



# NEWSLINE

PĀNUI 23 AUGUST 2024  
ISSUE 577

tasman district council Te Kaunihera o te tai o Aorere

KEEPING YOU INFORMED ABOUT NEWS AND EVENTS IN TASMAN DISTRICT



## One year of eBus sees 101% increase in journeys

Nelson Tasman residents have embraced the future of public transport with enthusiasm, taking 931,328 journeys on the new eBus service in its first year.

The fleet of 17 new Foton electric buses rolled out on 1 August 2023.

There has been strong growth in patronage since the eBus service was introduced, with the number of journeys jumping from 462,055 in the final year of the former NBus service, to 931,328 in the first year of eBus – a 101% increase.

The region can be hugely proud of having the first electric bus service of this scale. The expansion of the bus frequency and destinations to cover 3885 kilometres each day has helped drive the doubling of usage.

The goal is to further grow the service to achieve a million journeys a year and we're currently doing a review to look at how it can be further improved.

While Nelson previously had a bus service, public transport in this format is new to Tasman.

Mayor Tim King says eBus has had a massive impact for our communities.

"More than 70,000 journeys across the Motueka and Wakefield routes is a testament to how essential these routes are for us."

He says add to that, the peak hour overflow buses and the Motueka bus at capacity in the school holidays, and you can see a real appetite for public transport in Tasman.

## TRANSPORT TALES



## Driving change with eBus

In the year since the eBus launch, there have been various additions and adjustments.

Thanks to funding from NZTA Waka Kotahi, both Councils have installed shelters, lighting and wayfinding signage.

In Tasman, 16 seats at bus stops have been installed with new shelters in Wakefield and Motueka.

Wayfinding signage has also been installed across the whole Nelson Tasman network. These signs were added to each bus stop to indicate to passengers which routes frequent the stop.

In April, we started a trial to allow dogs onboard with a muzzle and leash, which to date, has been considered a success, so we're now looking at extending it through the summer.

We've been seeking feedback on the new service via the eBus Shape Nelson page, with timetable scheduling, Bee Card queries and route requests all common themes. This feedback will be considered during the review of the service, with a focus on route timetables.

The eBus service will continue to be improved and upgraded, with plans (subject to NZTA Waka Kotahi funding) to see the Motueka and Wakefield routes extended to the weekends.

Another exciting change is the new national ticketing solution called Motu Move which is due for roll out late next year. Motu Move will bring a new way to pay with passengers being able to use debit or credit cards to tag on and off public transport both here and around the country.

## Richmond speed cushions softened

Some of Wensley Road in Richmond's contentious speed cushions have been removed.

Two sets of the traffic calming devices installed under the Streets for People programme have been removed following a decision by Councillors last month.

The speed cushions are designed to slow traffic down in a new 30 km/h zone where both cyclists and vehicles use the narrower part of the road.

Despite the controversy surrounding the devices, they have had the desired effect. Speeds for that part of Wensley Road were previously close to 50 km/h but recent monitoring shows those speeds have dropped to between 32 and 34 km/h.

The adjustment to the number of speed cushions is in keeping with the ethos of the Streets for People programme, where relatively low-cost measures are piloted and adapted in response to feedback and monitoring.

Looking ahead, this section of Wensley Road is scheduled for a pavement renewal early next year, with the installation of a raised pedestrian crossing – this is part of our programme of major roading upgrades this summer.

Investigations are also underway to see if cycle lanes can be incorporated into the design for that section of the road as well by shifting the kerb and channel alignment.

**You can still have your say about this work in the post-construction survey at [shape.tasman.govt.nz/wensley-survey](https://shape.tasman.govt.nz/wensley-survey) until Friday 30 August.**



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## Magpies high on pest pecking order

Australian Magpies (*Gymnorhina tibicen*) were first introduced to the region in 1865 from Victoria Australia to control pastoral insect pests. The magpie's most distinctive characteristic is its black and white colour and distinctive call (quardle, oodle, ardle, wardle, doodle) – best heard soon after daybreak or in the evening.

Like many other introduced species, the lack of natural predators has resulted in a rapid increase in their numbers.

Their territorial, aggressive nature during the breeding season may lead to swooping attacks on people and anything that may pose a threat to their patch. Research shows the main threat is that they harass and inhibit our native birds, particularly tūi and kererū. This strong territorial defence behaviour has made magpies relatively easy to control, as they can't resist approaching other magpies in their territory and are easily trapped.

