

# On the Radar

August 29, 2025

On the Radar is your fortnightly hub for essential information, updates and reminders. In this edition, Te Awamutu Cemetery upgrade, road cone hotline responses, and Waipā economic update.

## Community Services

### Te Awamutu Cemetery works



We are creating 24 new car parks at Te Awamutu Cemetery and remarking the existing carpark, with the work starting next week due to the contractor being available earlier than anticipated. This means more space for visitors, easier access, and the ability to park closer to the far side of the cemetery – making visits more convenient for everyone. We will also be adding a new soil stockpile area to help our team maintain the cemetery more efficiently and keep the grounds tidy. The new carpark and the soil stockpile will be located near the toilet block.

This project was identified in Waipā District Council's Cemetery Concept Plan, which was finalised in June 2023 to help maximise existing cemetery capacity. The upgrades were included and budgeted for in the approved 2025-34 Long Term Plan.

Construction for this project will start on Monday, September 1 and is expected to take 10 weeks to complete.

During this time, the cemetery will remain open, and our contractors will be working with funeral directors and our sextons to ensure that work and noise are ceased or minimised during funeral services.

## Creative Communities Scheme

The first funding round for the 2025/26 Creative Communities Scheme opens on Monday, September 1.

Each year, Council works with Creative New Zealand to support community arts and cultural projects that bring people together and encourage participation in creativity across Waipā. Projects could be anything from performances, workshops and exhibitions to festivals or something completely unique.

Creative New Zealand provides funding for councils to distribute.

There are two funding rounds each financial year, with grants usually between \$500 and \$5000. Around \$56,500 will be allocated this year across both rounds.

Funding is open to groups, organisations and individuals that meet the criteria. Past projects have included murals, music workshops, film festivals and pottery exhibitions.

More details, including how to apply, are available on Council's website.

## Housebound library service

This information is provided from Waipa District Council

For more than 20 years, Waipa District Libraries have offered a free Housebound Service – delivering not just books, but connection, directly to people’s homes.

The service is not widely known though, and library staff are keen to see more people benefit – and more volunteers involved. While it mainly serves town residents, rural applications may be considered depending on delivery capacity.

The service ensures anyone unable to visit in person – whether due to injury, mobility challenges, age, or even new parenthood – can still access the library’s full range of resources, including DVDs, puzzles and items from the *Library of Things*.

- In **Te Awamutu**, the service is run by local volunteers who even cover their own fuel costs.
- In **Cambridge**, deliveries are handled by library staff, including visits to retirement villages and dementia care units.

Know someone who might enjoy the service, or want to help deliver it? Visit [waipadc.govt.nz/houseboundservice](https://waipadc.govt.nz/houseboundservice) or contact the Te Awamutu or Cambridge Library.

## John Kerkhoff Park field renovations

Our Park Operations team are working closely with the Cambridge Football Club to renovate the two sand carpet fields installed over the 2022/23 summer, with work starting next week.

The renovations are planned and budgeted for as part of the maintenance required to keep these fields operating appropriately, and include removing debris, adding sand to maintain drainage functions, reseeding and fertilising.

The fields will be closed to the public for around six weeks, while the new growth establishes.

At the same time, the Cambridge Football Club are undertaking maintenance on the other fields along with lighting improvement.

## Service delivery

### Road cone hotline



This information is provided from Waipa District Council

Since the Minister of Transport's road cone hotline opened in June, Council has received four referrals. Each has been investigated, with the following outcomes:

- **June 13 – Kaipaki/Lamb/Cambridge Rd intersection**

Concern: Excessive cones during Fieldays.

Finding: Cones were appropriate to manage heavy traffic and park-and-ride buses. No changes needed.

- **June 19 (received June 24) – Cambridge Rd, Cambridge**

Concern: Excessive cones at major construction site.

Finding: Cones were appropriate given complex traffic management (roundabout, underpasses, new development). No changes needed.

- **August 6 – Kaipaki Rd**

Concern: Too many cones for short-term works.

Finding: Cones were necessary for safety, but fewer should have been left out overnight. Feedback was provided to the contractor.

- **August 8 – Mutu St, Te Awamutu**

Concern: Excessive cones at site not found.

Finding: Coordinates did not match any works. Caller likely entered incorrect information, so no action was possible.

Council investigates every tip, takes action where required, and reports back to WorkSafe. Our role is to check that traffic management is safe and appropriate — we don't count cones or track numbers of cones removed.

## Te Awamutu Transfer Station

As advised by Steph earlier this month, for some time we have been aware that the landowner of the waste transfer station in Daphne Street, Te Awamutu was not renewing the operating lease with Waste Management Ltd. This raised concerns in the community about the possibility of the town being left without a transfer station.

