



On the Radar

On the Radar is your fortnightly hub for essential information, updates and reminders.

In this edition, we update you on the play-on-the-way installation in Kihikihi, our winter planting programme and supporting local businesses.

Save the date! Upcoming events and notable dates



Sainsbury Road Reserve planting day

From 10am
Saturday, June 7
Sainsbury Road,
Pirongia

Community Services



Museum, libraries and heritage

Great news from the Ministry of Education! Late last week, the Ministry confirmed an extension to Te Awamutu Museum's current contract for delivering the Enriching Local Curriculum (ELC) programme.

Originally set to finish at the end of this year, the programme will now continue until the end of 2026 under a contract variation. The programme will also be rebranded as Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC), but there are no changes to its core objectives or how it's delivered.

The Ministry has indicated it will share more information later this year about what the programme might look like beyond 2026.

This extension is a fantastic endorsement of the valuable educational experiences the Museum provides to our local schools and tamariki.

Library internet use



A total of 317 people used the internet services at Te Awamutu Library during the month of May – an average of 12 each day. We don't currently count those using the Cambridge Library computers, but this figure will give Elected Members a good idea of how well the service is valued by people in the community.

Please note that the time taken is not counted, just the number of individual users each day. The busiest single day was Monday, May 26, when 29 people logged on in the TA library.

As there are no current costs for the use of the computers, there is no revenue captured.

This update follows the discussion at the last two Council meetings regarding the proposed introduction of a 50c per half hour fee for library internet use to the Draft Schedule of Fees and Charges for 2025-27.

Arawata Street public toilets



Council staff will be carrying out minor works next week at the Arawata Street (i-SITE) public toilets to help ensure the facility remains safe and welcoming for everyone.

This is in response to a request from the New Zealand Police Community Constable.

The power source and hot water urn — remnants from when the facility offered broader amenities — will be removed.

In recent times, these features have been used by some members of the community, including people experiencing homelessness, for cooking and charging their devices. Unfortunately, this has led to safety concerns, including a small number of incidents involving aggression toward members of the public.

Signage will be installed to inform users of the upcoming changes.

Response to 'Run It Straight' safety concerns

We've contacted rugby clubs across the district following growing concerns about the unsanctioned game known as Run It Straight.

This follows the tragic death of a teenage boy in Palmerston North last week and national messaging from New Zealand Rugby, New Zealand Rugby League, and discussions with Sport NZ and Sport Waikato.

While Council does not manage sport park bookings directly, we do have a health and safety responsibility under our role as a PCBU (Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking) when it comes to the use of Council-owned or managed facilities.

We've informed the clubs that we do not support the playing of Run It Straight on Council land. This stance is based on the game's lack of structure, supervision, and safety measures, particularly for younger participants, as well as the high risk of injury. The activity offers minimal health or fitness benefits and provides little opportunity for safe contact or defensive play.

We have encouraged all clubs and facility users to promote activities that are safe, inclusive, and supervised — aligned with recognised best practices in sport and recreation.

We appreciate the support of local clubs in helping maintain safe environments for all members of our community.

Park operations



Winter planting

The park operations teams have a big winter planting season ahead of them. Most of the sites are prepped and ready for the plants to go in the ground over the next few months. Some of the main sites around the two towns are:

- 101 Bank Street gardens
- 135 Roche St (including Museum and courtyard re-planting)
- Stockade bank along Whitmore Street, Kihikihi
- Teasdale Street, replanting the corner garden
- Sculpture Park, planting bluebells under the trees on the bank by SH3
- Leamington Domain playground
- St Kilda street medians

The work will be completed by the end of August, allowing the plants time to settle into their new soil and establish feeder roots before the dry conditions return in summer.

Service delivery

Te Awamutu water main upgrade

From Monday, June 9, we will be removing trees and shrubs in the roundabout at the intersection of Ōhaupō Road, Cambridge Road, and Arawata Street to allow for drilling and installation of a new watermain.

The 385m of pipes being installed will run from Shanel Place through to the centre of the roundabout.

Once construction is complete, replacement trees and seasonal bulbs will be planted to restore and enhance the landscape.

Play-on-the-way in Kihikihi



Last month, we installed new play-on-the-way equipment at the Whitaker Street cul-de-sac as part of the Te Ara Rimu pathway project in Kihikihi. These fun, interactive features are designed to encourage active play and support tamariki as they build confidence, learn new skills, and enjoy play as part of their everyday journeys.

