake, Waipā Community Spatial Plan, mana whenua and iwi shared with us their aspirations for Māori housing, including papakāinga.

We heard that mana whenua and iwi want to be able to use the land they own or lease without inappropriate constraints – for papakāinga to be able to be built anywhere, including on general freehold land and in urban areas.

As you may be aware, Draft Plan Change 23 proposes to update the provisions in the Waipā District Plan to enable mana whenua to develop papakāinga on whenua Māori to meet their cultural and housing needs.

The project steering group has recently provided direction not to do any further work on Plan Change 23 until the National Environment Standard for papakāinga is released by Central Government as part of their Phase 2 Resource Management reform. Initial indications are that the NES will be more permissive than the draft provisions of PC23.

Earlier this month, the Ministry for the Environment advised that they were expecting consultation on their rescoped national direction package (including papakāinga) to commence at the end of the month/early June and that the government is intending that these will have legal effect by the end of 2025.

The implications of this for PC23 – Papakāinga is that the National Environment Standards in most circumstances will prevail over the Waipā District Plan. This means there may no longer be a need for the

Resource Management Act monitoring

Each year, the Ministry for the Environment collects information from local authorities on their implementation of the RMA through the National Monitoring System. This information is used to improve policy and practice at the national and local level.

The 23/24 National Monitoring System data is [now available on the Ministry's website](#), with a dashboard that allows you to easily filter by council and year, to explore a range of performance metrics.

Strategy

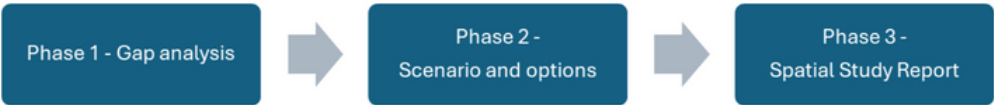
Consultation closes on Fees and Charges

Consultation for the 2025-27 Schedule of Fees and Charges opened on Thursday, April 17 and closed on Sunday, May 18. A total of 10 submissions were received with one submitter requesting to speak at the hearing. The hearing and deliberations will take place on Wednesday, May 28 and adoption is scheduled for Wednesday, June 4.

North Waipā-South Hamilton spatial study

As part of the Future Proof 30-year Growth Management Strategy adopted in late 2024, work is now underway on a high-level spatial study for the North Waipā–South Hamilton area. This study is a key step in understanding how existing development plans in the area align with potential future projects — particularly those that could emerge from the Southern Links transport initiative.

The study is being rolled out in three phases and is expected to be completed by March 2026.



In mid-March, Vanessa Honoré, Principal Strategic Planner, began working as the planning lead. She’s been focusing on a gap analysis to identify what’s already known and where further work is needed. Alongside this, a draft vision and a set of outcome statements — shaped by the seven transformational moves in the Future Proof Strategy — have been developed to guide the study.

We’re preparing to engage with key stakeholders from mid-June to early July to gather input and refine the direction of the project.

An update on the study’s progress will be shared with the Strategic Planning and Policy Committee at its meeting on Wednesday, June 4.

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
Implementing New Zealand's Biodiversity Strategy 2025-2030	<p>The Department of Conservation is developing an implementation plan for New Zealand's Biodiversity Strategy (Te Mana o te Taiao—Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2020). The plan will guide action for nature at the national, regional, and local levels.</p> <p>The proposed actions sit within four themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• prioritising species and habitats for action• increasing revenue and non-government funding for biodiversity• improving evidence and knowledge for effective decision making• growing capability by developing the right skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submissions close June 30.• Staff recommendation – investigating supporting partner organisation submission.
Predator Free 2050 strategy review public consultation	<p>The Department of Conservation is reviewing the Predator Free 2050 strategy, one of its key biodiversity programmes addressing the threat of introduced predators.</p> <p>It seeks feedback on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• new goals to achieve by 2030.• the list of target predators.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submissions close June 30.• Staff recommendation – submission drafted in reference to including feral cats as national target species. Draft submission on agenda for Wednesday, May 28 Council Meeting agenda.

