# **Newsline Issue 574 – 12 July 2024**

# We have adopted our 10-Year Plan 2024 – 2034

The Plan builds upon the theme of continuing investment to meet the demands of growth and the need to maintain assets within the current environment where affordability is key.

Many of the over 1,000 total submissions acknowledged the importance of continued investment in community assets, with specific support for the development of the Motueka Pool, Wakefield/Brightwater community facilities, Tapawera hub and extension of the Murchison Recreation Centre.

We have identified prudent savings and investment opportunities through a thorough examination of all budgets, the capital programme and the identification of assets that could either be sold or managed differently.

While the Government’s Local Water Done Well programme looms large over every Council, it has not advanced to the point where any possible changes to the way we budget or deliver water services can be included in this Plan. However, any development may need changes to future plans.

Other changes may be required to manage the uncertainty around the level of funding NZTA Waka Kotahi provides for the development and maintenance of local roads and public transport.

Most fees and charges have been increased by approximately 10% to better reflect a user pays environment and offset the level of rates revenue needed over the next 10 years.

As a result of the savings found and changes to the way we manage resources, our rates revenue increase (excluding rates from new growth) has been limited to 11.1% in the first year, 7% in the second year and approximately 5% in the third year onwards.

# Help shape the future of water safety in Tasman

Tasman is a great place to live, play, work and explore!

We are lucky to have an extensive coastline and many rivers, lakes and beaches, often in quite remote areas. Our great climate means over summer, we have a significant increase in recreational water users enjoying a variety of water activities, boating or sports.

As a council, we are responsible for keeping our waters safe and enjoyable for everyone – this role extends to the 12-nautical-mile territorial sea limit.

There are a wide range of recreational and cultural activities happening on the water all year round, as well as commercial users.

The Maritime Transport Act 1994 enables us to make navigation bylaws to ensure maritime safety for water users in or on our waterways or coastlines.

Next month, we’re inviting community feedback on a new bylaw to set out the local rules to ensure that people safely use and share our waters, in addition to national requirements.

The bylaw will consider all water users and the many inland and coastal water environments across Tasman, covering all water activities.

Some of the water safety issues that we’re looking to address in the bylaw include:

* Clear requirements for wearing a lifejacket.
* Easily identifying a vessel, and its owner or skipper.
* The visibility of small, lone watercraft, such as kayaks.
* Identifying and improving the regulation of jet skis.
* Communication requirements for all vessels.

If you want to stay up to date or share your thoughts on the draft Tasman Navigational Safety Bylaw next month, check out shape.tasman.govt.nz/navigation-safety-bylaw.

# We begin Motueka Wastewater Treatment Plant journey

Elected Members have given the go-ahead to the project to find a solution for Motueka’s wastewater treatment needs.

The current site is no longer appropriate for a number of reasons;

* It is at risk from sea level rise, flooding from the Motueka River and storm surges along the coast,
* It will be at full capacity relatively soon if the current rate of growth continues,
* The standards regulating the discharge of treated wastewater have become more challenging to achieve, and
* The current resource consent expires in 2035.

In giving the go-ahead for the first stage of the scheme, we are aware of the complexity involved with this infrastructure, said Tasman Mayor Tim King. “The first year will be focused on developing a robust development and implementation framework.”

The initial process will, in addition to regular interim progress reports, have a final report date to the Council of May 2025. The outcomes will include an outline of the completed work and seek direction for the second year.

It is essential that this project is clearly communicated to all of Motueka and the wider District with plenty of opportunity for input, information gathering and conversations with the community.

Obviously, the possible impact of the impending Local Water Done Well legislation and process will need to be considered. The implications of the proposed and final changes to that work will need to be considered within this first planning year.

With so many variables surrounding this project already, a robust framework for design, decision-making and development is essential.

# New Murchison pipe secures supply

Murchison’s main water supply has been made more secure with the replacement of the town’s main supply pipe last month.

The job, which was done by Downer Utilities who used Donaldson Civil Ltd as their subcontractor, included the replacement of a 50-year-old 340-metre-long 150-millimetre-diameter asbestos cement pipeline.

A new polyethylene pipe has been put in as a replacement.

This is the only water supply pipeline between Murchison Reservoir and the town network so it’s critical to the town’s infrastructure.