In the Tasman-Nelson Regional Pest Management Plan, magpies are listed as an eradication pest species in Golden Bay.

Previously it was thought that there weren't any in Golden Bay, however we've recently been contacted by three people with sightings of the pest birds – one of whom caught one.

It seems they're on the western flanks of Golden Bay, including the Aorere Valley and Birds Hill area.

If you see a magpie in Golden Bay, or anywhere else in the region, please contact our biosecurity team on 03 543 8400 or [biosecurity@tasman.govt.nz](mailto:biosecurity@tasman.govt.nz).

We want to eradicate them to ensure they don't get established in Golden Bay, or anywhere in the Tasman District.



## Step up and Step Out this October

Step Out is our annual month-long festival of active events that takes place throughout October in the Tasman District. These activities are put together by groups, clubs and individuals all over the region and promote an active lifestyle and healthy wellbeing.

Are you keen to organise a guided walk, bike ride, planting, beach clean-up, or other activity in Tasman?



The focus of your activity could be anything from art to adventure, nature, culture, social or biodiversity. Usually, there is a diverse range of events based on fitness level, location and duration – so something for everyone!

While you organise the event, we will be here to help guide you and assist with registration and promotion.

Step Out encourages our community to stay active and provides an opportunity for people to connect with each other and the environment.

If this sounds like a bit of you, email [events@tasman.govt.nz](mailto:events@tasman.govt.nz) to register your event or get advice from one of our team about your idea.

All events will be promoted on the Step Out Facebook page, [facebook.com/StepOutNelsonTasman](https://facebook.com/StepOutNelsonTasman).

## Check before you chop our native forest

The recent conviction of a Murchison farmer and his associated business for illegally clearing almost 10 hectares of native bush on two sites, has emphasised the need to check and understand the district plan rules associated with an activity before doing work.

The sentencing Judge said that the offending was a "serious failure" of the defendants to fail to check the district plan provisions – in our case, this is the Tasman Resource Management Plan (TRMP).

Nearly half of our native plants and 82% of native birds are currently threatened or at risk of extinction. The removal of indigenous forest from both properties has had a significant adverse impact on the environment, resulting in the loss of valuable habitat for animals like kākā and South Island robin.

We acknowledge that making people aware of where to find the best information can reduce the likelihood of illegal activity taking place and the potential for prosecution.

Before doing any work on your farm or rural property, we recommend you assess the activity against these rules to make sure you comply with our permitted activity status or whether you need to apply for Resource Consent.

The TRMP rules around the removal of indigenous forest can be found at [tasman.govt.nz/part-2-land](http://tasman.govt.nz/part-2-land).

Our Tasman Rural Hub is also a great resource for finding out the regulatory requirements for your activities – visit [tasman.govt.nz/rural-hub](http://tasman.govt.nz/rural-hub).

**If you have any doubts about whether your proposed work will need Resource Consent, or have any questions, please contact our Duty Planner via [NRDutyPlanner@tasman.govt.nz](mailto:NRDutyPlanner@tasman.govt.nz).**



## We can help you reduce waste

In case you haven't heard, we are currently inviting applications for grants to support innovative projects that aim to reduce waste in Tasman.

Applications close on Wednesday 2 October.

These grants are intended to reduce waste and support community engagement and education on one or more of the following methods of waste minimisation:

- Rethink how we use and value our resources to avoid the creation of waste
- Reduce the amount of waste we create
- Reuse resources
- Recycle or recover materials.

We have funded some great initiatives in the past which have made a valuable difference in our District, so we look forward to seeing the next round of applications. Typical funding is \$5,000 or greater per application.

**For full details about this grant and information on how to apply go to [tasman.govt.nz/waste-minimisation-projects-grant](http://tasman.govt.nz/waste-minimisation-projects-grant).**

Pictured: Our Richmond Materials Recovery Centre.



## STAFF SPOTLIGHT



### Dog control service helps provide 24-7 K9 care

Our dog registration fees cover the cost of all dog services provided in Tasman. And just like the area we look after, the range of services that these fees pay for is far-reaching.