Item Name	Description	Status comments
Passed under urgency		
Wildlife (Authorisations) Amendment Bill	<p>This Bill proposes changes to the Wildlife Act. It aims to address a recent High Court ruling that restricted the Department of Conservation's ability to authorise the incidental killing of wildlife during otherwise lawful activities, such as development or conservation efforts.</p> <p>The proposed changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• enable the Director-General to continue to authorise the killing of wildlife that occurs incidentally to an otherwise lawful activity, where the overall effect of the authorisation, including its conditions, will protect wildlife• clarify that neither the lawful activity itself nor each act of killing needs to be consistent with wildlife protection• make sure that activities, such as development and infrastructure projects, and conservation work, such as pest control, don't cause permanent harm to the viability of protected species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Passed under urgency on Thursday, May 8.• No consultation period.• Some relevance to Council in BAU.
Equal Pay Amendment Bill	<p>This Bill will change the Equal Pay Act.</p> <p>The key purpose is to change the process for responding to pay equity claims by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• raising the threshold of “predominantly performed by female employees” from 60% to 70%, and requiring that this has been the case for at least 10 consecutive years• tightening the rules when comparing similar work performed by men• requiring clear evidence that the work is historically and currently undervalued• enabling employers to phase in pay increases. <p>The changes will discontinue current pay equity claims, but new claims can be raised under the amended Act if they meet the new requirements. Review clauses in existing settlements will become unenforceable. Settled claims can be re-raised 10 years after settlement if they meet the new requirements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Passed under urgency on Wednesday, May 7.• No consultation period.

Item Name	Description	Status comments
Updated		
Public Works (Critical Infrastructure) Amendment Bill	<p>This Bill will change the Public Works Act. It creates an accelerated land acquisition process under the Public Works Act for critical infrastructure projects listed in new Schedule 2A in Schedule 2 of the Bill. These projects are public works that are either:</p> <p>listed in Schedule 2 of the Fast-track Approvals Act Roads of National Significance that are identified in the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2024 and that are not already listed in Schedule 2 of that Act.</p> <p>For more information on how the process will work, see the Explanatory Note to the Bill.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bill introduced Monday, May 12.• Staff recommendation – Waiting for consultation. Will most likely submit.
Regulatory review of the hairdressing and barbering industry	<p>The Ministry for Regulation is conducting its third sector review, which concerns the hairdresser and barber industry.</p> <p>The Review will examine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the Health (Hairdressers) Regulations, and how they are implemented• the Health (Registration of Premises) Regulations, and how they are implemented (only as they apply to the requirement to register premises used for hairdressing and barber shops)• any other legislative instruments about hairdressing and barbering that the Ministry for Regulation considers necessary during the Review process• requirements imposed on hairdressing shops by local authorities as part of the licencing regime or in bylaws.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Ministry for Regulation's final report on the review is complete and it will go to Cabinet for consideration.

Sustainability and climate change



Regional climate change hazards and risks

Waikato Regional Council has just completed an important piece of work — the Waikato Regional Climate Change Hazards and Risks Report, presented to their Climate Action Committee on Thursday, May 15.

This comprehensive report is designed to support councils — including Waipā — and our communities by giving us a clearer picture of the climate-related challenges we're likely to face in the years ahead. It brings together the latest knowledge on how climate change could impact five key areas: our environment, people, property, economy, and governance systems.

Importantly, the report doesn't just look at the region as a whole — it includes a dedicated section for Waipā District, with maps and descriptions that highlight the specific risks most relevant to our area. This information will be an important tool for our ongoing climate change work, including our upcoming community risk assessment, future planning, and efforts to adapt and respond effectively to climate impacts.

Key points

- This work builds on the initial regional climate risk assessment completed in 2022.
- A summary version of the report is being developed to make the findings more accessible for elected members, stakeholders, and the wider community.
- The insights from this report will feed into a new regional resilience strategy and plan, which is currently in the works.

You can access the full report in the Climate Action Committee agenda here: [Core Share](#)

Economic development



Cyber security know-how

Cyber security might seem like an issue only for large corporations, but the reality is that businesses of all sizes are at risk — including the 8500+ operating right here in Waipā. In 2024 alone, cyber attacks cost the New Zealand economy more than \$1.6 billion.

That's why it was great to see Council's award-winning Information Services Team step up to support our local business community. At a recent Cyber Security 101 morning tea hosted by the Te Awamutu Business Chamber, the team shared practical tips and tools to help small businesses protect themselves from online threats.

Information Services Manager Richard Henderson — whose team won 'Best in Cyber Security' at this year's Association of Local Government Information Management (ALGIM) Awards — led the session. His clear, straightforward advice was a hit with attendees, many of whom were eager to apply the strategies right away.