Installation at the Grey Street cul-de-sac was delayed due to the need for additional planning around underground water services. We're pleased to confirm that this work is now scheduled to begin on Monday, June 9, and will be completed by Friday, June 13.

The new play features will include:

- Climbing poles
- A log stack
- Rope traverse
- Painted games like hopscotch, long jump, and sidesteps

These elements are low-maintenance, designed for a wide range of ages, and intended to enhance the pathway experience for both tamariki and their whānau. Importantly, they're being installed in grassy areas at the ends of the cul-de-sacs, meaning there's no impact on existing infrastructure. The main pathway and roadway remain unaffected. While fencing won't be added, each play area is set back six metres from the road, with two berms and a footpath providing a safe buffer.

We're excited to see these playful additions come to life and help make everyday movement more engaging and family-friendly.

Planning

Plan change 14: Rezoning part of C10 Growth Cell

Council has now received the final decision report from the independent hearing panel on Plan Change 14, which has approved rezoning part of Growth Cell C10 in Cambridge from rural to industrial.

The decision will be publicly notified on Thursday, June 12 in the Cambridge News, and all submitters will be sent a copy directly. Submitters have the right to appeal the decision to the Environment Court, with the deadline for appeals set at 5pm, Thursday, July 24.

The decision will be available on the [Plan Change 14](#) webpage from Thursday, June 12. This marks another key step in supporting well-planned growth and development in Cambridge.

Strategy

LTP and Water Service delivery consultations

With just a few days left to go until consultation closes, we've received 45 submissions on the draft 2025-34 Long Term Plan and 57 submissions on Local Water Done Well.

Last night there was a meeting with Te Awamutu and Cambridge Federated Farmers members. This rounded out our consultation events. In total, there were 11 public events, five meetings for invited groups, five webinars, and of course the open day at the Parallel Road Water Treatment Plant, which attracted 115 people. The water treatment operators had such a great time they want to do it again!

A huge thank you to those of you who have supported and attended our community events. Your involvement is appreciated.

Here's a quick snapshot of what we're hearing:

- Growth – There's strong interest in growth, how it's funded, what we are doing to ensure it's well planned and what the impact is on rates.
- Funding requests – We've had a few submissions from community groups and individuals seeking funding for local projects and initiatives.
- Rates and spending – As expected, rates, Council spending and our priorities are hot topics.

Consultation closes at 5pm this Monday, June 9.

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		
Public Works (Critical Infrastructure) Amendment Bill	<p>About this change process:</p> <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> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Listed in Schedule 2 of the Fast-track Approvals ActRoads 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>For more information on how the process will work, see the Explanatory Note to the Bill.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Consultation closes Friday, June 13.Staff recommendation – only pertains to Southern Links and the Waikato Expressway extension to Piarere. Do not submit.
Land Transport Rules Change process: Land Transport Rule: Regulatory Systems Rule Amendment (RSRA) 2025	<p>About this change process:</p> <p>The Minister of Transport is proposing 41 minor changes as part of the Land Transport Rule: Regulatory Systems Rule Amendment 2025.</p> <p>The proposed changes are to various Land Transport Rules, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Vehicle Dimensions and Mass 2016Vehicle Standards Compliance 2002. <p>For more information, see the discussion document. Part A sets out small and discrete Rule changes and explains the reason why each change is being proposed. Part B sets out proposed new and amended specifications for Traffic Control Devices.</p>	<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
Building and Construction (Small Stand-alone Dwellings) Amendment Bill	<p>About this change process:</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. These conditions are that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">the granny flat must be simple in its design and meet the building codebuilding work must be carried out by authorised professionalscouncils must be notified prior to and on completion of building work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Consultation closes Monday, June 23.Staff recommendation – under consideration.
National Direction Package 1 – Infrastructure and development	<p>About this change process:</p> <p>The Government is proposing new and amended national directions that aim to improve the operation of the resource management system.</p> <p>The proposals are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A new National Policy Statement (NPS) for Infrastructure. <p>Changes to the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">NPS for Renewable Electricity GenerationNPS on Electricity Transmission (change title to the National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks)National Environmental Standards (NES) for Electricity Transmission Activities (change title to National Environmental Standards for Electricity Network Activities)NES for Telecommunication Facilities. <p>New NES for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Granny FlatsPapakāingaNatural Hazards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Consultation open from Thursday, May 29 until Sunday, July 27.Staff recommendation – Likely to submit.

