# **Newsline Issue 591 – 4 April 2025**

# New Lower Queen Street bridge work to begin

A small bridge on Lower Queen Street is about to get a very big upgrade.

Borck Creek is a major watercourse that takes stormwater from the Richmond foothills and urban area into the Waimea Inlet.

The Borck Creek system drains a total of 1,430 hectares of land from the Richmond foothills in the south and east.

In a heavy rain event, the existing Lower Queen Street bridge is now the bottleneck in the Borck Creek catchment and the first site where flooding would occur.

The bridge, next to Headingly Lane, isn’t wide enough to allow a big stormwater flow to pass. The new longer bridge will ensure water can flow away better during heavy rain.

The current bridge is about 14 metres long and will be replaced by a new 48-metre-long structure which will allow the channel under it to be significantly widened.

Plans also include a cycleway under the bridge to link Berryfields with the coastal section of Tasman’s Great Taste Trail.

During the project, Headingly Lane will be closed at the Queen Street intersection with a temporary road built extending Saltmarsh Lane to Headingly Lane providing access to the Headingly Centre.

Preliminary sitework for the $11 million project is due to start in mid-May and Lower Queen Street will be closed between the Arvida Lifestyle Village entrance and the McShane Road intersection for a week from Monday 12 May.

Keep up with the project at shape.tasman.govt.nz/LQS-bridge.

# The Tasman stormwater story

Our stormwater system is designed to contain, channel and pipe rainfall and natural water runoff into rivers and sea. It is untreated and separate from the wastewater and sewage system.

Some key stormwater statistics in Tasman District include 15,481 property connections and 222 kilometres of piped stormwater network with 42 kilometres of maintained open drains and streams.

You can add into the equation more than 3,500 sumps, 3,208 manholes, and 11 detention dams, so as you can see there’s a lot to manage.

Our communities and the receiving environments are affected by stormwater discharges from our urban areas.

Our fresh water and marine waters are vital to the well-being of our communities and are one of the defining features of the Tasman District. These include streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands, aquifers and springs; all discharging into the coastal marine areas of the Waimea Inlet, Tasman Bay, Golden Bay and the West Coast.

Urbanisation and other changes in land use have led to increased stormwater runoff that contributes to flooding, loss of aquatic habitat and water quality issues. It also impacts on the ability to use water for amenity purposes and food gathering.

We must responsibly manage stormwater in a way that supports the environmental, social, cultural and economic well-being of current and future generations, and this all must be considered as we embrace Local Water Done Well.

# Totara View to join Moutere-Waimea Ward

A boundary change for the Moutere-Waimea Ward is the only change following Local Government Commission-led hearings on our latest Representation Review.

The Totara View area just south of Wakefield will shift from the Lakes-Murchison Ward to Moutere-Waimea for this year’s local body election.

The six-yearly review of our representative arrangements decided to keep the status quo otherwise.

Following considerations, Elected Members voted to keep our previously proposed representation structure for the next two local Council elections in 2025 and 2028. The decision was also made to retain the Motueka and Golden Bay Community Boards.

Following two appeals, the review was then scrutinised by the Local Government Commission with the two submitters appearing before Commissioners Brendan Duffy, Bonita Bigham and Sue Bidrose.

After consideration, the Commissioners agreed with the outcome of the Council process, however found that Totara View, a rural residential development with 89 rural lifestyle properties and 300 residents, shares greater commonalities with the Wakefield community than it does with the more distant Lakes and Murchison communities.

This means the Ward boundary will be adjusted before the 2025 October local elections.

Numerous submissions made comments on the decision to establish a Māori Ward, however this was outside the scope of the review and will be determined by a referendum at election time – that means there will be a Māori Ward in Tasman District for the 2025 election.

Read the full determination at shape.tasman.govt.nz/representation-review.

# Where we stand with Sam’s Creek

Recent activity regarding the proposed Sam’s Creek mining project in Golden Bay has prompted renewed interest from the community with some concerns raised around potential risks to water supply and the health of Te Waikoropupū Springs.

Our role in this process is one of a consenting authority, which requires us to assess the application and its effects and subsequently make any decisions around granting consent.

We’d like to take this opportunity to outline what has been approved to take place at this stage.

