

MAYORAL COLUMN



Mayor Craig Little

HISTORIC SETTLEMENT SIGNING

The settlement claims bill for the Iwi and Hapu o Te Rohe o Te Wairoa has now been read in Parliament for the third and final time and has become law.

It was fantastic to have so many Iwi and Hapu o Te Rohe o Te Wairoa travel to Wellington to witness this historic event.

This final settlement is a tribute to the work of the post-settlement governance entity Tatau Tatau o Te Wairoa, led by Leon Symes, and many others who have now passed on, but their legacy remains.

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LEON SUMMED IT UP WHEN HE SAID, "THIS WILL OPEN THE DOOR TO BUILD A BETTER AND MORE PROSPEROUS FUTURE FOR OUR MEMBERS, AND THE DISTRICT AS A WHOLE."

The next step is the ratification of the final representation and asset arrangement. The ratification coincides with the receipt of the financial and commercial settlement package after the Governor General signs and provides Royal assent to the Claims Settlement Bill. In November a special resolution vote is planned where Tatau Tatau o Te Wairoa Trust will present the final Representation and Asset Arrangement Model.

The total settlement value is \$100m plus interest.

I congratulate everyone who has been part of the process and I look forward to watching Wairoa grow and prosper in the future.

STATE HIGHWAY 38

NZTA regional relationships manager Emma Speights visited State Highway 38 last Thursday- in the midst of the storm.

I have been campaigning to have State Highway 38 sealed since I was first elected as a councillor.

Emma is based in Wellington and I invited her to visit so she could see first-hand what we are dealing with and we could explain our situation and reasons why the road should be sealed up to the lake edge.

Once we have secured sealing to the lake edge the remainder needs to be a combined effort between Council, Tuhoë and NZTA.



As a state highway and national road there is no acceptable reason why this stretch of road should remain unsealed.

Improved access, tourism, business opportunities and health issues created by dust are just some of the reasons why this road needs sealing.

NZTA hold key to making this happen and we will continue to lobby them.

There were no promises made but we remain forever hopeful and appreciate Ms Speights taking the time to see the situation for herself.

At last Friday's Regional Transport Committee meeting, which ironically, I couldn't get to because the road was closed, the committee supported my lobbying with a resolution supporting that sealing SH 38 becomes a priority under the Provincial Growth Fund and by writing to the relevant government ministers seeking support. It's great to have the region's support behind us.

Sealing State Highway 38 is a business cases we are developing as part of our application to the Provincial Growth Fund. Last week's visit included a representative from that fund, so it is pleasing people are taking time to understand our struggles and see the opportunities change could create.

WEATHER BOMB

Last week's weather bomb was a very real reminder of the devastation nature can cause.

Our district was hammered by the storm which caused roads to be blocked by slips and left Wairoa isolated and cut off from all directions.



My heart goes out to those who were affected, from residents whose homes suffered flooding and water damage to farmers who suffered stock losses and damage to their properties with slips, flooding and track and fence damage.

Our roading team counted 57 slips on the lake road alone with the Tuai area badly affected.

River turbidity levels impacted on the town's water supply and while water was being produced it was at a lower production level than usual.

THANK YOU TO OUR WATER TREATMENT PLANT TEAM WHO WORKED NON-STOP OVER 24- HOURS TO FIX THE ISSUES AND FILL THE TOWN RESERVOIRS BACK TO 100%.

There were also a lot of behind the scenes Council staff who worked above and beyond to keep our district ticking and I also thank those people for their efforts.

These events remind us how fortunate we are to have our own contracting company, QRS, based in Wairoa.

QRS staff worked tirelessly to open roads and make our district accessible. The QRS team is a local team, they understand our local problems and are there to fix them when they happen.

I extend a huge thanks for the work they did last week and will continue to do in the clean-up.

FOR YOUR DIARY

FINANCE, AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 18 September: 1.30pm

COUNCIL FORUM

Tuesday, 25 September: 1.30pm

MĀORI STANDING COMMITTEE

Thursday, 11 October: 12.30pm

COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, 16 October: 1.30pm



CONTACT US

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**GREAT THINGS
GROW HERE™**
HAWKE'S BAY NEW ZEALAND

DOG REGISTRATIONS

Education, annual costs and essential resources are just a small sample of the benefits that come with registering your dogs.

Dog registration fees go towards many services that are essential to keeping the community and dogs safe.

Some of these services and products include:

- Response to complaints
- Impounding service
- Property Inspections
- Dog registration checks
- Portable traps and cages
- Collars, leads and worming tablets
- Three full-time animal control officers and one part-time casual animal control officer
- Public education information
- Maintenance of pound facilities
- Welfare checks
- SPCA services
- Wandering stock and stock accidents
- Lost and found pets
- Stray dogs
- Dog attacks

Council wants to remind owners that animal control services are available 24/7.

If you would like to speak with one of the team, you can call 06 838 7309 or visit the Council office.