

## QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS

- The Taupō Wastewater Treatment Plant celebrated its 50th anniversary.
- Music lovers swarmed into Taupō for the Summer Concert and enjoyed performances by acts including Simple Minds, Texas, Collective Soul, Pseudo Echo and locals Sonorous.
- Powerboats returned to Taupō for the New Zealand Powerboat Nationals in January.
- Taupō Museum's IRON Taupō 1999 exhibition took a look back at when one of Taupō's most iconic events began.
- Work began on the new Kinloch water treatment plant.
- The 40th anniversary of IRONMAN NZ was held in Taupō.
- The final touches were put on the Crown Park Cycle Skills and Pump Track project.
- Taupō District Council worked with Hato Hone St John and Neighbourhood Support to provide free training in CPR and using AEDs.
- Construction of Mangakino's new basketball court began in April.
- A formal blessing by the Reverend Peace Mitchell marked the start of a significant upgrade to Taupō's wastewater network.
- Council's Design Your Own Helmet competition winners were announced.

To read more news from Council, head to [www.taupo.govt.nz/news](http://www.taupo.govt.nz/news)

## ADOPTION OF LONG-TERM PLAN DELAYED

**Taupō District Council has decided to delay adopting its Long-term Plan 2024-34 until 30 September.**

The Long-term Plan, which sets out council's projects for the next 10 years and how they will be funded, would normally be adopted by 30 June.

But Taupō District Council, along with other councils around the country, is struggling with massive uncertainty because of the repeal of the Three Waters reforms and the change of government has made it difficult to plan.

On top of that, councils are dealing with the consequences of a high inflationary environment in recent years, which pushed infrastructure project costs up to 30 percent more than they would have been three years ago.

The most obvious effect of the council adopting its Long-term Plan three months late will be that it might delay collection of rates. Normally the first instalment of rates for the year is collected in August. Council officers will look at what the options are for rates collection in the 2024-25 financial year.

Taupō District Mayor David Trewavas has already signalled to the community that although work on the Long-term Plan is still under way, Taupō District Council will most likely be looking at a double-digit rates increase. This is also the case for the majority of other councils in New Zealand.



*Taupō District Council will be asking for community feedback on its proposed Long-term Plan in June, so keep an eye on [www.taupo.govt.nz/haveyoursay](http://www.taupo.govt.nz/haveyoursay).*

## PLAN CHANGE TO ALLOW GREATER BUILDING COVERAGE

**Taupō District councillors have given approval to change the Taupō District Plan to allow for increased building coverage on most residential properties and reduce the amount of red tape for homeowners to deal with.**

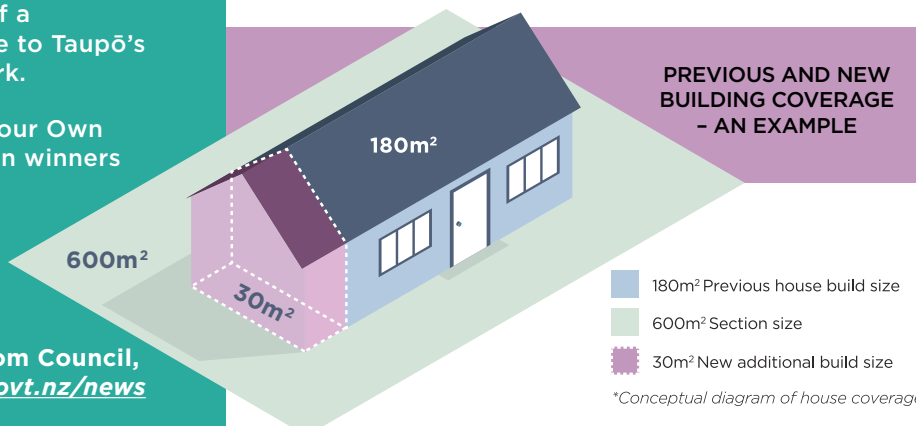
Plan Change 39 – Residential Building Coverage increases building coverage in most of the district's residential environments from 30 percent to 35 percent.