Siren Gold Limited has recently announced they will restart drilling at the consented sites. Resource consents have been granted authorising exploratory mining activities in a Conservation Zone, to construct multiple exploratory boreholes and to take and use a very small volume of surface water for exploratory mining activities.

Initial consents granted in the mid-2000s allowed for a drilling limit of 500m. These consents have since been superseded in 2017 and 2018, which now specify drilling depths of between 25-1,000m, geological sampling (by hand) and a very small water take.

Since the current resource consents were granted, the Te Puna Waiora o Te Waikoropupū Springs and the Wharepapa Arthur Marble Aquifer Water Conservation Order 2023 has come into force. Nothing in the Order can affect or restrict any resource consent granted before the start date.

The current consent conditions are consistent with protecting the Aquifer and Springs and overall environmental impacts are minimal and very localised.

Monitoring staff have visited the sites, and from our observations, environmental impacts appear to be minimal.

We are mindful of the community’s concerns and in the broader sense share the view that Te Waikoropupū Springs is a taonga that should be looked after.

We will continue to ensure the applicant meets the terms of their resource consents.

# Māpua Masterplan – what’s happening?

Thanks to your support and input, we have now reached an important stage in the Māpua Masterplan process.

The Masterplan will be a key document for the future of the area and for the last two years we have been engaging with iwi, stakeholders and the Māpua community to ensure it reflects the aspirations of this growing coastal settlement.

The process to date has yielded a draft Māpua Masterplan illustrating a series of housing, business, cultural, open space, ecological, infrastructure, recreational and movement actions which set the direction for Māpua. The Masterplan includes;

* Proposed zoning changes
* Future infrastructure upgrades
* Planned recreational linkages and open spaces
* Catchment management planning

The most recent consultation for the draft Masterplan was open between 1 November 2024 and 16 February 2025. During this time, we received 133 submissions. The submissions are a key part of the consultation process for the Māpua Masterplan.

This valuable feedback provided a great foundation for our Hearings Panel to assess the information from the community. Around 30 submitters presented their submissions to the panel in person or via Zoom.

From there, deliberations will take place in May, with adoption of the Māpua Masterplan later this year.

The Māpua Masterplan will guide multiple council processes including infrastructure strategies, catchment and asset management plans, the 10-Year Plan, and policies and rules which form part of the Tasman Resource Management Plan.

# Talk to us about how we talk to you

We’re holding a survey about our communication channels and want to know what you think about how we tell you things.

Is Newsline still a vital source of communication? What about our social media channels, Antenno, or the website? We want your thoughts about our channels – what works, what doesn’t, and more.

We aren’t asking about engagement or consultation as that’s a huge area in itself, so this survey is just focusing on the communication channels we use.

If you take part in this survey, you also have the opportunity to win one of three Nelson Tasman Monopoly games. The prize draw is open to Tasman District residents only.

The full survey was printed in the previous issue of Newsline – you can pick up a spare copy from one of our service centres, or you can complete it online at shape.tasman.govt.nz/councils-communication-survey until Thursday 17 April.

# Can your sewer system take the pressure?

You might have noticed plastic domes in front of properties around Tasman. These are pressure sewer systems.

Pressure sewer technology is crucial for our wastewater network. It helps move wastewater to the wider system without risking overflows or blockages.

To ensure these systems work well and are easy to maintain, we have specific criteria. This includes the location of the control box and making sure the chamber is fully accessible and at the correct levels.

Recently, we audited numerous properties with pressure sewer pumps, but unfortunately, many did not meet our guidelines.

Pump stations should be at least 100mm above the surrounding ground to allow proper airflow and prevent surface water from entering.

It’s also important to keep an area of about half a metre around pump station lids free of plants and ensure clear access for maintenance.

If the control box is mounted on a fence, it should be offset by 100mm from the palings to avoid accidental damage from the other side.

By following these guidelines, you help us maintain a reliable wastewater service.

For more information, visit tasman.govt.nz/on-site-wastewater-systems.

# New safer systems for Baths cleaners

An incident earlier this year at the Motueka Saltwater Baths where a contractor slipped and suffered a head injury has led us to review health and safety policies at the site.

