

<a href="#">Proposed changes to New Zealand's climate change adaptation framework</a>	<p>The Ministry for the Environment wants to test ideas under the current climate change adaptation framework. It established the Independent Reference Group to consider these possible changes to the framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• changing the Local Government Act to require councils to develop adaptation plans linked to the Resource Management Act and the civil defence and emergency management framework</li><li>• clarifying how residual risk should be managed under the RMA and the Building Act</li><li>• reducing liability risks for decision-makers</li><li>• allowing Central Government to participate in local government adaptation processes where local capability is limited to make sure people have access to clear information on natural hazards and climate risks</li><li>• changing how financial help is provided after disasters.</li></ul> <p>The Group recommends a 20-year transition for the changes, with the first three to five years focused on system development, improved hazard mapping, and shifting support towards proactive risk reduction.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Keep a watching brief. No need for Council to submit at this stage.</li></ul>
<a href="#">Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill</a>	<p>This Bill will change the Local Government Act 2002. The changes will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• refocusing local government on delivering core infrastructure and services</li><li>• removing all references to the four aspects of community well-being</li><li>• requiring councils to prioritise spending on core services and apply new financial management principles</li><li>• introducing a performance framework to improve how council performance is measured and reported</li><li>• allowing the Secretary for Local Government to release a code of conduct and standing orders for elected members</li><li>• reducing regulatory requirements on councils, including updating public notice rules and removing service review obligations.</li></ul> <p>Decisions have not yet been made on whether rates capping will be added to the current bill, or in new legislation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consultation opened Thursday July 24, closes Wednesday August 27.</li><li>• Draft submission being prepared.</li><li>• Submission will be presented to Council for approval at the meeting on Wednesday, August 27</li></ul>

<a href="#">Legislation Amendment Bill</a>	<p>This Bill will change the Legislation Act. It will also make consequential changes to other legislation listed in <a href="#">Schedule 4</a>, mainly about how secondary legislation is published.</p> <p>The key changes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• requiring agencies to publish secondary legislation and related information on their websites (or approved websites)</li><li>• designating the New Zealand Legislation website as the single point of access to legislation and related information, including secondary legislation</li><li>• providing rules, powers, functions and duties for the PCO, Attorney-General, and agencies to support the changes</li><li>• changing other legislation to align with the new publication requirements and ensure a smooth transition</li><li>• improving tools for modernising, simplifying, and updating legislation (including revision and editorial powers)</li><li>• repealing obsolete or redundant legislation identified under the Legislation Act</li><li>• strengthening Parliamentary oversight of legislation by refining rules for confirming secondary legislation.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consultation opened Thursday, July 24, closes Thursday, August 28.</li><li>• Staff recommendation – do not submit. Proposed changes to how Council manages secondary legislation such as bylaws is minimal.</li></ul>
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<b>Resource Management (Prohibition on the Extraction of Freshwater for On-selling) Amendment Bill</b>	<p>This Bill would amend the Resource Management Act to make the extraction of freshwater for the purpose of on-selling in a packaged form a prohibited activity.</p>	<p>Bill not adopted. Will not proceed.</p>
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<a href="#">Public Works (Prohibition on the Compulsory Acquisition of Māori Land) Amendment Bill</a>	<p>This bill amends the Public Works Act 1981 to protect Māori freehold and Māori customary land from being acquired for public works under that Act.</p> <p>This is a private member’s bill awaiting first reading. We expect this one will not be referred to Select Committee as the core issue has been added to the review of the Public Works Act.</p>	<p>Bill terminated at Select Committee stage - no agreement to progress bill.</p>
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<a href="#">Electoral Amendment Bill</a>	<p>The Electoral Amendment Bill will change the Electoral Act and implement the recommendations from the Justice Committee’s review of the 2023 General Election.</p> <p>Key changes will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• closing enrolment earlier and allowing the Electoral Commission to automatically update enrolment details using information from other government agencies</li><li>• enabling the validation and qualification of special votes to begin before election day</li><li>• creating a single deadline for candidate nominations</li><li>• exempting political parties with election expenses under \$50,000 from audit requirements</li><li>• expanding offences for bribery, treating, and undue influence to cover enrolment decisions</li><li>• expanding the Electoral Commission’s board from three to up to seven members</li><li>• removing occupation and honorific details from voter information provided to local authorities</li><li>• changing requirements for how the Electoral Commission must deliver notices.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bill introduced.</li><li>• Staff recommendation – keep a watching brief, currently does not impact local government processes.</li></ul>
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## Media releases