We are pleased to update you that the landowner has entered into a lease arrangement with a new operator, Evolve Ventures Ltd. The site will continue to operate as a resource recovery centre and transfer station, with operations beginning on Monday, September 1. We will update the information on our Wasteless Waipā website on Monday to reflect the change.

While Evolve Ventures Ltd also provides services under Council's kerbside recycling contract, please note that the transfer station is a separate commercial operation and Council is not directly involved in its management.

## Cambridge Connections

### Community Reference Group and Ideas Forum





Expressions of interest opened on Tuesday, August 19 for people wanting to join the new Community Reference Group as part of Cambridge Connections – Moving Forward Together. It will be complemented by an open community ideas forum for anyone to share ideas, question assumptions, and provide feedback on the project. Both initiatives aim to give people a stronger voice in the future of the town's transport system.

The [Community Reference Group](#) will be a diverse group of up to 15 local people who will represent different perspectives across our community. Click on the link for more information, including the Terms of Reference. Applications close at 9am Friday, September 5.

People can also sign up to join the [Ideas Forum](#), which is designed to encourage ongoing dialogue and collaboration throughout the life of the project. Everyone's welcome to sign up and join in - activities will start in a few weeks.

There will also be opportunities for one-off engagement throughout the project.

More information about these groups and the project can be found on the [Cambridge Connections webpage](#).

## Economic development



Infometrics has released its [June 2025 Quarterly Monitor](#), with results showing Waipā is holding steady in some challenging times.

- **GDP:** Waipā's economy contracted just 0.2 percent over the past year, better than the national decline of 0.8 percent and slightly ahead of the wider Waikato (0.3 percent). Stronger performance in the primary sector and manufacturing helped offset a slowdown in construction and utilities.
- **Spending:** Consumer spending in Waipā grew 0.4 percent over the year, bucking the regional (-0.8 percent) and national (-1.7 percent) declines. A stable local labour market and a strong Fieldays helped lift results.
- **Jobs:** While some jobs were lost in construction, accommodation and retail, growth came through in education, healthcare (with new lifestyle villages opening) and food and beverage manufacturing.
- **Affordability:** Another positive sign is that household incomes rose 3.3 percent, outpacing house price growth. This saw affordability improve from a peak of 7.3 percent in 2024 to 6 percent this quarter. Rent affordability, at 24.5 percent, has also improved to its best level since March 2024.
- **Building activity:** Both residential consents (up 17.7 percent) and non-residential consents (up 58.3 percent) have increased for the year to June, suggesting pressure easing on the construction sector. New housing, industrial and commercial developments are visible across Cambridge and Te Awamutu, with tradies and suppliers keeping busy.

While economic conditions remain tough, Waipā's diverse economy and strong community spending are positive signs. The below infograph provides a great snapshot of how Waipā is faring in these challenging times.

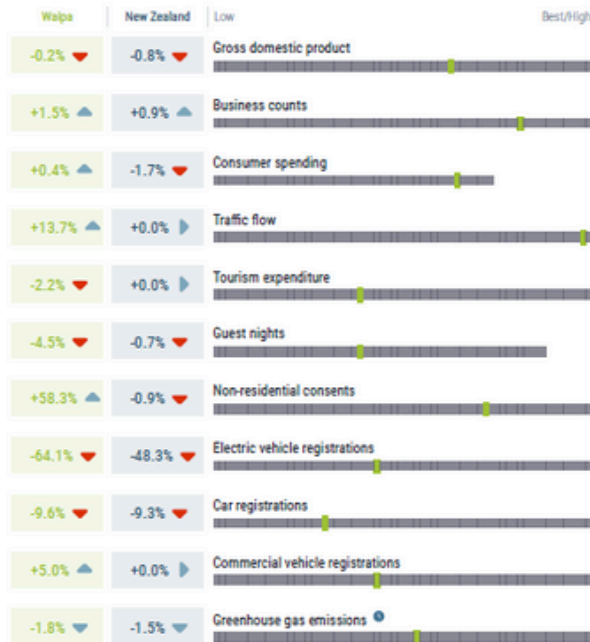
# Waipa District Quarterly Economic Infographic JUNE 2025