The Baths were originally built with three walls in the late 1930s by the community, but over the following years large quantities of sand accumulated in them which proved difficult to remove.

The facility fell into disrepair until the early 1990s when volunteers re-concreted them, adding a shallow pool, a new drainage system and a deck around them.

Then in 2003 the Baths closed again and faced demolition for failing to meet new strict health and safety regulations, but we got together with the community and installed a new valve to allow more regular flows of seawater in and out of the pools.

The Baths are maintained by a dedicated group of community volunteers under the direction of our contractor.

But following the recent accident, we reviewed the site’s health and safety protocols during cleaning times and now require volunteers, as well as paid staff, to use an increased level of personal protective equipment.

These community volunteers have put thousands of hours into their cleaning efforts at the Baths over the decades, and we’re extremely grateful to this team who assist in cleaning this historic community asset – without whom the asset would not be the treasure it is.

# Tasman Mission – recipe for success

Get students from 15 schools, about 140, aged between seven and 12. Take them to Moturoa / Rabbit Island. Stir in 23 eco-activities, set a timer for 2 and a half hours and you have the perfect recipe for the Tasman Mission.

Tasman Mission is a competitive event where students learn about the environment by completing fun tasks and challenges at activity stations. The team that completes more challenges and gets higher scores at each station is the overall winner.

This year, the 23 activity stations ranged from making foliage baskets for birds at Natureland, to rescuing a stranded dolphin with Project Jonah. Others included planning recipes to use up near expired food with Nelson Environment Centre through to finding aquatic pests with our Biosecurity team.

Each team tried to complete as many activities as they could in 2.5 hours while also scoring points for their ability to complete the tasks set for them and how well they worked as a team.

This year’s winning team was Kaitiaki from Lower Moutere School, but the rest of those who took part will be dining out on the day for ages.

# Online resource for volunteers

Volunteers contribute significantly to many community organisations, community-run events, as well as some Council-run events and activities. The time, energy and skills they donate help make the Tasman District the special place it is.

We have recently connected with a new service called Seek Volunteers where you can find volunteer positions and make a valuable contribution to our community.

Meet new people, socialise, gain work-related experience, or give your experience and skills back to the community. Either way, it’s a win-win situation; both you and the community benefit.

Find out about volunteer opportunities at seekvolunteer.co.nz, search Tasman.

# Aniseed barbies are back in business

Two bright shiny bigger gas barbecues have been installed in reserves in Aniseed Valley.

The new cooking devices have been installed at Busch Reserve and Twin Bridges Reserve as we gradually upgrade recreational facilities at sites across Tasman District.

The old smaller device at Busch Reserve was unreliable and had regular faults in its burners. So, when it was discovered there were two surplus gas barbecues left over from the Moturoa / Rabbit Island installation, our Reserves team decided to install them “up the Aniseed!”

The old devices that were removed from the area are being pulled to bits and hopefully can be repurposed into a single two-burner cooker which can be reinstalled elsewhere in the future.

# Have your say on development contributions changes

We’re looking for feedback on some proposed updates to the Development and Financial Contributions Policy 2024-2034, which ensures developers contribute their fair share to the infrastructure needed for new developments.

For the 2025 review, we’re proposing two key changes: updating the criteria for stormwater detention discounts and adjusting remissions for developments on Māori land. There are also a few minor administrative tweaks, but no changes to Development Contribution charges.

The consultation period runs from Monday 24 March to Monday 28 April. If you’d like to share your views in person, hearings will be held on Tuesday 13 and Friday 16 May, with final decisions made at the end of May.

The updated policy will be adopted on 25 June 2025.

You can have your say online at shape.tasman.govt.nz/DCP, by emailing haveyoursay@tasman.govt.nz, or by dropping off or posting a written submission to any of our service centres. We’d love to hear your thoughts!

# Cost of doing business reviewed

We gather revenue in two main ways, by rates or fees and charges. Fees and charges are effectively user pays, i.e. those who use the service, pay for it.

As the costs of delivering all services continue to rise, we need to look at how we recover our costs in the fairest way, without adding to rates.

We are currently looking for your input on changes to our user-pays charges. These are reviewed to ensure they reflect the real cost of providing services.

