

On the Radar

August 1, 2025

On the Radar is your fortnightly hub for essential information, updates and reminders. In this edition, Te Awamutu War Memorial Park's work programme begins, Lake Ngā Roto health warning lifted, and the latest on the SH1 Cambridge to Piarere Expressway extension.

Community Services

Te Awamutu War Memorial Park work programme



Work is kicking off this month (August) at Te Awamutu War Memorial Park, after a successful meeting between the parks team, the maintenance group, the RSA and the Rose Society.



We're also moving ahead with restoring the Peace Fountain. The design and planning work has been underway for the past six months, and it was identified as a priority in the concept plan. A media release will be issued early next week once the finer details are confirmed.

Office closure

Our Customer Experience team will be undertaking training on a new request management system on Thursday (August 7). Both Te Awamutu and Cambridge council offices will be closed from 9am until 1pm.

While the offices are closed, customers can still access some of our services online

at waipad.govt.nz/do-it-online, call us on 0800 WAIPADC (0800 924 723), or email us

at info@waipad.govt.nz

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Health warning lifted



Good news – the public health warning at Lake Ngā Roto has officially been lifted.

After eight months of elevated cyanobacterial levels, Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand has confirmed that the water is now back within safe limits and therefore the health warning, which was put in place in early December last year, is no longer in effect.

Staff have removed the warning signs from the lake reserve.

Service Delivery

Nightworks in Te Awamutu

NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi has given us advance warning of road resealing plans at the SH3/Sloane Street/Vaile Street/Albert Park Drive roundabout in Te Awamutu.

The work will take place from 8pm over two nights, and at this stage is scheduled to start on Friday, August 9. This will be dependent on a traffic management plan and, of course, the weather.

During the work, the highway will be reduced to a single lane with temporary traffic signals. The intersections of SH3 and Sloane Street, Carlton Street, Vaile Street and Rickit Road will be closed at various times to allow the work to be completed.

As closures will affect the fast food and supermarket businesses, there will need to be plenty of public notice once the work is confirmed. The businesses can remain operating but will only have access from the local streets.

Waikato Expressway SH1 extension update

NZTA's fast-track consenting process for the Waikato Expressway extension from Cambridge to Piarere has hit a key milestone, with the release of the Planner's Report. It sums up the consent application, the feedback from submitters, what's been agreed on so far, and what's still up for discussion. A draft set of consent conditions has also been released.

This information is provided from Waipa District Council

The process has now paused for 15 working days while submitters have a chance to comment on the report and the draft conditions. While feedback we provided has been incorporated into the draft conditions, it is not yet clear what will be included in the final decision.

You can [check it all out at this link.](#)

This is another important step that brings us closer to a final decision and the possible go-ahead for the project.

Parking on Duke Street, Cambridge

Some upgrades are happening to the Paterson Burn Optometrist building in Duke Street, Cambridge from Monday, August 4. This means that for around eight weeks, four car parks will be out of action and there may be some footpath disruption. Pedestrians will be advised to follow the signage and directions from the contractors on site.

Communications have taken place with the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce and the community. We understand the contractor has communicated with neighbouring businesses.

Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant goes online

Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant

We're building a new wastewater treatment plant in Cambridge.

✓ Following

Home / Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant

A fast-growing population and higher environmental standards mean a new wastewater treatment plant is needed for Cambridge.

It is one of the biggest infrastructure projects in Waipā District Council's history — a \$108.5 million investment that will deliver one of the most advanced wastewater treatment plants in New Zealand.

Explore the wastewater treatment plant

Click on the icons below to find out more about the many features of this state-of-the-art plant. Enlarge the image to full screen by clicking the arrow icon in the top right corner.



This information is provided from Waipa District Council

A new webpage dedicated to the Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant is now live! The page includes a map of the facility, with icons you can click on to find out more about the features and check out the construction progress.

There are sections explaining the background and cultural aspects as well as details on the state-of-the-art features and environmental standards.

Have a look at the [website linked here](#).

To help keep everyone informed, we've also launched a monthly e-newsletter sharing updates on the plant, project milestones, and behind-the-scenes insights.

[Sign up here](#).

General information

Council performance benchmarking

Council profiles have been released by the Department of Internal Affairs, which as previously advised contain a range of financial metrics – though lack important local context to enable accurate comparisons between councils.

In Waipā's case, our status as a Tier 1 growth council facing specific demands and challenges is not captured. While we welcome efforts to improve public understanding and transparency, Council investment and performance should be understood in the context of local priorities and community expectations.

We have provided feedback to the DIA, as have a number of other councils.

Waipā District Council has been included in the 'Small Metro/Large Provincial' Group, defined by councils with populations between 30,000 and 100,000.

You can find [our profile at this link](#).

Planning

Consent for subdivision in prominent Cambridge location



A consent was this week granted for a subdivision on a highly visible site in Cambridge - the property at 121 Victoria Street, which is at the prominent intersection with Hamilton Road (pictured above). The existing house will be demolished to make way for a four-unit townhouse.

The current house is not protected under our District Plan, and under the new medium density standards mandated by Central Government, it could have been demolished without requiring resource consent to enable two dwellings to be built.

Building three or more units in its place required the developer to apply for resource consent. The plans satisfied a range of design criteria and largely complied with rules including site coverage, height and setback. As these were met, we did not have the discretion to decline consent.

The new planning rules mandated by Central Government allow for and encourage this type of change, which are part of the new reality for development in Waipā.



Economic development

Tech Meetups 2.0



This information is provided from Waipa District Council
"From Tractors to Tech" is the subject of the first event in our second series of Waipā Tech Meetups, which starts on Thursday, August 21.

This edition features local agri-tech innovator CE Andre Syben, founder and director of AgTechNZ. Andre will share his journey of starting an agricultural machinery company and taking it global by embracing agricultural technology. Who said driving a tractor was easy?

As you know agriculture, farming and forestry is one of Waipā’s top five industry sectors, contributing \$556.2M (14.5%) to our annual GDP and employing over 3600 people (13.1%) of our workforce.

This time we’re moving to a fresh new venue for the Tech Meetups — the BNZ Partner Centre in Cambridge. We’re excited to welcome BNZ as our new venue sponsor, after they joined us as a speaker at June’s event. It’s a great example of how clusters work — when people interested in the space come together, they naturally step up to support and add value.

Feel free to share the [link to the registration](#) with anyone who might be interested.

Strategy

Legislation changes update

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	Staff recommended action
Early feedback / consultation open		
National Infrastructure Plan	<p>Compared to other high-income countries, New Zealand spends more per person on infrastructure, but are in the bottom 10% for the value we get from that spend.</p> <p>A draft National Infrastructure Plan has been published to look at what is needed to fix what’s not working, how we can plan better for the future and shows where our infrastructure dollar will have the greatest impact in meeting New Zealand’s future needs.</p> <p>The draft also looks at what’s underway and what we’ll need over the next 30 years as our population grows and gets older, demand for renewable energy increases, and the infrastructure we already have has to be repaired and replaced.</p> <p>It makes 19 recommendations that focus on four areas; establishing affordable and sustainable funding, clearing the way for infrastructure, starting with maintenance and ensuring we have right-sized new investment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Early feedback closes Wednesday, August 6.• Submission being drafted, to focus on providing a good local government perspective, especially strengthening this in relation to pressures growth councils like Waipā are facing.• Due to timing, submission will need to be approved under CE and Mayor delegation.