Item Name	Description	Status comments
National Direction Package 2 – Primary sector	<p>About this change process:</p> <p>The Government is proposing changes to eight national directions under the Resource Management Act that aim to enable growth in the primary sector.</p> <p>The proposed changes are to the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Environmental Standards for Marine Aquaculture• National Environmental Standards for Commercial Forestry• New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement• National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land• Resource Management (Stock Exclusion) Regulations <p>The mining and quarrying provisions in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity• National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land• National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management• National Environmental Standards for Freshwater.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consultation open from Thursday, May 29 until Sunday, July 27.• Staff recommendation – yet to be determined.
National Direction Package 3 - Freshwater	<p>About this change process:</p> <p>The Government is consulting on proposals to change the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM)• Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020 (NES-F). <p>The proposed changes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• rebalancing freshwater management through multiple objectives, and Te Mana o te Wai• providing flexibility in the National Objectives Framework• enabling commercial vegetable growing• addressing water security and water storage• simplifying wetlands provisions, and fish passage regulations• addressing remaining issues with the farmer-facing regulations (ie. synthetic nitrogen fertiliser)• including mapping requirements for drinking water sources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consultation open from Thursday, May 29 until Sunday, July 27.• Staff recommendation – unlikely to submit

Item Name	Description	Status comments
National Direction Package 4 – Going for Housing Growth	The Government is seeking feedback on how the proposals in the first pillar of the Going for Housing Growth programme could fit into the new resource management system. Pillar 1 aims to free up land for development and remove unnecessary planning barriers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consultation expected to start in early June.• Staff recommendation – likely to submit.
Proceeding under urgency		
Rates Rebate Amendment Bill	<p>About this change process:</p> <p>This Bill will change the Rates Rebate Act.</p> <p>The Act uses income as the primary eligibility threshold. The current income abatement threshold of \$31,510 per household (which will increase to \$32,210 on Tuesday, July 1, 2025) excludes many SuperGold Card cardholders from receiving the full benefit of the Rates Rebate Scheme.</p> <p>This Bill provides a separate income abatement threshold of \$45,000 for SuperGold Card cardholders, which will take effect from Tuesday, July 1, 2025.</p> <p>The Government has also announced that the maximum rebate for the scheme will increase from \$790 to \$805.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proceeding under urgency – no consultation expected.

Economic development

Supporting local businesses

We're teaming up with SODA Inc., part of the Regional Business Partner Network, to deliver monthly drop-in sessions for local small business owners, start-ups, and entrepreneurs, starting in July.

We're excited to be bringing this kind of practical, expert support closer to home for our local business community.

These sessions will be held at our Cambridge office on the last Thursday of each month, from 9am to 1pm. They'll be hosted by one of SODA's experienced business advisors, who can connect local businesses with valuable support — everything from start-up coaching and business fundamentals training to information about government funding and research and development grants.

This is a great chance for local businesses to access proven tools and advice to help them grow. In fact, some of Waipā's most successful companies — like Rocketspark —got their start through SODA's programmes.

'Make it here' lands at Hamilton Airport



With the return of international flights, an exciting opportunity to showcase the Waikato as a thriving place to do business has taken flight — literally.

In a collaboration between Hamilton Airport Limited and economic development teams from the five Waikato Regional Airport Limited shareholding councils, a bold new wall wrap has been installed in the baggage claim and arrivals area of the terminal.

Unveiled in late May, the eye-catching installation introduces the brand 'Make It Here', highlighting the Waikato not just as a destination, but as a place to build businesses, careers, and a future.

The display features local imagery and a QR code linking directly to a new section of the airport's website focused on business investment opportunities. Local success stories will also be featured as the campaign evolves.

Next time you're collecting your luggage, take a moment to check it out — it's a great snapshot of the region's economic strengths and potential.



