

WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL ... IN FOCUS

16 August 2018

MAYORAL COLUMN



Mayor Craig Little

REPRESENTATION REVIEW 2018

Many of you would be aware that we are currently undertaking a Representation Review. The last time we did a Representation Review was in 2015 and we are required to undertake this every six years. We have to undertake a Representation Review earlier because Wairoa will be implementing Maori Wards for the next two elections in 2019 and 2022.

The merit of Maori Wards is not out for debate, because our community voted to establish Maori Wards at the last elections. Those who voted for the establishment of Maori Wards believed this was in the best interest of our district and how you wish to be represented. This to me demonstrates that our community is really engaged in the civic process and aware of issues that are meaningful for Wairoa. This review is about how many seats will be allocated to Councillors.

The final proposal is now out and Council resolved for its next Representation arrangements the following:

Council Representation – Final Proposal

- **A Mayor to be elected over the entire district**
All registered electors will have the opportunity to vote for a Mayor.
- **Three (3) Councillors elected at large from the General Ward**
Electors registered on the General Electors Roll will have the opportunity to vote for three (3) Councillors from the General Ward.
- **Three (3) Councillors elected at large from the Maori Ward**
Electors registered on the Maori Electors Roll will have the opportunity to vote for three (3) Councillors from the Maori Ward.
- **No Community Boards**

If anyone would like any information about our Representation Review please contact the Electoral Officer for the Wairoa District Council, Kitea Tipuna on kitea@wairoadc.govt.nz. We will be sending our final proposal through to the Local Government Commission at the end of August following the completion of statutory requirements as per the Local Electoral Act.

PROVINCIAL GROWTH FUND

Last week I met with John Stroat, a board member on the Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) Independent Advisory Panel. He is based in Hawke's Bay and very keen to work with us to help investigate Wairoa's opportunities.

JOHN STROAT SAID "WAIROA HAD A REALLY GOOD FEEL ABOUT IT AND HE COULDN'T BELIEVE IT WAS SUCH A VIBRANT LITTLE TOWN."

We have now received the Government's \$250,000 capability funding which will allow us to develop business cases and explore Wairoa's potential without using ratepayer money.

We are now developing how we are going to move forward and are working closely with MBIE representatives to achieve that.

I have also asked our staff to look at a process for how we might support others in our community who might be interested in participating in the (PGF) process. We have found it complex and time consuming and it does require some capability support, hence why we applied for capability funding to help us look at some of the projects we were interested in. I have no doubt that there are others out there in the community who have some great ideas and who are interested in this PGF process.

FIBRE

I am so pleased to see that Wairoa will soon be enjoying the same level of connectivity and broadband speeds as big cities with the ultra-fast broadband rollout going strong.

The high-speed broadband connection is expected to be fully rolled out early next year.



I lobbied hard for Wairoa to receive the same level of connectivity as the rest of the country and I look forward to the job being completed in just a few months' time.

RAIL

It's great to see reinstatement work being carried out on the rail line between Wairoa and Napier. We still want to see a rail hub in Wairoa and recently met with representatives from the Port of Napier and KiwiRail to progress these discussions. There is a lot of interest being shown and we are doing what we can to keep the momentum going.



We are all looking forward to the Wairoa/Napier line being reopened and the icing on the cake would be to have the Wairoa to Gisborne line also reopened as that would really complement what we are trying to achieve.

DESTINATION PLAYGROUND

The Destination Playground is getting lots of use. It is fantastic to see so many children playing on the equipment, this was particularly evident over the recent school holidays. The playground has completely changed the look of the western end of town and we know there are people who would have driven through town who are now stopping so their children can play.

We are continually improving the facility with shade sails currently being installed in time for summer.



Don't forget, I am available to meet every Wednesday, call the office on 06 838 7309 to book an appointment or if you would like to present your thoughts to the Council the next Council forum is Tuesday September 25th at 1.30pm in the Council chambers. Contact the office on 06 838 7309 to book a time slot.

FOR YOUR DIARY

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 21 August: 1.30pm

COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, 4 September: 1.30pm

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 11 September: 1.30pm

MĀORI STANDING COMMITTEE

Thursday, 13 September: 12.30pm



CONTACT US

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(06) 838 7309

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

DOG REGISTRATIONS

Council would like to thank those dog owners who have paid their dog registrations early.

Dog owners had until 31 July 2018 to register their dogs at a discounted price.

Owners will still have until the end of this month (31 August 2018) to register their dogs.

After this date, Council will be following up with anyone who hasn't paid the registration for their dog.

We would also like to remind people of Council's selected dog owner policy.

By simply filling out a form, having your property inspected and having a good clean dog owner record, you could be a suitable candidate for this policy, which offers a 12.5% discount.

This policy only applies to owners of standard dogs.

To complete the selected dog owner application form please visit www.wairoadc.govt.nz and search for #dogregistration.