It's fair to say we go the extra mile to ensure the needs of more than 12,000 canines and their owners are being met between Richmond, Farewell Spit and down to Rappahannock.

We contract three staff to ensure the well-being of dogs is maintained across the District around the clock.

Registration fees are \$65 for a dog on a property under 1 hectare (urban), and \$45 if your property is over 1 hectare (rural).

Our dog control operations are carried out under a self-funding model. This means ratepayer subsidies are not used and only service users contribute to funding.

The revenue we receive supports public safety, responsible dog ownership, and animal welfare initiatives. This includes:



- Monitoring and enforcing the Dog Control Act 1996 and ensuring compliance with the Tasman District Council Dog Control Policy and Bylaw.
- Responding to and investigating complaints (including dog rushes and attacks on people, domestic pets, stock and wildlife, barking nuisance, roaming, lost and found dogs).
- Providing shelter services: running and maintaining the dog pound facilities, caring for strays, rehoming pound dogs, and reuniting dogs with their owners.
- Administration and maintenance of our database including the annual registration process and the NZ National Dog Database.
- Signage and advertising of dog-related issues.
- Free microchipping for dogs under six months that are registered in the Tasman District.
- Providing dog safety education for dog owners, schools and the public.



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## Close to closing time for community consultations

We have a bundle of bylaws that we're looking for input from our community on with submissions closing in the next couple of weeks.

In the canine corner, we have our review of our Dog Control Policy and Bylaw. The draft version aims to balance the needs of dog owners with the importance of protecting wildlife, particularly in sensitive areas. Submissions close on 8 September.

With a focus on felines, we're also seeking feedback on our proposed Cat Management Bylaw. Options included in this draft bylaw are key steps in promoting responsible cat ownership and minimising potential nuisance issues caused by cats. Submissions close on 27 August.

Our Public Places Bylaw is aimed at keeping our public spaces safe and enjoyable for all residents. Key issues include enhancing public health and safety, minimising nuisances, and regulating trading activities. For some areas, we are aiming to streamline processes by moving away from permits



and licenses, instead setting out conditions for each activity. Ensure you have your say before 27 August.

Our draft Navigation Safety Bylaw has been developed to ensure navigation safety for water users in Tasman and applies to all waters, including our lakes and rivers. It covers all water activities and sets out the local rules, complementing national rules to enhance water safety. The last day for submissions is 1 September.

The final bylaw in the bundle is the draft Public Water Supply Bylaw Review which closes on 27 August. This focuses on how we manage and provide public water supply services, protect the water supply network, ensure public health and safety, and provide clear guidelines on water usage restrictions.

**You can have your say on any of these consultations at [shape.tasman.govt.nz](http://shape.tasman.govt.nz).**



The Government has now introduced the Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill. This bill now requires us to either rescind the decision to have a Māori Ward at the 2025 local government election which means the Ward will not be in place for the 2025 election, or we can hold a binding poll at the 2025 local elections and restart this representation review process from the beginning.

It means the proposed Māori Ward would remain in place for the 2025 elections, and the outcome of the poll would take effect at the 2028 elections.

You can view the representation proposal and make a submission at [shape.tasman.govt.nz/representation-review](http://shape.tasman.govt.nz/representation-review) or email [haveyoursay@tasman.govt.nz](mailto:haveyoursay@tasman.govt.nz) before 2 September.

## Representing our community more effectively

Every six years, we must review the way our community is represented by our Council, and we want your feedback on things like boundaries, numbers of councillors and community boards.

On 17 July 2024, Tasman District Council reviewed its representation arrangements and resolved that the following proposal applies for the Council and its Community Boards for the elections to be held on 11 October 2025.

Tasman District Council will comprise a Mayor, who is elected at large, 14 Councillors elected by wards, and one Māori Ward.

In 2023, we decided to put a Māori Ward in place under then legislation that at the time removed the need for a binding poll.

Councillors also resolved to continue with the existing two Community Board structures for Golden Bay and Motueka.

## Tarakohe development moves forward

Another phase in the major upgrade of Golden Bay's Port Tarakohe is underway.

More than \$12 million is being spent on the port upgrade, funded through a \$6 million loan from Kanoa, the provincial development investment group within the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, on top of the \$6.7 million we have invested.

This piece of construction is of an office and amenities block with a specialised marine waste management system.