Parts of the old water main were laid beneath a farm track but weren’t very deep and were at risk of being damaged by heavy vehicles using the track.

The $160,000 project has significantly increased the resilience of the water supply to the entire Murchison township.

# New Coastal Erosion Protection Policy adopted

It has been several years in the making, but we recently adopted our new Coastal Erosion Protection Structures on Council Reserve Land Policy.

The policy applies to landowners who wish to consider coastal erosion protection structures on Council-administered reserve land adjacent to their property.

It aims to provide an understanding of what is required to seek approval from us for use of the reserve land, including:

* The processes that need to be followed and how to navigate them;
* The matters we are likely to take into account;
* Our expectations of what is required from landowners to use reserve land for this purpose; and
* What landowners will need to do if they wish to pursue this option.

The policy also helps us when processing requests for landowner approval for the use of reserve land – providing a guide to the processes to be followed and the matters likely to be considered. It also aims to ensure consistent and robust decision-making regarding hard coastal erosion protection structures on reserve land.

A draft policy was publicly notified in October 2021 and after a lull in proceedings, the revised policy was adopted by Council in June this year.

The policy is now live on our website, where you’ll also find an application form for those wishing to apply for approval.

Visit tasman.govt.nz/coastal-structures.

# Māpua Masterplan’s next steps

We want to say a big thank you to the Māpua community for their ongoing support and contribution to the creation of the Māpua Masterplan. The latest round of engagement closed on 10 March.

Thanks to all those who gave their feedback online and in person. A summary of the feedback can be found online at shape.tasman.govt.nz/mapua-masterplan.

Staff are currently developing the draft Masterplan. This is expected to be released later this year and will go through a Local Government Act consultation process which involves formal submissions, hearings and deliberations. Through this process, submitters have the opportunity to speak to their submission and be heard by Councillors at a hearing.

A decision on the final Masterplan will be made by the Council and then released for implementation. We expect this process to be completed by the end of 2024.

We will continue to keep everyone updated, including when the draft Masterplan is ready for feedback.

# Options for downsizing your home

For many people it’s one of the bigger life decisions they’ll make, downsizing the home. But where do you start? What do you need to do? Who can offer advice?

Our Motueka Positive Ageing Forum is on Tuesday 23 July at 11.00 am at the Motueka Over 50’s Social Club, and we are focusing on downsizing your home.

We will have a local real estate agent speaking about what options there are in the housing market, where to start with selling your home, who you need to talk to and how to prepare your house for sale.

The Nelson Tasman Retirement Village Residents Association will speak about what is involved in living in a retirement or lifestyle village.

We’ll also have ‘Homeshare for Her’ which is a safe and welcoming platform for women to find and share homes.

# Tech change for traffic counting

We are changing the technology used to count vehicles on various roads.

Previously we used rubber tubes stretched across roads and cycle lanes to monitor usage. Our contractor has now started using cameras to record vehicle movements.

The devices are installed for set periods alongside roads to electronically count vehicle movements. This safer and more reliable technology will provide a more accurate count of vehicles.

But there’s nothing to be concerned about, these new devices are not being used for parking enforcement or speed management.

# Get where you’re going, safely

Can mobility scooters use cycle lanes? Where should e-scooters ride? Are there speed limits for e-bikes? Are there different rules for different devices in different places?

With recent improvements to our cycle lane networks in Richmond and Māpua, and the growth in popularity of both e-scooters and mobility scooters, questions about which users have priority have increased.

Delving into the Land Transport Rule Book tells us there’s no single rule for all. The key message is everyone must be careful and considerate.

E–scooters can be used on the footpath or the road, except in designated cycle lanes that are part of the road, designed for the sole use of cyclists.

Riders choosing to use footpaths must travel at speeds that don’t put other footpath users at risk and give way to both pedestrians and drivers of mobility devices.

The rule book says mobility scooters are generally in the same legal category as e-scooters. As for e-bikes, there is no set speed limit, provided riders are sticking to the road rules.

Shared paths where walkers and riders use the same space are potentially where the biggest conflict can happen, but the rules for shared paths are best summed up with no user can unduly impede the passage of any other user. In short, if all users share with care, everyone will get where they’re going safely.

# eBus times tweaked

Timetable changes are coming for the early Motueka and Wakefield eBus services.