Media releases

- [June 5: Stormwater outfall project blends infrastructure with nature](#)
 - [June 4: Internet access to remain free at Waipā libraries](#)
 - [June 3: Make and donate project named finalist in WasteMINZ excellence awards](#)
 - [May 30: Hallys Lane toilet busting for an upgrade](#)
 - [May 30: Big win for Waipā events as government funding boost announced](#)
 - [May 27: Return of jets to Hamilton Airport a boon for the Waikato](#)
-

Media clippings

[Our Waikato King's Birthday honorees](#)

Waikato Business News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 02 Jun 2025

[Equine find in Town Hall](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 02 Jun 2025

[Time to study the form](#)

Te Awamutu News • Peter Carr • Internet • 02 Jun 2025

[Clear standout in Cambridge industrial precinct](#)

The Post Weekend • Newspaper • 31 May 2025

[Refund call splits council](#)

Te Awamutu News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 30 May 2025

[Timaru District Council wins New Zealand's best-tasting tap water](#)

New Zealand Herald • Herald May • Internet • 30 May 2025

[Authorities identify cause of gastro outbreak at biz awards](#)

Waikato Times • Paora Manuel • Newspaper • 30 May 2025

[Council targets cats](#)

Waikato Times • Madeleine Powers • Newspaper • 29 May 2025

[Take your seats](#)

Te Awamutu News • Chris Gardner • Internet • 29 May 2025

[News in brief](#)

Te Awamutu News • Internet • 29 May 2025

[More regional events to get funding boost](#)

Beehive.govt.nz • Internet • 29 May 2025

[Waikato council considers Environment Court interim decision](#)

Inside Government NZ • Kelly Nealon • Internet • 29 May 2025

[Friction over road names](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 29 May 2025

[Gift marks sister city links](#)

Cambridge News • Viv Posselt • Internet • 29 May 2025

[Milner's service recognised](#)

Cambridge News • Viv Posselt • Internet • 29 May 2025

[Gastro issue remains a mystery](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 29 May 2025

[Where the council saves](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 29 May 2025

[Investigation into gastro outbreak](#)

Cambridge Edition • Paora Manuel • Newspaper • 28 May 2025

[Work surges ahead on wastewater plant](#)

Cambridge Edition • Newspaper • 28 May 2025

[Ambulance response slowed by parking](#)

Cambridge Edition • Newspaper • 28 May 2025

[Ratepayers have to pay for fraudulent building sign-offs](#)

Cambridge Edition • Benn Bathgate • Newspaper • 28 May 2025

[No more smoke and mirrors](#)

Cambridge News • Andrew Bydder • Internet • 27 May 2025

[Roundabout relief in sight for Cambridge](#)

Waikato Times • Newspaper • 24 May 2025, 12:00 am

[Changes to parking clears path for ambulances](#)

Waikato Times • Newspaper • 23 May 2025, 12:00 am

[Cambridge site for \\$6.4m ResourceCo construction and demolition recycling plant](#)

New Zealand Herald • Maryana Garcia • 22 May 2025

[Paws and Pages programme helps boost young readers at Cambridge Library](#)

New Zealand Herald • Malisha Kumar • 22 May 2025

[Buses use keeps rising](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 22 May 2025

[The disease of consultitis](#)

Cambridge News • Peter Nicholl • Internet • 22 May 2025

[News in brief](#)

Cambridge News • Internet • 22 May 2025

[Long Term plan consult starts](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 22 May 2025

[Letters to the Editor – 22 May 2025](#)

Cambridge News • Internet • 22 May 2025

[Then there were three](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 22 May 2025

[Golf development planned](#)

Te Awamutu News • Jesse Wood • Internet • 22 May 2025

[Pirongia's St Pierre joins mayoral race](#)

Te Awamutu News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 22 May 2025

[Gastro investigation continues](#)

Waikato Times • Paora Manuel • Newspaper • 22 May 2025

[Generosity after tragedy](#)

Cambridge Edition • Madeleine Powers • Newspaper • 21 May 2025

[Waikato Water Done Well stacks up](#)

Waikato Times • Matthew Martin • Newspaper • 21 May 2025

[Government-backed recycle plant concerns](#)

Waikato Times • Madeleine Powers • Newspaper • 21 May 2025

[New judge appointed](#)

Waikato Times • Mike Mather • Newspaper • 21 May 2025

[Concrete evidence provided](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 21 May 2025

[Ratepayers to have their say on water services](#)

Cambridge Edition • Newspaper • 21 May 2025

[Generosity after tragedy](#)

Cambridge Edition • Madeleine Powers • Newspaper • 21 May 2025, 12:00 am

[Parking slowing down ambulance responses](#)

Waikato Times • Newspaper • 19 May 2025