## COMPARISON

## RANK AMONG 66 TERRITORIAL AUTHORITIES

## ANALYSES

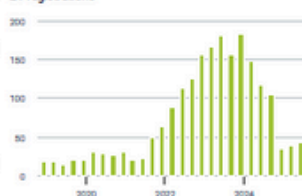
## Economic indicators



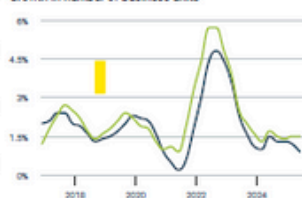
## GDP growth



## EV registrations



## Growth in number of business units



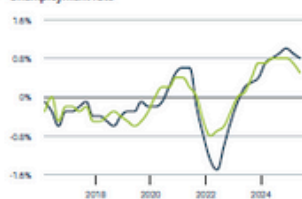
## Labour market indicators



## Employment growth



## Unemployment rate



● Data up to the March 2025 quarter. All measures are annual average percentage changes unless: ▲ Annual percentage changes ^ Levels



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## Planning

### Private Plan Change 35 – Te Awamutu Large Format Retail Centre





Figure 1- Land subject to PC35

A private plan change request has been lodged which relates to the existing Large Format Retail Centre at 670 Cambridge Road in Te Awamutu. The request seeks to rezone land at 638 Cambridge Road, which adjoins the centre, to Commercial Zone and to relocate the existing Mitre 10 onto this site. The existing Mitre 10 building within the centre will be available for repurposing for new commercial activities (including retail tenancies 400m<sup>2</sup> or larger).

## In brief updates

- **Proposed Waste to Energy Plant, Te Awamutu.** At this stage there is no further update on the payment of outstanding costs and resumption of processing the application by the EPA Board of Inquiry.
- **Cambridge to Piarere (C2P) State Highway 1 realignment.** We may receive the decision this week, but that's not confirmed.
- **PC14 Environment Court mediation dates.** Dates have not yet been set on the three appeals.

## Newcombe Road Quarry

Independent hearing commissioners have granted resource consent for the proposed sand quarry at 77 Newcombe Road, Cambridge, following a joint hearing with Waikato Regional Council. The commissioners considered both district and regional matters in a combined decision.

The quarry will extract up to 400,000 tonnes of sand per year for around 25 years, operating weekdays 7am–5pm and Saturdays 7am–12pm. At peak, up to 200 truck movements per day are expected, with typical daily movements closer to 78.

Under the Resource Management Act, consent could only be refused if effects could not be sufficiently avoided, remedied, or mitigated.

This information is provided from Waipa District Council. Certain Waipa District Plan rules were not met, including vehicle entrance width, sealed parking, and vegetation clearance near the Karāpiro Stream. These issues have been addressed through enforceable conditions. Both councils will monitor compliance of their respective conditions of consent.

Council received 350 submissions, mostly opposed. The independent hearing commissioners considered this feedback alongside technical evidence to ensure a balanced decision. A public media release with FAQs will follow and be available with the decision on the Council website on the afternoon of Tuesday, August 26.

*Key Messages*

- The decision on the quarry was made independently under the Resource Management Act, not by councillors, after a joint hearing with Waikato Regional Council.
- While many in the community opposed the proposal, the independent hearing commissioners could only decline if effects could not be managed.
- More than 350 submissions (mostly opposed) were carefully considered by the independent hearing commissioners, alongside technical evidence.
- The RMA framework required the commissioners to approve if effects could be sufficiently avoided, remedied, or mitigated.
- Consent has been granted with strict, enforceable conditions to protect the community and environment, with ongoing monitoring by both councils.
- The conditions cover truck movements, dust, noise, water quality, and site rehabilitation.
- Compliance will be closely monitored; breaches can lead to enforcement action, fines, or prosecution.
- At peak, there will be up to 200 truck movements a day, though typical daily numbers are closer to 78. More than half of these are expected to travel to and from the site from the south.
- Quarry operations are weekdays 7am–5pm, and Saturdays 7am–12pm.
- The quarry cannot operate until consent conditions are met, and apply for the duration of the consent.
- The decision can be appealed to the Environment Court within 15 working days by the applicant or submitters.

Strategy

Sustainability and Climate Change

Helen Mahoney, Senior Manager Sustainable Finance at the Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA), will present to the Sustainability and Climate Change Subcommittee on Monday, September 1.

Her presentation will outline the agency’s sustainable lending products, which provide discounted margins to support green, social and sustainability (GSS) projects. She will also cover the criteria councils must meet to access this type of funding.

The session starts at 11.05am and will run for about an hour. Elected members are welcome to attend.

