

On the Radar

August 15, 2025

On the Radar is your fortnightly hub for essential information, updates and reminders. In this edition, fast-track approvals in Waipā, information requests overview, and Slow Fashion September is nearly here.

Community Services

Papatakohe Playground



Last Sunday, a member of the public alerted us to a small sinkhole near the barbecue area at Papatakohe Playground in Cambridge. By Monday, the sinkhole had grown and compromised some of the concrete around the barbecues.

We have fenced off the area and installed signage to let people know the barbecue area is temporarily closed while the ground surface is repaired. We expect this work to be completed today.

The playground is still within its defects period and staff are working alongside the playground installer and developers 3Ms to identify the cause of the sinkhole.

SH3 tree works

Scheduled tree maintenance will be under way on the western side of Ōhaupō Road (SH3) between Racecourse Road and Greenhill Drive from Monday, August 18 (weather permitting).

Our contractor, Treescape, is expecting it will take three days to complete the work, which includes inspecting and pruning council trees, along with removing hazards, weeds, and clearing any obstructions to our roadside mowing contractor.

Traffic management will be in place including shoulder closures and contraflows as required. No lane closures or disruption to traffic are expected.

Growth and Regulatory Services

Cambridge to Piarere (C2P) State Highway 1 realignment



A decision on the fast track application for NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi's Cambridge to Piarere SH1 realignment is expected after Monday, August 25.

NZTA has sought consents from Waikato Regional Council, Waipā District Council and Matamata Piako District Council.

We lodged a submission in support of the proposal with the Environmental Protection Authority which included recommended amendments to NZTA's proposed designation conditions.

The Expert Consenting Panel that will determine the consents is considering all submissions and additional information provided by NZTA, and has confirmed that no hearing is required. There is no set date for the decision, but it will be no sooner than August 25.

Fast-track approvals

Waipā District Council has been invited by the Environmental Protection Authority to comment on two referral applications under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024, which streamlines approvals for nationally and regionally significant projects.

- Rogerson Block, 183 & 293 Tuhikaramaea Road, Hamilton – comments due Thursday, August 21. The proposal is for residential and industrial development on 40ha of Rural Zone land.
- Harlow Lifestyle Village, 2025 Ōhaupō Road, Te Awamutu – comments due Friday, August 29. This project is to construct a residential and lifestyle village on 25.7ha of Rural Zone land. A private plan change for the same project has been on hold since April 2023.

About the fast-track process:

The Act creates a “one-stop-shop” for resource consents, notices of requirement, and certificates of compliances under the RMA, and approvals required under many other pieces of legislation. Under the fast-track pathway, expert panels consider approvals as a single package. Applicants must first submit a pre-substantive (referral) application, which includes consultation with relevant local authorities.

Wasteworx Cambridge Road operation

Council staff made a site visit to Wasteworx’s Cambridge Road operation on Tuesday, August 5. No issues were identified, and the site manager confirmed his plans to meet directly with neighbours.

All pre-operation consent requirements have been met, except for the updated Noise Management Plan (NMP), which was received on Thursday, August 7 and is under review by Environmental Health staff.

The main noise issue was from the concrete crusher, and interim approval was granted to operate without the crusher until the NMP is approved.

Council staff have been responsive to concerns, including following up the complaint received in late July about site activity and “rubbish” storage. Wasteworx advised all material is being recycled.

While some complainants feel the operator “isn’t listening,” our staff report Wasteworx is responsive to emails and queries.

