



Wairoa In Focus

Your Community, Your Future

Access views from the top

State-of-the-art mapping services and property information are now at the fingertips of visitors to the Wairoa District Council website. Aerial and satellite photography of the district, along with basic property information such as rates and valuation, can be viewed by anyone with access to the internet, at no cost.



By clicking on the 'IntraMap' icon on the WDC homepage, visitors will instantly be able to search by address, valuation number or legal description.

This will bring up an aerial view of the property in question and all the non-confidential information about it.

Confidential information such as owners' details are not available for privacy reasons.

Imagery of rural areas is in the form of aerial photography from 2002 and satellite imagery from 2010, while urban Wairoa is covered by aerial photography from 2010.

GIS Officer Russell McCracken said it has been a work in progress to

get the system up and running for public use. "The mapping service is still evolving, and with time people will be able to access more and more non-confidential information. This will make tasks such as preparing building and resource consents much easier

for people," he said. He welcomed any feedback on the service, particularly if information was found to be

incomplete or inaccurate. "Rural areas in particular can be incomplete when it comes to matching up rapid numbers on larger properties," he said.

The server that runs the mapping service is located in Perth, which is good news in the case of a natural disaster or if the WDC building suffered major damage in any way. "All the information is stored on the server, which means it is safe if anything happens here. This is a great backstop for us."

To have a go with the new service, visit www.wairoadc.govt.nz, scroll down the homepage and click on the 'IntraMap' icon.



Beautiful vistas marred by lazy dumpers Illegal dumping of rubbish is a continuing problem in hot spots around the district, including over the bank in this remote roadside location near Putere. Trailer loads of everything from household rubbish to animal skins are littering some of our most scenic areas, at a cost to ratepayers. WDC is reminding people of their responsibility to dispose of rubbish and recycling using either the regular collection service or by taking it to the Wairoa Landfill. Fines of up to \$400 for individuals and up to \$1200 for commercial dumping can be enforced on those found responsible for ruining the landscape with litter. To report a litter problem, phone 838 7309.

Beware when backyard burning

Restrictions on lighting fires have been lifted and weather is cooler, resulting in more backyard burning around town and country.

Wairoa District Council is reminding people to consider their neighbours and the environment when burning rubbish and vegetation – plumes of black smoke are an indication that whatever is being burnt should be taken to the Wairoa Landfill instead.

Items such as old paint cans, tyres or any kind of plastic result in toxic smoke that can have serious health effects for those breathing

it in. The general rule of thumb is that if the smoke is grey or white, it is non-toxic, but black smoke is an indication that the fire should be put out immediately to avoid toxic fumes. Vegetation is fine to burn, preferably well-dried, and check wind conditions to avoid upsetting the neighbours with clouds of smoke.

Wairoa District Council and Hawke's Bay Regional Council work together on 'backyard burning' compliance – fines have to be imposed should people choose to ignore the law. Details of the by-law are available at the Council offices on Queen Street.

Heavy vehicle owners take note

Motorists planning travel on Special Purpose Road 38 around Lake Waikaremoana are advised that the road will be temporarily closed to heavy traffic during the day due to repairs to Mokau Bridge from May 16 to June 10.

Situated 10km northwest of Te Urewera National Park visitor centre at Aniwanuiwa, the bridge is about to undergo significant structural repairs, including the replacement of the deck and railings.

Wairoa District Council's Asset Manager for Roading, Aram Goes, said vehicles over five tonne would not be able to travel over the bridge between 6am and 6pm due to the nature of the repair work.

"However, once work is completed for the day, a temporary decking will be put down to allow those vehicles to travel over the bridge between 6pm and 6am," he said.

"If someone was in a large campervan, for example, they would have to pull up and wait to travel on after 6pm. We know it's not ideal in terms of convenience, but the work must be done." Quality Roading and Services (Wairoa) Limited are contracted to complete the work, which is expected to be carried out over a period of no more than four weeks. Light vehicles under five tonne will still be able to use the bridge during the day, and delays could be expected.

Signs will be erected at both the Rotorua and Wairoa ends of SH38 to advise motorists of the situation.



The majestic Mokau Falls. Major repairs to this bridge will be carried out next month. Motorists need to prepare for significant delays.

For the diary:

Council meetings:

May 10
June 14
July 12
August 9
September 13
October 11
November 8
December 13

Forum:

May 24
June 28
July 26
August 23
September 27
October 25
November 22

Maori Standing Committee:

April 29
May 27*
July 1
July 29*
August 26
September 30*
October 28
November 25*

*Meeting will be held on a marae

Meetings are held in the Council Chambers in the Queen Street offices and are open to the public, unless otherwise specified.

Rates rebate reminder

If you haven't applied for your annual rates rebate yet, then it is time to do so. Applications close on 30 June 2011 and can not be accepted after this date. Rebate amounts could be up to \$570.

Who can apply?

- You must be the owner of the property you apply for and must have been living at the property on July 1, 2010.

AND

- Have a low income.

What information do you need to supply?

- Proof of income for you (and your partner) for the period covering April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010.
- Details of any children who were living with you on July 1, 2010.
- Details of Family Tax Credits.

All this information can be supplied by the IRD ph 0800 227 774

How do you apply?

- Contact Council on 838 7309 to make an appointment.
- Please bring to the appointment the information requested above.
- Appointments are Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 9 -12pm.

For more information phone 838 7309 or visit www.wairoadc.govt.nz