From Monday 15 July, the earliest Route 5 bus from Motueka Library will depart at 6.40 am, arriving in Richmond at 7.47 am, then on to the Nelson Interchange at 8.20 am.

There’s been a slight change to the time of the earliest Route 6 service from Wakefield Village too. This will now leave at 6.55 am, arriving in Richmond at 7.22 am, and at Nelson Interchange at 7.47 am.

The reason for this timetable change is to allow for more room in the schedule. Currently, the timetable is very tight, and this new timetable will provide more accurate times between each stop.

You can see the new schedules at ebus.nz from Monday 15 July.

# Welcome and connect

September is a special time in Tasman as we celebrate our community’s diversity during Welcoming Week.

This event invites groups, clubs, schools, and workplaces to organise activities which welcome newcomers and help us to foster new friendships – it’s time to get to know each other!

Tasman’s population grew by more than 10% last year – let’s make sure we welcome our new community members warmly and help them connect with our existing communities.

Welcoming Week runs from 6 to 15 September under the theme ‘Nau mai rā – Glad you’re here’.

It is an opportunity to meet new residents, colleagues, and recent arrivals to our area. With people from more than 100 different ethnic backgrounds calling Tasman home, our community is a true melting pot of cultures.

You can join the celebration and plan a ‘welcoming event’ that helps bring new and established community members together. Consider hosting open days at your business, organising guided tours of local attractions, or planning fun events like game nights, neighbourhood picnics, street parties, or potluck meals featuring international cuisine.

If you need help, our Welcoming Communities Officer is available to help you brainstorm ideas for your events and provide support. This year we have special resources available for schools to encourage students in welcoming activities.

Please get in touch for more information: birte.becker-steel@tasman.govt.nz.

By hosting a Welcoming Week event, you join a global movement dedicated to building inclusive communities. Let’s make Tasman stronger together!

# Don’t drop your doggy dumpling bags

We don’t want to bag the majority of dog owners who know that what comes out of their canine needs to be disposed of – but we’re getting a whiff of some doggy doo deeds that need us to say – don’t!

It would be an incredible feat if all dogs were toilet trained. Unfortunately, their time spent outdoors is as much about exercise as it is about doing what comes naturally to them.

Dog owners are responsible for not only picking up their doggy dumplings, but also for disposing of them appropriately. When your dog backs one out – bag it up and bin it.

We have recently had numerous complaints from across the District on how many dog owners are just leaving the doggy doo bags on the ground. This is not acceptable and just like not picking up after your dog, leaving the baggies behind is a finable offence.

And while Old Yeller, Scooby or Marmaduke are part of the family, you can’t take it out of their allowance – it’s the owners who have to bear the fine.

We have set up our green doggy doo bag dispenser stations in many convenient spots across the District. They are also within close proximity to a rubbish bin, for quick disposal.

The bags are provided to reduce the incidence of fouling by dogs in our parks and reserves. They also reduce the potential risk of public health issues arising from dog faeces and reduce the fouling of rubbish bins.

If you don’t have some bags of your own with you on your walk, please help yourself to one of the ones supplied.

# Harnessing sun power

The future’s looking bright for solar power in Tasman and now we can see exactly how much power is being generated by our network of solar panels on Council buildings.

We generate electricity from photovoltaic panels on the roofs of Richmond Library, Motueka Library Te Noninga Kumu and the Brightwater Water Treatment Plant.

We are using a new monitoring system on our website with graphs showing how much energy we are generating at each of our facilities where solar panels are installed.

People can see how each site is performing or an accumulation of all sites so they can see a comparison of what is being generated and what’s being used.

For example, on a sunny day, the panels on the roof of Motueka Library generate enough electricity to run the library, with excess power being sold back into the national electricity grid.

An advantage of the new system is that we can also check the health of the panels themselves. For example, if they show signs of lower generation, it could mean they need cleaning.

The data can also be broken down to how many average homes would be powered by the quantities of electricity being generated.

Looking ahead, we have plans to include more solar generation at other sites with Tākaka Library next in line to go online.

Visit tasman.govt.nz/our-solar-power-generation.

# Public dumping costs everyone!

Throwing a bit of rubbish out the car window while driving in one of our rural areas may seem harmless to some people, but the cost of roadside clean-ups is mounting and it’s a cost to all ratepayers.