Most fees and charges have been increased by 10% to recover costs and account for inflation. These increases are identified in the Draft Schedule of Fees and Charges.

Some fees and charges have not changed or are increasing by less than 10%, due to fees already adequately covering service costs or being set by statute.

Some fees and charges are proposed to increase by more than 10% to cover the rising costs of services, such as cemetery interment fees, water supply network charges, waste fees, and dog registration fees.

We must balance the need to provide services with how much they cost to deliver, so charging specific users for what they use is the fairest way of sharing the financial load.

We want your feedback. It is important to note that the cost to deliver these services has already been determined, so if user-pays fees don’t go up by this amount, rates will need to increase for everyone else to cover it. The alternative is that services would need to be reassessed.

Consultation is open until 28 April, with any changes taking effect on 1 July 2025. Visit shape.tasman.govt.nz/fees-and-charges to see all details and share your feedback.

# Our credit rating shifts to stable outlook

Standard and Poor’s (S&P) recently set our credit rating at ‘AA- with a stable outlook’ – a slight downgrade from the previous rating of ‘AA with a negative outlook’ given in October 2024.

The credit rating is an evaluation of a council’s creditworthiness, assigned by S&P, the credit rating agency. It is based on our financial history, debt levels, and loan repayment ability. It helps investors and lenders assess the risk of lending money or investing in the council.

This rating downgrade is in line with the rest of the New Zealand local government sector due to S&P’s concern that councils had limited ability to cope with rising costs, particularly for infrastructure within a more volatile policy environment adding uncertainty.

The actions follow S&P’s revision of our institutional framework assessment for New Zealand local councils to ‘very predictable and well-balanced’ from ‘extremely predictable and supportive’.

The stable outlook on the long-term rating reflects S&P’s view that our deficits and debt burden could stabilise as capital expenditure moderates with the construction of the Waimea Community Dam now complete. The key to improving our credit rating is moving to run a more balanced budget where our operational expenditure is matched by Council income.

The ratings matter in that it affects how much interest we pay on new Council debt and how easily we can borrow in the event of a major disaster. The downgrade means we will pay about an extra 5 basis points i.e. 5/100 of a percent per annum interest on new and renewed Council debt, so the impact steps in over time.

# Oil spill skills enhanced

It was a cold bleak March morning. The first snow of the year could be seen on Mt Arthur when a report that there was an oil spill at Port Motueka was received.

According to the report, 250 litres of marine engine oil had spilt into the water while being transferred between boats – the authorities kicked into gear.

However, the good news is that instead of an environmental disaster, it was a training exercise for the region’s maritime oil spill emergency responders.

The interagency operation involved staff from Tasman District and Nelson City Councils, the region’s two harbourmasters, alongside specialists from Port Nelson and Maritime New Zealand, to gain experience in these kinds of emergencies.

Wildlife specialists were also on hand to monitor and act should there be any potential environmental effects from a spill like this.

The aim of the day was to reinforce the skills and knowledge of existing trained responders and introduce new personnel to operational oil spill containment procedures and equipment.

Special booms were deployed to contain “oil” floating on the water, with skimmers and specialist pumps used to lift “oil” from the spillage area and separate it from the seawater.

The day-long exercise was deemed a success with the team prepared to respond to any oil spill at any time.

# Golden Bay Community Board

The Community Board is always focused on our community and how we can best support Golden Bay. So, what makes a good community and how do we as a Community Board support this? After many discussions, we came up with a list of things we think are important and we keep them in mind when making decisions for our community.

A good community embraces diversity and celebrates differences in culture, background, and perspective. It shows empathy and kindness, ensuring that its members (and visitors) are treated with compassion, respect, and understanding.

A good community has inclusivity, where everyone feels welcomed and valued. Community members take responsibility for contributing to the community’s wellbeing, and they communicate openly, constructively sharing ideas and feedback.

Support for local initiatives and businesses is huge for a community. Buying local, and engaging with local businesses, events, and projects, all help create strong community ties and relationships. Shared spaces are respected, and everyone helps take care of them, just like our community resources.

The Board discussed leading by example, and demonstrating positive values, behaviours and the way that we listen to our community – we all need to hear and acknowledge people’s opinions and ideas, even if they are different to our own.

