

**! LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION HEARINGS ON THE PROPOSAL TO CREATE ONE HAWKE'S BAY COUNCIL WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE WAR MEMORIAL HALL ON THURSDAY, JUNE 12 FROM 9.30AM !**

## Annual Plan equals transformation



Transformation and investment in the community are the key themes behind the Draft Annual Plan 2014-2015.

Chief Executive Officer Fergus Power said the plan represents the reboot this community needs to turn around the decades of population decline and loss of prosperity.

“The Mayor and Councillors have worked hard, alongside staff, to produce a plan that reflects the desire of the community to energise this district,” he said.

Mayor Craig Little

emphasised the point that the Draft Annual Plan underlines the fact that Wairoa must invest in its own future.

“We can’t carry on doing things the same old way that we have for the past 20 years or so. That way has clearly failed. The community has voted in a Council with a strong emphasis on strengthening economic development and strengthening the community. In turn, we have just recently recruited a new Chief Executive who has strong local government, commercial law and

environmental management experience - perfect for a district such as ours,” he said. Public consultation on the Draft Annual Plan closes at noon on Thursday, June 12, and has so far attracted a significant number of submissions from individuals and organisations.

Every submission will be analysed and taken into account by the Mayor and Councillors, who will also listen to hearings later this month.

The end result will be a final plan to guide council operations over the next year.

## Wairoa tipped as top place to live

It’s official – Wairoa is a great place to live! Results from the annual Communitrak survey show 95 percent of Wairoa residents take a positive view on their quality of life here in the district.

The WDC-commissioned survey also revealed 90 percent rated the community spirit in a positive light, while 74 percent were positive about how our natural environment is being preserved and sustained for future generations.

A total of 200 residents were interviewed over the phone by Communitrak, an independent firm specialising in local government surveys. Quota sampling ensured an even balance of male and female, as well as proportional ethnic group quotas.

The survey also covered different aspects of Council operations and governance to provide a picture of strengths and weaknesses. Results will be analysed and added to ongoing work to improve and build on the work of WDC.

### FOR YOUR DIARY

#### COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

#### COUNCIL FORUM

- 24 June
- 29 July
- 26 August
- 23 September
- 28 October
- 25 November

#### MAORI STANDING COMMITTEE

- 27 June 2014
- 25 July
- 29 August
- 26 September
- 31 October
- 28 November

*Meetings and Forums are held at the Queen Street office council chambers, and are open to the public unless otherwise specified.*



### CONTACT US

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[www.wairoadc.govt.nz](http://www.wairoadc.govt.nz)  
 (06) 838 7309

# Costly damage darkens sewer



• Plastic bags and large animal bones retrieved from the public sewer

Thousands of dollars of ratepayer money is being flushed down the drain by the thoughtless dumping by a nameless few into the town sewer system.

In April of this year alone, staff responded to a record 24 blockages caused by many types of material, including plastic bags and other large objects that have no place in the system.

One case involved large animal bones that can only have been dumped into the sewer via one of the manholes.

Utilities Engineer Don Smith said this particular blockage, between Sydney Street and McLean Street, caused problems for several days and eventually required assistance from a specialist drain operator from Hastings at a cost of around \$3000.

“The bills for these dumping acts are being footed by our community, and it’s simply not necessary,” he said.

According to the Council by-law, interfering with the free flow of the sewage system can result in a fine of up to \$20,000. The Local Government Act inflicts a heftier penalty of up to \$200,000 for damage to local authority property. Most of us don’t give a second thought to what happens

after the flush, but for some WDC staff the task of ensuring the 35km of underground pipe that makes up the town’s sewer reticulation system is top priority.

Depending on where you live, effluent drains by gravity into three main pump stations at North Clyde, Alexandra Park and Kopu Road, as well as a smaller one at Rutherford Street. It is then transferred along a main sewer pipe under McLean Street to a final pump station at Fitzroy Street, then onto the Waste Water Treatment Plant at Pilot Hill.

The plant consists of a forced aeration pond and a retention oxidation pond where the wastewater goes through the treatment process. The final stage is discharging of the treated waste water to the river estuary on an outgoing evening tide.

Maintaining the aging town sewer is not without its challenges - not helped by those who use it as their personal rubbish hole.

WDC are asking the public to assist in ensuring the community’s sewage system is looked after and to please call (06) 838 7309 if they suspect it has been tampered with.

## ↓ YOUR SPOT



The unmistakable view of the first glimpse of the Wairoa River when travelling in from the south. This image was sent in by WJ Carswell, who captured a beautiful autumn day.

If you have a photo or artwork that reflects the Wairoa community, we’d love to print it. Email [tamsyn@wairoadc.govt.nz](mailto:tamsyn@wairoadc.govt.nz) or post to PO Box 54, Wairoa 4160



## Whakatauki/ PROVERB

Ka whakarērea te puha, ka whai ki te matariki.

Inferior toetoe is discarded while that of high quality is sought after.