As a key Anchor Institution in our district, this is a great example of how Council can contribute beyond traditional services — by helping to build resilience and capability within our business community.

The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and Richard's already been invited back for Cyber Security 102 later in the year!

Supporting Māori business capability with Waikato-Tainui



Earlier this month we saw a fantastic example of partnership in action as Council staff worked alongside Waikato-Tainui to deliver a tailored training programme for Māori-owned businesses, aimed at helping them meet health and safety certification requirements needed to compete for Council contracts.

During partnership discussions, it became clear that many Waikato-Tainui businesses weren't yet certified to the level Council requires from contractors and consultants. This was not only limiting their ability to compete for work, but also highlighted a gap in our own efforts to meet the goals of our Social Procurement Policy and recently adopted Anchor Institution Framework.

In response, staff from our procurement, health & safety, and economic development teams teamed up with Waikato-Tainui colleagues to develop and deliver a pilot training session at Hōpūhōpū. The programme was specifically designed to meet the needs of Waikato-Tainui puna pakihi [businesses], and covered:

- Workplace health and safety from a te ao Māori perspective
- Required systems, processes, and documentation for certification
- Practical steps to achieve compliance and improve competitiveness

Twenty businesses completed the intensive one-day session and are now working toward full certification, with ongoing support from our team.

Beyond capability-building, this initiative has helped strengthen the relationship between our organisations, and both teams are now exploring further ways to collaborate. The Māori economy is the fastest-growing sector in Aotearoa and a significant contributor to Waipā's local economy — making this a win-win for our community and our commitment to inclusive, equitable growth.

Media releases

- [May 19: Cost savings confirmed under proposed Waikato water model](#)
 - [May 20: Pirongia's Sainsbury Reserve community planting day](#)
 - [May 22: Improving access for emergency services](#)
 - [May 22: Paving the road to completion](#)
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Media clippings

[Waikato ATV fatal crash: 10-year-old Jimmy Schick killed, family's heartfelt tribute for dearly loved son](#)

New Zealand Herald • Michael Guerin • 13 May 2025

[Parking slowing down ambulance responses](#)

Waikato Times • 19 May 2025

[\\$120,000+ raised for emergency services](#)

Waikato Times • Madeleine Powers • 15 May 2025

[Tragedies on Mother's Day](#)

Waikato Times • Madeleine Powers • 13 May 2025

[Taupō ratepayers hit hardest, data reveals](#)

Waikato Times • Benn Bathgate • 12 May 2025

[Quarry complaints levelled](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • 15 May 2025

[Now hear this... the church bells are back](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • 15 May 2025

[Council, Audit NZ at odds](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • 15 May 2025

[Mayoral race confirmed](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • 15 May 2025

[Gastro mystery continues](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • 14 May 2025

[High praise for art work](#)

Te Awamutu News • Viv Posselt • 15 May 2025

[Letters to the Editor – 15 May 2025](#)

Te Awamutu News • 15 May 2025

[Consultants' fees debated](#)

Te Awamutu News • Mary Anne Gill • 15 May 2025

[Waipā project makes Waste Waipā](#)

Cambridge Edition • 14 May 2025

[Paw-sitively cute project](#)

Cambridge Edition • 14 May 2025

[Investigation into dead lake fish under way](#)

Cambridge Edition • Avina Vidyadharan • 14 May 2025

[Suspected gastro outbreak sweeps business awards night](#)

Waikato Times • Paora Manuel • 10 May 2025

[Council opts for inhouse water services](#)

Waikato Times • Matthew Martin • 09 May 2025

[Memory meadows](#)

Waikato Times • 07 May 2025

[New citizens welcomed](#)

Cambridge News • 08 May 2025

[Taupō opts for water done by itself](#)

Cambridge News • Chris Gardner • 08 May 2025

[Stolwyk eyes regional seat](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • 08 May 2025

[Pub in licence battle](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • 08 May 2025

[Livingstone' scoop Waipā awards](#)

Cambridge News • 07 May 2025

[Welcome to Waipā for new citizens](#)

Cambridge Edition • 07 May 2025

[Leaf it to us, says council](#)

Cambridge Edition • 07 May 2025

[Dead fish removed from lake](#)

Cambridge Edition • 07 May 2025

[Ground into submission](#)

Cambridge Edition • 07 May 2025