Building coverage sets the maximum amount of land that residential buildings can cover on a residential property. So, at 35 percent, if your property is 600m<sup>2</sup>, buildings could cover 210m<sup>2</sup> of your land. Under the old rules you would be allowed 180m<sup>2</sup>.

Taupō District Council general manager strategy and environment Warrick Zander says the building coverage increase is in response to the way people are choosing to live, such as larger families looking to live together. Until now, landowners who wanted to exceed the building coverage had to apply for a resource consent, a process which often created unnecessary extra costs and time.

The change to residential building coverage was part of a bundle of six District Plan changes undertaken as part of the sectional review of the District Plan. The remaining five plan change decisions are expected to be received in the first half of this year.

**For more information, go to [www.taupo.govt.nz/districtplanchanges](http://www.taupo.govt.nz/districtplanchanges).**



## DO IT BY DIRECT DEBIT

**With the knowledge that rates for the 2024-25 year will increase, it is a good idea to start thinking about how you will pay them.**

More and more people are choosing to pay their rates the easy way. By completing our online direct debit form you too can join rates EasyPay, a direct debit system that means your rates payments will automatically be deducted from your bank account.

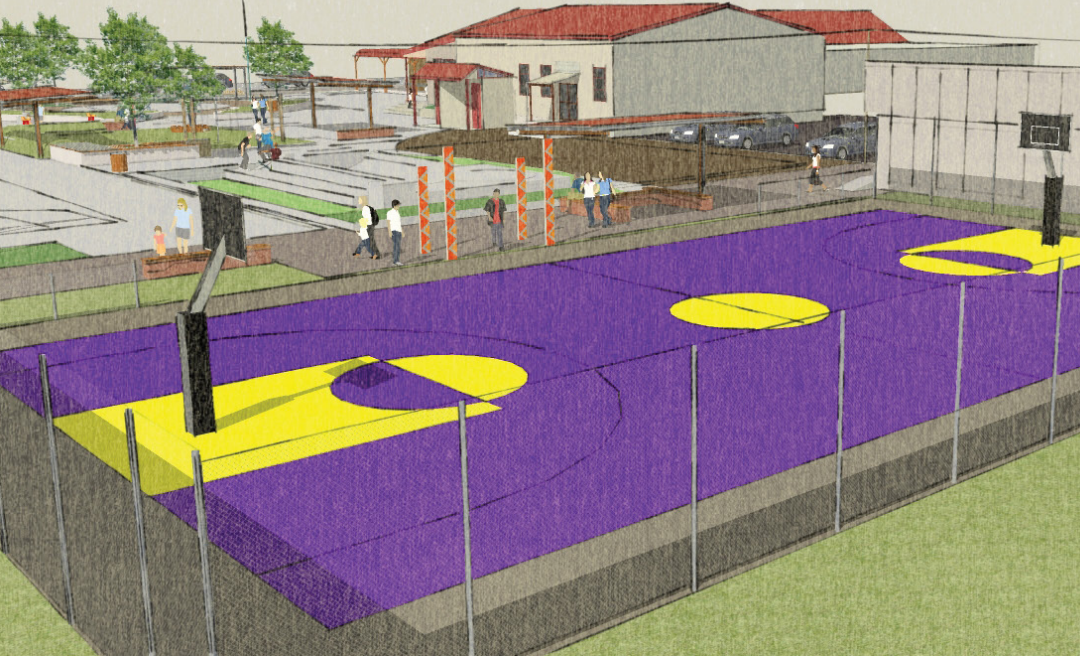
The advantages include time-saving, no hassle with postage and there are no worries about being late and incurring penalty charges.

There are several other ways you can pay your rates, including internet banking, paying in person at one of Customer and Visitor Information Centres (cash, credit card or EFTPOS accepted) or setting up direct debit or automatic payments.