*Wairoa District Council supports the goal of becoming an official bi-lingual district by 2040.*

# Road repair challenge met



• QRS Ltd Project Supervisor Jared Olsen and WDC Project Engineer Pune Brown

A combination of modern technology and sustainable engineering techniques are resulting in some progressive flood damage work to our rural roading network.

A major project up the Ruakituri Valley is an example of this cutting-edge work, involving the construction of a large retaining wall to shore up the road after it was extensively damaged by flooding.

Project Engineer Pune Brown said the project was one of several throughout the district, and was particularly noteworthy due to the location of the site in relation to a good supply of natural resources.

“The soil available for construction use is high quality and close by, which removes the need to truck in material,” he said.

Essentially three work sites are operating at Ruakituri; the first is the ‘borrowed’ site, where soil is extracted for use on the main site further down the road. The third is the dump site, where excess soil is deposited and formed into a

compacted grass verge. “The idea is to leave each site tidy, safe and functional,” Mr Brown said. The main construction site is perched alongside the Ruakituri River, famed for its picture postcard looks and bountiful trout.

The QRS Ltd contractors carrying out the work agree there could be worse places to spend their working day. State-of-the-art materials are being used to create the Geomesh reinforced earth retaining wall - products QRS Ltd have become experts at handling through several years of use over many projects.

The complicated construction is designed to stand the test of time, with drainage systems in place to cope with any further flood conditions.

Over time, the site will disappear into the landscape, assisted by the final woollen ‘blanket’ that overlays the structure to encourage vegetation growth.

Once the vegetation has taken hold, the wool breaks down and disappears.

“The whole project really combines modern technology with traditional techniques. It’s a beautiful balance,” Mr Brown said. The Ruakituri project is one of several taking place around the district to repair flood damage.

The physical work on the ground is preceded by many months of detailed assessment, design and tendering.

Government funding contributes heavily to the emergency repair work.



## COUNCIL ONLINE

Council’s online presence is picking up with the launch of a new facebook page. Social media is playing an important role in all aspects of life, including sharing the happenings of what your local government are up to. The library also has a popular facebook page. The WDC website is proving popular, with an almost 40 percent increase in visits over the past year, bringing the total up to 24,603. Most visitors are New Zealand based, with Auckland taking the lead in audience cities. Head to [www.wairoadc.govt.nz](http://www.wairoadc.govt.nz) to discover all the information and tools you can use to connect with Council.

**Other WDC websites:**  
[www.visitwairoa.co.nz](http://www.visitwairoa.co.nz)  
[www.wairoalibrary.co.nz](http://www.wairoalibrary.co.nz)  
[www.yroaynot.co.nz](http://www.yroaynot.co.nz)

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WAIROA  
QUICK REPORTMayor's  
message

This is an exciting time to be living in Wairoa. Over the past two months I've had the opportunity to get around the district and acquaint myself with some fantastic people as we introduce our new CEO, Fergus Power. It's reinforced to me how unique we are here, and as I continue to represent Wairoa at regional and national level, you can be reassured I am sending that message out to all I come in contact with. This month we play host to Local Government Commission representatives, who are coming to the War Memorial Hall on Thursday, June 12 to hear submissions on amalgamation. Council is included in this hearing, and will be presenting our case against the proposal to create one Hawke's Bay Council. I encourage

people to go along to the hearings – even if it's just for part of the proceedings – to see democracy in action. By now you will have had the opportunity to see the Draft Annual Plan summary that was sent out with your indicative rates notice. Plenty of people have been getting their submissions in, which is a great sign that our community is engaged and prepared to stake a claim in the future. This plan represents the transformation we're intent on delivering to the community. It's an investment in our district, and what a great return you'll get out of it.

Craig Little, JP  
Mayor of Wairoa

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## Dust disappearing with sealing

The rolling out of scheduled sealing work around the district is full steam ahead. Stretches of road at Opoutama, Awamate, Ruapapa, Aniwanuiwa, Mokau and Waikokopu have all been sealed, with more in the pipeline as budgets allow. The work is part of a strategy to prioritise areas of dust nuisance and reduce future maintenance costs.

## Wairoa weddings on display

Four decades of Wairoa weddings, as seen through the lens of photographer Peter Hamilton, will be on display at the Wairoa Museum from Wednesday, June 11. The 'Tying the Knot' exhibition features a fascinating range of wedding portraits, supported by special memorabilia from the events themselves. Visitors have until October 6 to view the exhibition.

## When books and pizza collide

New Zealand literature is in the front row at the Wairoa Public Library with a great challenge running for young readers. Once kids have read eight books by kiwi authors, they will receive a free Hells Pizza voucher. The LIANZ-initiated challenge is aimed at promoting our national authors and encouraging our kids to get reading, so call into the library to find out more.

## Dog microchipping reminder

Free dog microchipping continues to take place around the district. People are encouraged to bring their dogs along to the amnesty days, even if they are unregistered. All dogs over the age of three months are required by law to be microchipped.

## Remaining amnesty schedule (all from 1pm):

Mahia Boating & Fishing Club, Sun, June 8

Frasertown Domain Hall, Sun, June 15

North Clyde War Memorial Park (helipad), Sun, June 22

Wairoa District Council rear carpark, Sun, June 29