A strong, positive, and vibrant community, one that looks after each other, one that is welcoming and open, describes our Golden Bay community. We are lucky to have a community like ours.

# What’s On In Tasman

### Positive Ageing Expo

Saturday 5 April, 10.00 am – 2.00 pm, Headingly Centre, Richmond.

Our Positive Ageing Expo is a wonderful opportunity to explore the many recreational, health, and social services available in Nelson Tasman to help us embrace ageing as a positive and enriching journey. This year’s Expo will be packed with more than 70 wonderful stalls featuring helpful services and engaging demonstrations.

To make it easier to attend, there will be a free shuttle service running between the Richmond eBus Interchange and the Expo every 30 minutes from 10.30 am to 12.00 pm, with the final return shuttle at 12.45 pm. Additionally, the Motueka Community Bus will arrive in Richmond at 10.30 am and depart at 2.00 pm – call the Motueka iSite to book your seat.

### AA CarFit

Saturday 5 April, 10.00 am – 2.00 pm, Headingly Centre, Richmond.

AA CarFit is a free 20-minute car safety check, run by Age Concern and AA trained volunteers. Get correctly and comfortably fitted to drive your car, and find out what small adjustments can make a big difference to your driving. Call Jackie on 021 195 8108 to book your spot and come see us at the Positive Ageing Expo.

### Wellby Talking Cafés

* Tuesday 8 April, 10.00 am – 11.30 am, Tapawera Community Library.
* Tuesday 8 April, 1.30 pm – 3.00 pm, Richmond Library.
* Wednesday 16 April, 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.

### Richmond’s history hunt: putting faces to stories

In the 1980s, a local history project captured oral histories of older residents, focusing on life in Richmond before 1950. While their stories and some voices are preserved on our online historical archive Tasman Heritage, we only have photos of a few of those interviewed.

As part of Tuku25 (a six-week-long heritage festival), we’re seeking photographs of these individuals and the people, places, or events they discuss in their interviews. We’re also seeking photos of others listed on Tasman Heritage, including servicemen recorded on the Rolls of Honour. Help us bring these stories to life by putting faces to names! Ask our Library staff for more information or email us at digitaltasman@tasman.govt.nz.

# Newsline Notices

### Update to the TRMP

#### Notification of decision on Proposed Plan Change 80 – Motueka West

The Tasman Resource Management Plan (TRMP) has been updated to reflect the decision on Proposed Plan Change 80 – Motueka West plus minor corrections to address errors and omissions. The appeal period for Plan Change 80 starts on Monday 7 April and runs for 30 days.

An updated version of the TRMP and the decision report is available online at tasman.govt.nz, search ‘Plan Change 80’. For further information please see the full notice at tasman.govt.nz/news-and-notices or email tasmanrmp@tasman.govt.nz.

### Citizens Advice Bureau on the move

The Citizens Advice Bureau Nelson Tasman is moving their main office from Nelson City to a small house next to the Richmond Town Hall. There will be no Nelson Tasman service available the first week in April while they are shifting locations, however people can still call the national number on 0800 367 222. From Monday 7 April, you can find the Citizens Advice Bureau at 9A Cambridge Street in Richmond, open Monday to Friday from 9.00 am – 4.30 pm.

### Alcohol applications

Visit tasman.govt.nz/alcohol-notices to see the latest alcohol licence applications.

### Optimising regional grant search

Whether you need funding support for an event, equipment, or a new initiative, GrantGuru simplifies the process by matching you with funders who align with your goals. GrantGuru is a free online tool that connects community groups and businesses with hundreds of funding opportunities offered by local and overseas funders.

To see what is available you just need to register at grantguru.com/nz/tasman. You can filter the grants by location or activity, or simply use keywords. And don’t forget to turn on your finding alerts to never miss a suitable funding opportunity.

### 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 the Council Chamber, 189 Queen Street, Richmond.

Joint Shareholders Committee
Tuesday 8 April, 1.00 pm.

Motueka Community Board
Tuesday 15 April, 4.00 pm, Motueka Library, Wallace Street.

Tasman District Council
Thursday 17 April, 9.30 am.

Operations Committee
Thursday 17 April, 1.00 pm.