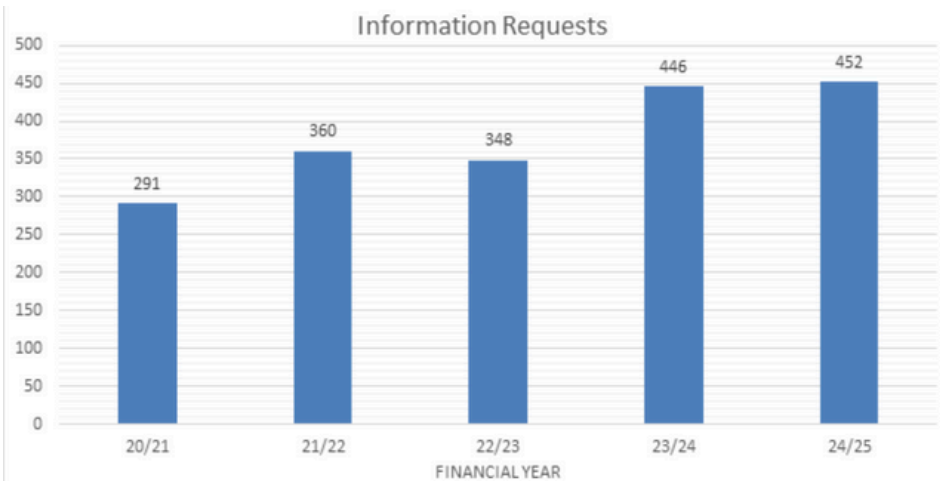
Staff continue to monitor the site and ensure compliance with Industrial Zone rules and consent conditions.

Note: asbestos is prohibited on site under Worksafe regulations. Any detected asbestos will be separated, traced to the source, and followed up in line with these regulations.

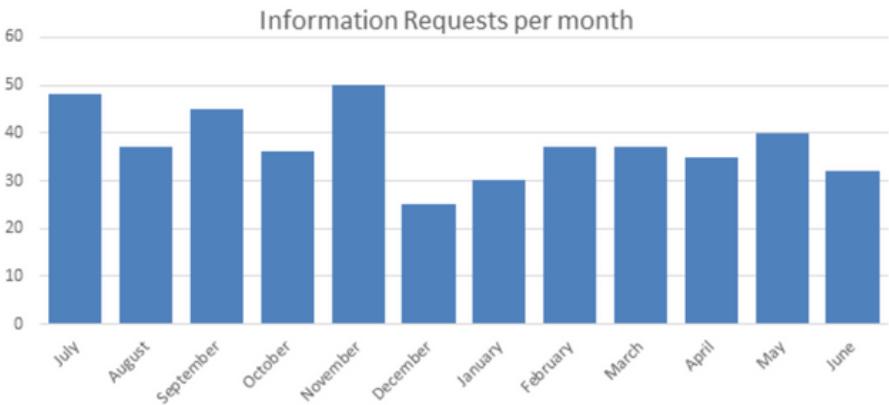
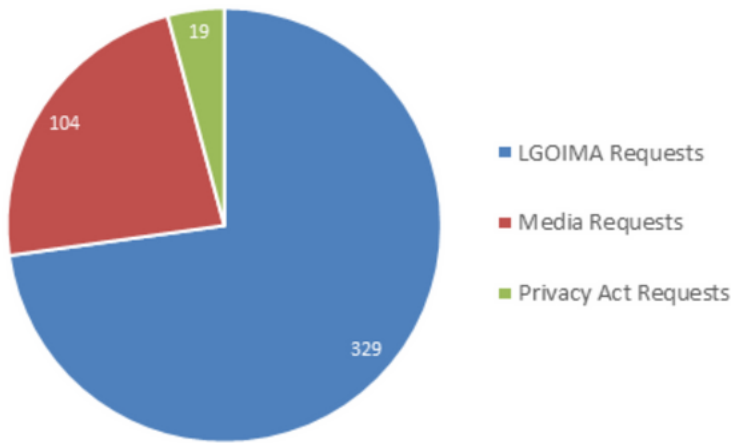
Information requests

The following is a summary of the information requests received by Council that are processed under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) or the Privacy Act 2020.

Council received a total of 452 information requests during the 2024/25 financial year. This continues an upward trend in the number of requests coming into Council each year.



Breakdown of the types of information requests received:



Council responded to 451 of these information requests within the legislated timeframe of 20 working days. The one response that was sent out late was due to the information request being received via mail and the request not being identified as a LGOIMA until near the end of the 20-working day timeframe. Once identified this was responded to promptly.