The facility is designed to provide space for people who work in commercial operations to work here and be a space to improve the growth of Port Tarakohe.



It will also enable the users of the port to have new hygiene facilities and provide an office for Council staff to conduct their business.

We are currently going through a concept design with contractors and architects.

The concept design integrates design influences from Māori lookout posts and Golden Bay cement history, as well as embracing new technologies for a low-carbon and sustainable office design build.

The office includes a room for commercial operators and amenities. Once a design is confirmed, we are looking to complete the work by next April.

*Pictured: Artist impression of potential design.*

## Further focus on flooding at Pōhara

The problem of surface water flooding parts of Pōhara during times of extreme weather and heavy rain has been a problem for many years.

We have worked for some time investigating ways of improving stormwater requirements in Pōhara and designed a series of improvements to reduce the risk of flooding to properties in future storms and heavy rain events.

These have progressively been constructed and installed over the past couple of years with the latest work being completed last month.

These stormwater improvements and upgrades of the outfall at Pōhara Beach will help alleviate the historic flooding problem from the road in certain areas.

All the heavy work has finished, with dune shaping and planting with native sand binders due to be done soon.



## Can an old wharf be "repiered"?

Investigations are underway into restoring a piece of Motueka history.

The old Motueka wharf on Motueka Quay has fallen into disrepair over the years but several groups are now looking at combining resources to restore the old structure.

The granite and timber structure ran between 1887 and 1916 before being decommissioned when it became too small for the increased size of cargo vessels using it.

The restoration group is investigating the potential cost of the work then will work with Keep Motueka Beautiful, Motueka Historical Society, and Motueka Community Board for the potential restoration.

Plans include restoring and replacing granite blocks, recontouring the surface, restoring timber railings and installing interpretive information panels.

Up to 25 cubic metres of granite will be needed for the work which can be sourced from a private property at Mārahau.

Fundraising options will be considered once the initial investigation work is finished.



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## Tākaka community responds to rezoning plans



Ensuring sufficient and suitable land is available for industrial growth around Tākaka received wide support at a business community feedback session.

The group considered three potential sites that could be rezoned to "Light Industrial Zone". If rezoned for industrial use, these sites would support the town's ongoing development. The main message from the group was that there is definitely a need for more industrial land, but that it's also difficult to find places for workers to live.

Feedback from the business community will contribute to the drafting of Urban Growth Plan Change 81, which will implement the zoning changes.

Zoning new land is at the front end of planning, and ensures that natural hazards, urban form and function, and protection of highly productive land have all been considered. New industrial land will give certainty to landowners and neighbours about how the land can develop.

Tākaka business centre has historically been known as the junction with feeder roads from the north, south and east of Golden Bay connecting business and services. Moving to rezone land now will guarantee the future of Tākaka in the regional economy.

*Pictured above: Opened August 2023, Tākaka's Marigold Way is a mixed-use building, its walkway linking Commercial and Junction Streets.*



## Residents survey results revealed

As always, your feedback from our 2024 Residents Satisfaction Survey has provided useful insights into what we are doing well and where we can refine our services.

This annual survey measures community use and satisfaction across a range of our services and facilities, including transportation, three waters, waste management, communication and customer service.

Between 1 May and 11 June 2024, market research company Research First called 197 landlines and 203 cell phones selected at random. The sample size of 400 is large enough to be confident that the results fairly represent all Tasman residents.

Survey questions were based on 21 performance measures relating to levels of service and targets from our 10-Year Plan 2021 – 2031. Your responses told us that of these performance measures, 15 achieved their target and six did not.

The most notable results are:

- 71% of respondents were satisfied with our performance overall (compared to 73% in 2023 and 64% in 2022);
- 69% of respondents felt our reputation was good/very good (compared to 72% in 2023 and 66% in 2022);

- There was relatively high satisfaction with our recreational facilities, libraries, storm/waste/drinking water, and kerbside recycling, which all had over 85% satisfaction.

A previously unmet target that we've reached this year was satisfaction with the level of information provided by us.

Although meeting their performance targets, we will look at ways to improve public consultation, footpaths, and the way rates are spent on services and facilities.

There was little change in the use of our recreational facilities, a slight increase in the use of public toilets, and a significant increase in library usage.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the survey. Having this kind of measurable data is extremely important in maintaining a high level of service to our residents.