We must employ contractors to collect rubbish from roadsides and public areas, and this is a growing expense.

In the past 12 months, we’ve spent close to $45,000 on collecting litter from roadsides, reserves and beaches, and more than $100,000 cleaning up material dumped on our riversides.

There are even those who feel they can dump larger quantities of rubbish anywhere, even on other people’s properties.

While we can’t get rid of rubbish from private land, we do offer free litter disposal for community clean up events at our Resource Recovery Centres. You can find out more about this on our website, visit tasman.govt.nz and search ‘community clean up’.

But everyone can help to beat the illegal dumpers. If you see rubbish being dumped somewhere it shouldn’t be, get the registration number of the vehicles involved and call us on
03 543 8400 as soon as you can.

# Solution sought for sports lights situation

Concerns have been raised about the floodlights being left on for long periods at Golden Bay’s Rec Park Centre sports grounds in Tākaka.

There have been occasions recently when users have forgotten to turn them off after using the facility at night, and at times the lights on the playing fields have been left on through the night.

Our Reserves and Facilities staff are aware of the issue and are looking at solutions.

We are investigating installing a timer on the park’s lighting system, but in the meantime, we are asking users to ensure the lights are turned off before they leave the park.

# Motueka Community Board

As we write this, it is the week of Matariki, a time to gather, share and reflect, signifying interconnectedness of all living things and the importance of family and community.

The Board continues to advocate and support community well-being initiatives from housing, communication, spaces, and connection. We have achieved a lot thus far and as our embers ignite, we continue to support our community in many ways.

Matariki week, the Nelson Tasman region hosted the secondary school kapa haka nationals at Trafalgar Centre – Te Huinga Whetū.

The competition ran from Tuesday 25 to Friday 28 June, with 42 groups performing over the week in celebration of young kapa haka performers.

These events are excellent, not only for our youth to embrace their culture and represent their schools with pride, but for our entire region to showcase our beautiful environment and hospitability to thousands of visitors.

It does raise the need for adequate accommodation, eateries, and activities to cater for such large numbers and the importance of a collaborative proactive approach for Councils, the business sector, and communities, to ensure we are remembered as five-star hosts!

Last year, the primary school kapa haka nationals were also held at the Trafalgar Centre with many groups having to book accommodation in Marlborough, Golden Bay, and Murchison and some having to fly in and out on the same day because our region could not appropriately cater.

Let’s ensure options are sorted and supported for 2027 when we will host the major event ‘Te Matatini’.

# What’s On in Tasman

### Emergency events happen!

Monday 15 July, 5.00 pm, Collingwood Hall.

Come along to a gathering and learn about ways you can support your family and local community in an emergency event. We’ll share information about:

* Local emergency management arrangements
* Ways you can prepare yourself, family, animals and community
* Volunteering in Civil Defence Centres during an emergency event
* Community emergency preparedness planning.

### Wellby Talking Café

Wednesday 17 July, 10.00 am – 11.30 am, Motueka Library.

Come along for a relaxed cuppa to start your journey connecting with others who enjoy the same things. You can pop in for a quick chat or stay for a longer conversation with friendly people. There is no need to register, just turn up on the day.

### Motueka Repair Café

Saturday 20 July, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm, Motueka Library.

A repair café offers free repairs to reduce waste and help the environment. Bring your broken items to be assessed and hopefully repaired by a friendly team of volunteers. Repairs include – sewing, glueing, small electrical items, wood, slot car/electric toys, blade sharpening, and general household item repairs.

### Home heating advice

Monday 22 July, 10.30 am – 11.30 am, Tākaka Library.

Learn how to get the most out of your wood burner this winter from home heating expert Dave Pullen of the New Zealand Home Heating Association.

### Family History Friday

Friday 26 July 10.30 am – 12.00 pm, Richmond Library.

Drop into the Richmond Library Research Room to explore our local and family history resources. Just starting your family tree or having trouble finding your ancestors? Want to know more about how to use Ancestry which is free to use in the Tasman Libraries, or what other family and local history resources are available? Specialist library staff will be on hand to help if needed.

Additional Family History Fridays will also be held on: 30 August, 27 September, 25 October and 29 November, 10.30 am – 12.00 pm.

