

WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL IN FOCUS

Mayor Craig Little



MAYORAL COLUMN

MOBILE ICE SKATE RINK COMING TO WAIROA

It is excellent news that Wairoa will be visited by the mobile ice skate rink later this month.

Council wanted to do something fun in the community. The mobile ice skate rink is a perfect opportunity to bring whānau together, get people active, and reconnect our community. The Ice Skate Tour travels around New Zealand with state-of-the-art artificial ice rinks. They look like ice and have 97% same gliding capacity as natural ice. The rink will be in town at the War Memorial Hall on Queen Street from Monday, July 24, to Sunday, July 30.

The rink will be open to the public out of school hours and available to groups and school classes during the day, with training also offered.

Plus, disco skate nights are planned for Friday, July 28 and Saturday, July 29.

Skating sessions are at least half an hour and are subsidised by the Council, costing \$8 for a child, \$12 for adults aged 16 and over, and \$35 for a family pass.

To make a booking during public times, please head to <https://www.trybooking.com/nz/events/landing/9798> and for group bookings, please email ed@wairoadc.govt.nz. Get ready for a cool but not cold ice-skating experience.

MAYORAL RELIEF FUND

So far, more than \$600,000 has been distributed to local people who have applied for funding through the Wairoa Mayoral Relief Fund.

Our focus has been on those people whose houses have been stickered. We look forward to continuing with the distributions to help people impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle.

Applications can be made by scanning the QR Code or via the following link: <https://www.wairoadc.govt.nz/our-council/>



TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

The Wairoa District Council is once again running its residents' and ratepayers' satisfaction survey to hear feedback on what we do well and where we can improve.

The survey is based on performance targets set for our many services through the Council's Long-Term and Annual Plan processes.

We want to hear from our community as this feedback is critical to Council delivering the best possible facilities and services for our community.

To take the survey, please go to <https://feedback.askyourteam.com/E6TWxDF> or click the link on Council's website or Facebook page.

The survey is live until Friday, July 14, 2023. We look forward to hearing from you.

THREE WATERS

I am concerned with how the government continues pushing the unworkable and unwanted Three Waters project.

We are now hearing of budget blowouts with establishment costs increased by \$1 billion, taking the likely cost up to \$3 billion due to last-minute changes and jumping from four to 10 entities.

It just astounds me that we taxpayers are paying for something most of us said we didn't want in the first place.

Imagine if we had this money to spend on Three Waters rather than bureaucracy.

The election is less than 100 days away, and we must ensure Three Waters is front and centre of all pre-election discussions.

MINISTERIAL VISIT

Wairoa recently had a quick visit from Hawke's Bay Ministerial lead for cyclone recovery, the Hon. Kieran McAnulty. The Sunday visit was brief as the Minister was returning from Gisborne.

We did have an opportunity to share some of our concerns, and we are hopeful he will visit again soon so he can assist Wairoa in its post-cyclone recovery.

As we keep repeating, Wairoa is unique, and a one size fits all approach does not work for us.

With an election just months away, we need to ensure awareness around what is happening in small rural areas like Wairoa.

I know, in particular, for Wairoa, we need to stop the constant loss of services.

- Wairoa's agricultural backbone is being eroded; we have lost at least 20,000 ha to forestry in the past six years.

- Wairoa's ability to host a race day because of NZTR decisions – supported by the Government.

- All our central banks closed - ANZ, BNZ, Westpac.

- Businesses closing because of COVID-19
- The temporary closure of the Morere Hot Pools

- Closure of the hospital-level service care of Glengarry rest home, resulting in patients being rehomed out of town and now, following the cyclone, no aged care service provision.

- Erosion of health services, including no Wairoa based-dentist, no optometrist
- The loss of residential care for Wairoa's intellectually disabled

Wairoa is a two-hour journey from core services, on a fragile roading network. We need a government that gives places like Wairoa parity with the rest of New

Zealand by ensuring these basic facilities remain operating in our town and for our people.

Wairoa taxpayers pay the same as every other New Zealander, and our district produces more per capita than most. Yet our people are not receiving equitable core services, and the government is not ensuring the wellbeing of our people - even in a basic sense of immediate health care for our elderly and intellectually disabled.

2023 RESIDENTS OPINION SURVEY

SURVEY CLOSES FRI 14 JULY

FOR YOUR DIARY PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

Strategy, Wellbeing and Economic Development Committee

Tuesday, July 11 1.30 pm

Infrastructure and Regulatory Committee

Tuesday, July 18 1.30 pm

Māori Standing Committee

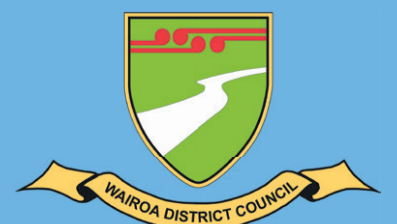
Tuesday, July 25 1.30 pm

CONTACT US

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Tickets can also be purchased from the Wairoa i-Site.

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