71%

Satisfied with Council's OVERALL PERFORMANCE



69%

Rate Tasman District Council's REPUTATION AS GOOD

## WHAT'S ON IN TASMAN



### Conservation Week talk

**Thursday 5 September, 5.30 pm – 7.00 pm, Constance Barnicoat Room, Richmond Library.**

Join us to celebrate Conservation Week by hearing about some of the awesome environmental restoration projects going on across Tasman. This event will feature speakers from Tasman District Council and Tasman Environmental Trust working on wetland restoration, fish passage and native planting, followed by a Q&A session. Tea, coffee and light refreshments provided. Free event, all welcome.

### Wellby Talking Café

**Wednesday 4 September, 1.30 pm – 3.00 pm, The Wholemeal Cafe Tākaka.**

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.

### TechConnect

Join our TechConnect sessions, helping you navigate the digital world. Planned for all our Tasman District Libraries, and a variety of topics to choose from. When enough people are interested, we will be in touch to schedule a session. Register online or at your local library: [tasmanlibraries.govt.nz/computer-classes](https://tasmanlibraries.govt.nz/computer-classes).

### Community planting days

- **Sunday 25 August, 9.00 am – 1.00 pm, Best Island – parking adjacent Greenacres Golf Club.**
- **Sunday 1 September, 9.00 am – 1.00 pm, Greenslade Park, Rough Island.**

Join the Battle for the Banded Rail in their community planting efforts. Everyone is invited! Please bring gloves, a spade and drinking water. Wear solid footwear and clothes suitable for the weather conditions. Morning tea is provided. For more information, email Kathryn at [bandedrail@gmail.com](mailto:bandedrail@gmail.com).

### Silverfish Book Group

**Last Tuesday of the month, 1.00 pm – 2.00 pm, Tākaka Library.**

Do you enjoy reading and talking about books? We pick a theme, a genre, or an author for the month, read, and then return the next month to have an enthusiastic and informal discussion about the books we've read.

### WordFest – classic novel quiz

**Thursday 29 August, 2.00 pm – 3.30 pm, Motueka Library.**

How well do you know classic novels? Test your knowledge of the timeless literary classics. Have fun, laugh, and win small prizes.

## NEWSLINE NOTICES



### Notice of requirement and resource consent application

**Richmond South Water Reservoir – RM240327, RM240328, RM240329**

Tasman District Council has issued a Notice of Requirement for a Designation in the Tasman Resource Management Plan for "water supply purposes" being construction of a water reservoir at 520 Hill Street South; and has applied for resource consents for an associated outfall structure and discharges to Borck Creek.

The proposal is to construct a circular 2,500m<sup>3</sup> water storage reservoir on the identified ridgeline, 22m in diameter and 8.7m tall. Earthworks will be carried out to provide a suitable platform for the reservoir to sit on.

This is a summary notice only. On our website, you will find the full public notice, the application with details of the specific resource consent applied for, the assessment of environmental effects and supporting information. Visit [tasman.govt.nz](https://tasman.govt.nz), search "Richmond South Water Reservoir".

Any person may make a submission on the applications under section 96 of the Resource Management Act 1991. You will find submission forms on our website and at our offices. Details of how to lodge a submission are also on our website. Submissions close 5.00 pm Friday 13 September 2024.

### Want to be the first to see Newsline?

Did you know you can read Newsline online? We share a digital version on our website and email it to those who have signed up for our mailing list. This means you should get it in your inbox before it reaches your letterbox!

Visit [tasman.govt.nz/newsline](https://tasman.govt.nz/newsline) and follow the link to join the mailing list.

### Find what you're looking for with FOUND

Have you heard of the FOUND Directory? It has listings of community groups and organisations, so if you're looking for culture, art, sport, recreation, education or welfare, you'll find it on FOUND. You can also find facilities like halls, reserves and meeting places to book for your next event or function. Check it out here: [found.org.nz](https://found.org.nz).

### 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](https://tasman.govt.nz/meetings-calendar). Unless otherwise stated, all meetings will be held at Council Chambers, 189 Queen Street, Richmond.

**Environment and Regulatory Committee**  
Thursday 29 August, 9.30 am.

**Tasman District Council (Māori Ward decision)**  
Thursday 5 September, 1.00 pm.

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