Council can set charges in responding to LGOIMA requests where there is substantial collation or research required. We set charges as part of the response for 10 information requests over the 24/25 financial year. Only one of these charges was paid, the other charges were not paid for the following reasons:

- The requester refined the request to make it manageable; or
- There was no response from the requester, so request was closed; or
- On review the charge was remitted.

Ombudsman Investigations Summary

Over the 24/25 financial year Council was subject to four Ombudsman investigations:

- One related to a LGOIMA charge – closed – Council released some information, and our charge was upheld for the remainder of the request.
- One related to a LGOIMA response – closed – Council found to have acted reasonably.
- Two non-LGOIMA investigations relating to rates complaints – both closed – Council found to have acted reasonably in both instances.

There are no outstanding Ombudsman investigations.

Service delivery

Southern Wastewater Treatment Plant

We are continuing to work closely with Hamilton City Council (HCC), the lead council for the Southern Wastewater Treatment Plant project. HCC staff advise that the project team has been proactively communicating with local residents in the area around the proposed site, a parcel of HCC-owned land in Waipā, on 131 Raynes Road.

This project is in its early stages, and as such some of the information requested including detailed timelines and technological information, is not yet available.

The new HCC and Waikato District Council-Controlled Organisation IAWAI will take ownership of the project from July 1, 2026. Currently, HCC has funding for project planning, which includes plant design, site master planning, discharge options and consenting. The construction of the plant is not yet funded and is likely several years away.

Throughout the design phase, all potential impacts on neighbouring properties will be investigated, and mitigations will be developed (where required) – the project team will continue to engage affected residents in due course.

As indicated to the local community, the site selection process for this project was extensive and rigorous, and considered a wide range of technical factors, ultimately leading to 131 Raynes Rd being the preferred site. HCC won't be exploring any other potential sites for the project.

The site selection reports are available on the [project page](#).

We are aware that some residents have concerns about the project and HCC have been in regular contact with some individuals to provide information and hear their concerns, and will continue sharing information with the community as they progress with technical investigations and design.

Preparations are underway for a community open day to provide more details about the project, including a timeline of the engagement process, and examples of what modern treatment plants look like. This will take place later this year and will provide an opportunity for community members to meet with the project team and ask any questions and/or share any concerns they may have.



This September, Waipā is getting hands-on with sustainable style. Slow Fashion September aims to reduce textile waste and inspire smarter shopping through education and interactive events – all funded by the Government’s Waste Disposal Levy.

Fast fashion is hard on the planet and the wallet. We’ll be sharing easy tips for reusing, repairing and rethinking how we shop, alongside a series of events:

- **Op Shop Bus Tours** – Te Awamutu to Cambridge – Saturday, September 6. Cambridge to Te Awamutu – Saturday, September 29.
- **REVAMP Clothing Swap** – Swap pre-loved pieces and enjoy a cuppa and conversation. Saturday, September 13, Cambridge East School Hall.
- **Five Steps to Sustainable Style** – Small fashion changes that save time and money. In partnership with Waikato District Council and Hamilton City Council. Thursday, September 18, Narrows Landing, Tamahere.
- **Sip & Sew Workshop** – Turn pre-loved shirts into baby and toddler pants. Sunday, September 28, Fahrenheit Restaurant & Bar, Te Awamutu.

Strategy

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. That means we need to get smarter about how we invest and make some tough decisions.</p> <p>A draft National Infrastructure Plan sets out how we can address these challenges. It looks at what we need to do 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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff recommendation has changed from submit to do not submit.• Resourcing for submission is not available and/or more effectively used elsewhere.
Proposed changes to building rules for small detached buildings on residential properties	<p>The Government will change building rules for small, single-storey detached structures on residential properties, such as garden sheds, sleepouts, and garages.</p> <p>The key changes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• removing setback requirements for buildings under 10 square metres• reducing the setback distance to 1m for buildings between 10 and 30 square metres. <p>These changes are expected to take effect by late 2025.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do not submit• Keep a watching brief on new legislation.