### Sarau Winter Sale

Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 July, 11.00 am – 3.00 pm, Moutere Hills Community Centre.

Come out to Upper Moutere for the annual Sarau Winter Sale weekend. It’s your chance to choose an exquisite new wardrobe, find enough books to last you a year, and take a moment at the pop-up café while enjoying live entertainment. This year there’s also fabric, wool and accessories, and plants taken from local gardens. The weekend is voluntarily run to raise funds for the Sarau Community Trust.

# Newsline Notices

### New Development and Financial Contributions Policy 2024 – 2034

The Development and Financial Contributions Policy 2024 – 2034 is now available on our website. This includes updated Development Contributions charges based on the growth infrastructure capital expenditure in the adopted 10-Year Plan 2024 – 2034 and Infrastructure Strategy.

The 2024 Policy includes three main changes to the Policy:

* a change to criteria for small homes discounts to be based on bedroom numbers only;
* an application process and criteria for determining which non-residential developments are eligible for a special assessment; and
* remissions for some types of development on specific categories of Māori land.

The Development Contributions Charges for previous Development Contributions Policies have also been adjusted for annual inflation. The charges are available on our website at tasman.govt.nz/development-contributions.

### Vegetation control – roadside spraying

#### Roadside spraying on local roads

We are responsible for the chemical and mechanical control of vegetation within the road reserve. The chemical control is split into two main activities, the control of vegetation around roading infrastructure and dealing with invasive pest plant species.

This includes the use of knock-down and residual herbicides to remove problematic vegetation growing in the road reserve and around street furniture. The active herbicides authorised under our resource consent are norflurazon, oryzalin, simazine, terbuthylazine, glyphosate, metsulfuron, haloxyfop, triclopyr and picloram/triclopyr. Methods for treatment are foliar and basal spraying.

Residents can request that their rural or peri-rural property frontage not be chemically sprayed and instead undertake the vegetation control themselves. If you wish to apply for your property to be added to the “no spray” list, please contact Nikki Shepherd on 03 543 7234 or nikki.shepherd@tasman.govt.nz.

#### Roadside spraying on state highways

NZTA Waka Kotahi contractors undertake an ongoing vegetation control programme to ensure roadside vegetation does not affect the safety or operation of state highways.

This programme includes the spraying of chemical herbicides including the following active ingredients: glyphosate, metsulfuron, terbuthylazine and triclopyr.

You can register your property as a ‘no spray’ zone, which requires a commitment to maintain a property’s highway frontage to specifications provided by NZTA Waka Kotahi, by contacting Mitch Hutchings on 03 373 2036 or mitchell.hutchings@wsp.com.

### Don’t forget your dog rego

All dogs in Tasman need to be registered every year. Registration fees are $65 for a dog on a property under 1 hectare (urban), and $45 if your property is over 1 hectare (rural). Any dogs that are still unregistered and unpaid on 1 August will incur a 50% penalty fee. Dog registration fees cover the cost of all dog services provided in Tasman. It is a user pays system that is not subsidised by rates. We have sent out registration forms to currently registered dogs, or you can download a registration form from our website. Visit tasman.govt.nz/dog-registration.

### Apply for a Community Grant

Do you have an exciting community project in the pipeline? Community Grants help get some of our most valuable community projects off the ground, and this round of funding closes on Wednesday 31 July. Funding is available for projects that are either Tasman-based or will benefit Tasman residents, meet a community need and have community support. Visit tasman.govt.nz/grants for more information and to apply.

### Council hui

Meetings will take place in person and via Zoom. For details, the Zoom link and recordings of previous meetings visit tasman.govt.nz/meetings-calendar. Unless otherwise stated, all meetings will be held at Council Chambers, 189 Queen Street, Richmond.

Motueka Community Board
Tuesday 16 July, 4.00 pm. Motueka Library, Wallace Street.

Tasman District Council
Wednesday 17 July, 9.30 am.

Environment and Regulatory Committee
Thursday 18 July, 9.30 am.

Nelson Tasman Civil Defence Emergency Management Group
Tuesday 23 July, 9.00 am. Emergency Operations Centre, 28 Oxford St, Richmond.

Joint Committee of Nelson City and Tasman District Councils (Speed Management Plan adoption)
Tuesday 23 July, 10.30 am. Nelson City Council, 110 Trafalgar Street.