**For more information on paying rates, go to [www.taupo.govt.nz/rates](http://www.taupo.govt.nz/rates).**



# MANGAKINO BASKETBALL COURT CONSTRUCTION UNDER WAY



**Taupō District Council is throwing an alley-oop to Mangakino basketballers with the construction of a new court under way.**

The planning for this project was a true community affair with local children voting for the colours used on the court. The winning colours were an eye-catching combination of purple and yellow, with many of the children naming the LA Lakers colours as the reason for their choice.

Construction, which includes a basketball court, adjustable-height hoops, fencing, shelter, and seating, is expected to be complete by mid-2024. Community engagement advisor Claire Dredge said more than 70 young people, and some of their parents, voted on the colours, which was an important part of the project.

Construction project manager Chris Haskell said the court surface would be an innovative new sports turf designed specifically for basketball and netball.

“We thought hard about what surface we would use, balancing useability with affordability. We also took on board feedback from nearby residents regarding noise and light disturbance and have taken steps to ensure any disruption is minimised.”

\$100,000 was budgeted for this project in the 2021/22 Annual Plan. Another \$72,065 was approved by councillors last year due to inflated costs.

## RESEALING COMPLETE AND INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES PROGRESSING



*Lake Terrace, from Mere Road into the CBD, has been resealed and extra pedestrian islands have been installed to improve safety.*

**If you've driven along Lake Terrace recently you will have seen the resurfacing of the road between Tītiraupenga Street and Mere Road is now complete - and looking fine!**

Taupō District Council plans to reseat more of Lake Terrace later in the year, but for the next few months, the focus will be on installing a new sewer main to serve the growing southern suburbs. The main will travel along Lake Terrace and council will be replacing water pipes in the surrounding areas at the same time to maximise efficiency and reduce disruption.

Project manager Peter van Niekerk says the project is quite complex and will cause disruption, but infrastructure must grow with the district.

“We need to reduce pressure on our existing network, some of which was built in the 1970s, and the new sewer main will really help with that. It will give us the capacity for the growth in our town that we know is coming.

“Pumping wastewater up and around to the east of the residential areas would not be as safe or as resilient, and it would be prohibitively expensive. At the same time as we install the sewer main, we will be replacing water pipes in surrounding areas to make sure we have a really resilient and future-proofed system, because we have seen in other places what happens when this work is neglected.

“The team will be working as quickly as possible to minimise disruption and delays, but please use caution around the work sites.”

## TAUPŌ WASTEWATER FIFTY NOT OUT

**Familiar faces, councillors, and a homemade cake were on hand last month at the Taupō Wastewater Treatment Plant to celebrate 50 years of looking after the place we love.**

Three Waters Manager Kevin Sears said the plant, originally built in 1974, had undergone several changes, challenges and upgrades over time, including narrowly escaping a scrub fire in 2022.

“The plant handles all the wastewater from Taupō, Nukuhau and the Jarden Mile area as far south as Waitahanui with an average daily flow of 6000 cubic metres. In peak times, that can rise to around 9000 cubic metres,” he said.

Everything coming in is screened, goes into two sedimentation tanks and the solids are separated and sent to digester tanks where the bacteria do their thing. That is the most closely monitored part of the process, as maintaining the right environment for the bacteria is crucial.

“We like to think we have it down to a fine art as from those 6000 cubic metres, we are only left with about one cubic metre of solids that cannot be treated.”

About five to six cubic metres of biological solids are sent to a worm farm to be turned into topsoil each day. The remaining water is filtered and purified in ponds before being sent to two farms at Rakaunui Road and View Road, where it's used to irrigate hay crops.

“Because it is so rich in nutrients we can get five crops a year instead of the normal two, and that hay is used to feed non-lactating animals. So it's a very environmentally friendly process and the revenue from the hay and worm farm help to offset costs.”