Media releases

- [August 15: New life for a 30-year-old Te Awamutu playground](#)
 - [August 13: Rural communities to benefit from updated flood mapping](#)
 - [August 12: Waipā events makes dollars and sense](#)
 - [August 8: 3D printing brings new dimension to Waipā District Libraries](#)
 - [August 6: Fresh start for Cambridge Connections transport project](#)
 - [August 4: Vandalism stalls work on Church Street bore](#)
 - [August 1: Race is on for majority of Waipā seats in elections](#)
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Media clippings

[A three-way race for mayor in Waipā](#)

Waikato Times • Matthew Martin • Internet • 09 Aug 2025, 3:21 am

[Council's sign up for Waikato Waters](#)

Waikato Times • Matthew Martin • Internet • 08 Aug 2025, 3:31 am

[Supporting our leader](#)

Te Awamutu News • Karla Rose • Internet • 07 Aug 2025, 11:06 am

[Brigade leader marks milestone](#)

Te Awamutu News • Internet • 07 Aug 2025, 6:35 am

[Rivals agree on need for seat](#)

Cambridge News • Jesse Wood • Internet • 07 Aug 2025, 6:30 am

[Community Board candidates in their own words](#)

Te Awamutu News • Internet • 07 Aug 2025, 6:04 am

[Cambridge Community Board candidates – in their own words](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 07 Aug 2025, 6:04 am

[Ward candidates in their own words](#)

Te Awamutu News • Internet • 07 Aug 2025, 5:03 am

[Cambridge candidates – in their own words](#)

Cambridge News • Internet • 07 Aug 2025, 5:03 am

[On your marks, get set ... go](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 07 Aug 2025, 4:33 am

[Candidates – in their own words](#)

Cambridge News • Internet • 07 Aug 2025, 4:02 am

[A bridge on the way for Cambridge Connections](#)

Waikato Times • Matthew Martin • Internet • 07 Aug 2025, 3:10 am

[Upston ramps up support](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 07 Aug 2025, 3:02 am

[Road markings in Waikato town set for removal after centreline 'decidedly askew'](#)

stuff.co.nz • Sam Smith • Internet • 06 Aug 2025, 2:45 pm

[Fort St gets a cae of the wobbles](#)

Waikato Times • Cambridge Matthew Martin • Newspaper • 06 Aug 2025, 12:00 am

[In Brief: Cambridge parking trial, Raglan wastewater upgrade](#)

Waikato Times • Internet • 05 Aug 2025, 10:28 am

[In Brief: Repeated vandalism holds up Kihikihi bore project](#)

Waikato Times • Internet • 04 Aug 2025, 10:34 am

[Waikato tourism sector has reason to celebrate](#)

Waikato Herald • Danielle Zollickhofer • Newspaper • 01 Aug 2025, 12:00 am

This information is provided from Waipā District Council

[Councillor quits](#)

Waikato Herald • Newspaper • 01 Aug 2025, 12:00 am

[Waikato tourism sector shows growth and resilience, celebrates events funding](#)

New Zealand Herald • Danielle Zollickhofer • Internet • 01 Aug 2025, 4:09 am

[Conference costs revealed](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 31 Jul 2025, 7:03 am

[Water deal clinched](#)

kingcountrynews.co.nz • Internet • 31 Jul 2025, 8:00 am

[Powering ahead at Arapuni](#)

Te Awamutu News • Internet • 31 Jul 2025, 12:05 pm

[Stepping into the unknown](#)

Te Awamutu News • Steph Bell-Jenkins • Internet • 31 Jul 2025, 11:03 am

[Waipā greenlights new projects](#)

Te Awamutu News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 31 Jul 2025, 10:01 am

[Gaylene drums up support](#)

Cambridge News • Chris Gardner • Internet • 31 Jul 2025, 4:04 am

[Caught out at the death](#)

Cambridge News • Internet • 30 Jul 2025, 6:04 pm

[Waipā walks away with national award](#)

Cambridge Edition • Newspaper • 30 Jul 2025, 12:00 am

[Ōtorohanga goes in on Waikato water agreement](#)

Waikato Times • Matthew Martin • Internet • 29 Jul 2025, 3:05 am

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

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