Legislation tracker

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
Open for consultation		
<a href="#">Regulatory Systems (Transport) Amendment Bill</a>	<p>This omnibus Bill will change land transport, maritime, and aviation legislation.</p> <p>The key changes will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- modernising the enforcement regime for transport service licences</li><li>- enabling digital alternatives for transport services, like digital driver licences and electronic issuing of infringement and regulatory notices</li><li>- allowing road controlling authorities to set infringement fees for parking offences through bylaws</li><li>- requiring New Zealand ship owners (other than pleasure craft) to have employment agreements with all seafarers before departure</li><li>- clarifying that under the Civil Aviation Act, levies can't be used to recover costs already collected under the Airports (Cost Recovery for Processing of International Travellers) Act</li><li>- creating new investigation powers for the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) to investigate rail accidents.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Do not submit</li><li>• Keep a watching brief on new legislation.</li></ul>
<a href="#">Antisocial Road Use Legislation Amendment Bill</a>	<p>This bill amends the Land Transport Act 1998, the Sentencing Act 2002, the Policing Act 2008, and in Schedule 1 Land Transport (Offences and Penalties) Regulations 1999, to target and deter antisocial behaviour on our roads.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consultation closes Tuesday, September 30.</li><li>• Do not submit.</li></ul>
<a href="#">Proposed changes to building consent system and liability rules</a>	<p>The government is proposing changes to the Building Act. The key changes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• replacing joint and several liability with proportionate liability so each party is only responsible for their share of the work</li><li>• allowing councils to consolidate their Building Consent Authority functions to reduce delays.</li></ul> <p>The government will introduce a Bill to amend the Building Act in early 2026.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Keep a watching brief.</li></ul>

# Media releases

- [August 28: Connecting communities to Waipā library services](#)
  - [August 26: Strict conditions imposed on Cambridge sand quarry consent](#)
  - [August 19: Cambridge Connections launches new community reference group](#)
  - [August 18: Serving Te Awamutu for 25 years](#)
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## Media clippings

### [On the Waipā Radar – here is the news in secret](#)

Te Awamutu News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 22 Aug 2025, 10:59 am

### [Candidate calls for greater transparency](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 22 Aug 2025, 10:51 am

### [Three-way mayoral race in Waipā, 27 eye leadership positions](#)

Waikato Herald • Newspaper • 22 Aug 2025, 12:00 am

### [Te Awamutu firefighter honoured for quarter century of service](#)

Inside Government NZ • Kelly Nealon • Internet • 21 Aug 2025, 11:53 am

### [Paewira cost doubled: claim](#)

Cambridge News • Chris Gardner • Internet • 21 Aug 2025, 11:01 am

### [Councils reveal election costs](#)

Te Awamutu News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 21 Aug 2025, 9:03 am

### [Racing this time...](#)

Cambridge News • Peter Carr • Internet • 21 Aug 2025, 7:00 am

### [Council light on print adverts](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 21 Aug 2025, 6:01 am

### [Future bleak for town lake](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 21 Aug 2025, 5:03 am

### [Op shop saints honoured](#)

Te Awamutu News • Viv Posselt • Internet • 21 Aug 2025, 4:01 am

### [Taking meaningful action](#)

Te Awamutu News • Ryan Fleming • Internet • 20 Aug 2025, 6:01 pm

### [Council transparency under scrutiny](#)

Cambridge News • Roy Pilott • Internet • 20 Aug 2025, 9:37 am

### [New playground](#)

Waikato Times • Newspaper • 18 Aug 2025, 12:00 am

### [Access to dam soon](#)

Waikato Times • Karapiro • Newspaper • 18 Aug 2025, 12:00 am

### [Museum muddle sees Waipā ratepayers carry the can](#)

Waikato Times • Matthew Martin • Newspaper • 16 Aug 2025, 12:00 am

### [Unpaid bills could lay waste to incinerator plans](#)

Waikato Times • Matthew Martin • Newspaper • 15 Aug 2025, 12:00 am



New Zealand Herald • Internet • 14 Aug 2025, 2:27 pm

[Couple clash at polls](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 14 Aug 2025, 11:02 am

[Warding off those wards](#)

Cambridge News • Roy Pilott • Internet • 14 Aug 2025, 8:03 am

[Council costs revealed](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill & Chris Gardner • Internet • 14 Aug 2025, 6:00 am

[On the hustings ...](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 14 Aug 2025, 6:00 am

[A selfie and citizenship](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 14 Aug 2025, 5:05 am

[Town timing is off](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 14 Aug 2025, 4:02 am

[Bishop says no to ramps](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 14 Aug 2025, 3:05 am

[News in brief](#)

Te Awamutu News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 14 Aug 2025, 2:03 am

[Applications now open for events funding](#)

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

[In brief: Waipā's \\$75K events fund](#)

Waikato Times • Avina Vidyadharan • Internet • 13 Aug 2025, 7:43 am