- [July 30: Weeds to wildlife: native restoration project takes root in Cambridge](#)
- [July 30: Time to share thoughts on Cambridge’s parking trial](#)
- [July 29: Waipā Councillor Andrew Brown stepping down after 12 years of service](#)
- [July 24: Last chance to stand up for Waipā](#)
- [July 18: Waipā backs Waikato Water Done Well and adopts Long-term Plan](#)
- [July 18: People power wins the day for Waipā’s Ahu Ake - Community Spatial Plan](#)

## Media clippings

### [Candidates slow to enter local government election race](#)

Waikato Times • Matthew Martin • Internet • 28 Jul 2025, 3:31 am

### [Susan O'Regan confirms Waipā mayoral candidacy](#)

Waikato Times • Matthew Martin • Internet • 25 Jul 2025, 3:20 am

### [O'Regan confirms mayoral bid](#)

Waikato Times • Matthew Martin • Newspaper • 25 Jul 2025, 12:00 am

### [Regional council reverse decision](#)

Waikato Business News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 24 Jul 2025, 2:57 am

### [Clocking off yet again...](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 24 Jul 2025, 3:04 am

### [Whitaker out ... Titchener back in](#)

Te Awamutu News • Chris Gardner • Internet • 24 Jul 2025, 3:04 am

[Caught out at the death](#)

Te Awamutu News • Internet • 24 Jul 2025, 4:01 am

[Ten go to conference](#)

Cambridge News • Internet • 24 Jul 2025, 6:02 am

['News' prompts call for change](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 24 Jul 2025, 6:02 am

[A change of direction](#)

Te Awamutu News • Peter Carr • Internet • 24 Jul 2025, 8:01 am

[O'Regan's last stand](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 23 Jul 2025, 9:03 pm

[Names trickle in](#)

Te Awamutu News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 23 Jul 2025, 12:58 pm

[Nga Roto: a sacred reflection](#)

Te Awamutu News • Karla Rose • Internet • 23 Jul 2025, 8:45 am

[St Pierre wants to be Waipā's mayor](#)

Cambridge Edition • Matthew Martin • Newspaper • 23 Jul 2025, 12:00 am

[Waikato's next billion-dollar company](#)

Cambridge Edition • Matthew Martin • Newspaper • 23 Jul 2025, 12:00 am

[How much do we pay councillors?](#)

Cambridge Edition • Newspaper • 23 Jul 2025, 12:00 am

[Principal enrols for mayoral contest](#)

Cambridge Edition • Matthew Martin • Newspaper • 23 Jul 2025, 12:00 am

[Election shake-up sought](#)

Nelson Mail • Deena Coster • Newspaper • 19 Jul 2025, 12:00 am

[Luck on Camilla Belich's side \(again\) over pay secrecy; Chris Bishop puts boot into councils – Audrey Young](#)

New Zealand Herald • Internet • 17 Jul 2025, 10:43 am

[Merger calls grow](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 17 Jul 2025, 5:05 am

[Standing up for our values](#)

Te Awamutu News • Anglican Church & Christine Bryant • Internet • 17 Jul 2025, 5:00 am

[LGNZ goes eight down](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 17 Jul 2025, 4:03 am

[A temporary booking?](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 17 Jul 2025, 3:02 am

[Parks, libraries, pools safe under law changes](#)

Waikato Times • Matthew Martin • Newspaper • 17 Jul 2025, 12:00 am

[News in brief](#)

Te Awamutu News • Internet • 16 Jul 2025, 5:01 pm

[Incinerator plant decision next month](#)

Cambridge Edition • Matthew Martin • Newspaper • 16 Jul 2025, 12:00 am

[Cambridge MenzShed revives historic dairy factory for community projects](#)

The Country - NZ • Catherine Fry • Internet • 15 Jul 2025, 1:01 pm

[2025 Rates Dashboard Exposes Out of Control Rates Burden](#)

Taxpayers' Union NZ • Internet • 14 Jul 2025, 5:14 am

[Museum on the move](#)

Waikato Times • Newspaper • 14 Jul 2025, 12:00 am

