kōrero QUARTERLY
COMMUNITY NEWS WITH TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL SPRING 2026
GREAT LAKE TAUPO
Taupō District Council

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT COUNCIL?

It's been a busy three months since our last Quarterly Kōrero update to you. In that time we've been cracking on with the following projects:

WATER PROJECTS

The new $9.5 million Motuoapa water treatment plant has been commissioned and is supplying Motuoapa village.

It is providing residents with a higher degree of protection for their drinking water supply thanks to its state-of-the-art membrane and UV treatment process. The new plant can treat over 1,200 cubic metres of water at peak production which will help improve supply and also service planned future growth for Motuoapa.



TDC staff, elected members and local hapu and community members help formally open the new Motuoapa Water Treatment Plant.

The plant opening on 21 October marked the third major water treatment upgrade for Taupō District in the last 12 months as Council works towards meeting government drinking water standards for all its water schemes. Around half of this year's average residential rates increase went towards funding water and wastewater projects.

The next water scheme in line for an upgrade is Hatepe, with $6.5 million budgeted for this project. It is expected to start in **January 2027.**

TRANSPORT

Our contractors HEB are beginning to wrap up a major project to widen and reseal a 1.4km section of Whangamata Rd just before the turnoff into Kinloch.

This project will create a safer and more consistent road width that provides more space along this busy route, for motorists and cyclists. The project includes drainage improvements, signs and road markings.

We're undertaking a much-needed upgrade and reseal of the service lane connecting Tūwharetoa St to Roberts St in the Taupō town centre.

We've also begun a range of smaller road resurfacing and strengthening projects around the district. From Crown Rd to Wairakei Drive, we're aiming to get these knocked out before the busy summer period.



Whangamata Rd improvements.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES



Owen Delany Park community sports hub.

Owen Delany Park Community Sports Hub.

A new purpose-built community sports hub at Taupō District's biggest sports venue will cater for the growth in sport, particularly women's sport, in the Taupō District. The sports fields at Owen Delany Park are heavily used by an increasing range of codes, from touch to rugby, cricket to archery; and participant numbers continue to rise.



The hub is owned and managed by Taupō District Council, but the $5.3 million build cost was funded almost entirely by central government and external grants. The building is comprised of four double changing rooms which can be separated into eight smaller ones, all with showers. In addition, there are unisex toilets, a small lounge/kitchen area, and shelter for those watching sports and events on the park's lower sports fields.

The sports hub building is stage two of a planned three-stage major plan of improvements to Owen Delany Park. Stage one was new floodlights for the stadium sportsground, completed in 2024, stage two is the new sports hub and stage three will be seismic strengthening of the grandstand and corporate facilities.

Tūrangi's long-anticipated new toilet block has been fabricated off site and is expected to be installed this month.

The old block was demolished in October and since then contractors have been preparing the site for the new block to be craned into place. It will provide a modern, clean, safe facility for locals and visitors and the exterior will feature designs by local artist Te Maari Gardiner.

After 34 years, the district's flagship events venue, the Great Lake Centre has had a facelift.

The venue hosts musicals, conferences, concerts, shows, sports and community events throughout the year and was showing its age.

The sound and lighting have been upgraded and acoustic panelling installed and the 1990's colour scheme has been renewed with some eye-catching elements.



These improvements have extended the Great Lake Centre's life, ensuring it remains fit for the future and able to retain and attract events that bring an economic boost to the entire Taupō district.



The NZ National Guinea Pig Show attracted guinea pigs and their owners plus an interested audience from the community, and was held at the Great Lake Centre in September.



MAJOR PROJECTS PLANNED FOR THIS YEAR

These are the key projects planned to be delivered between now and 30 June 2027:

WATER

- **A new water treatment plant at Hatepe.**
- **Replacement water mains at Omori.**
- **Centennial Drive water compliance project,** which will connect the Centennial water scheme to the main Taupō Water Treatment Plant, thereby making the Centennial scheme compliant with NZ Drinking Water Standards.
- **A new water reservoir for Kinloch** which will provide additional water to the village and extend firefighting capacity.
- **A new steel water reservoir for the Mapara area** to replace its wooden one.
- **A new water reservoir to support growth around the Napier Rd area.**
- **An upgrade to the Waihāhā water supply scheme.**
- **New water mains for Rainbow Point.**



WASTEWATER

- **Wastewater buffer tanks near Control Gates Bridge** to help manage peak wastewater flows from the northern side of Taupō to the Taupō Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- **New inlet screens at the Taupō Wastewater Treatment Plant.**

WASTE

A new waste diversion shed at the Broadlands Rd Resource Recovery Centre. This will provide space for waste, particularly construction waste, to be sorted and diverted to recycling or for reuse, rather than being sent to the landfill.



PARKS

- **Owen Delany Park grandstand and corporate facilities seismic strengthening**.
- **Stage one of the Mangakino lakefront development project**. This stage focuses on improvements to the lakefront parking and public areas southeast of the existing boat ramp as well as new picnic and seating areas, landscaping and fencing, and minor drainage improvements on Lake Rd.
- **Upgrade to the Two Mile Bay reserve carpark** next to the boat ramp, which will reduce dust and be safer for users, as well as protecting the reserve itself.

OTHER PROJECTS

- **We'll be talking with the community early next year on our upcoming Long-term Plan 2027-37**. We've heard your feedback about keeping rates rises under control and councillors will be looking carefully at every project proposed for the Long-term Plan. This will mean some difficult decisions and tradeoffs. Expect some projects the community has asked for to be cancelled or deferred and a lower level of service in some of Council's operations.
- **Council will continue to respond to central government's ongoing changes to the way local government works,** including tougher regulatory standards for water and wastewater, changes to planning laws, and proposals for council amalgamations.

HAVING TROUBLE PAYING YOUR RATES?

You could be eligible for a rebate.

The Government has a Rates Rebate Scheme which provides a partial refund to ease rates bills for low-income New Zealanders owning their own home. Councils administer the scheme.

Eligible households can have income up to $33,210 and get the maximum annual rebate amount of $830. Households earning more than this may still get a lesser rebate.

SuperGold cardholders and their households can have income up to $46,400 and receive the maximum annual rebate of $830.

SuperGold cardholders earning only NZ Superannuation with rates higher than $2000 will be eligible for the full rebate. SuperGold cardholders earning more than $46,400 may also be entitled to a smaller rebate.

For the 2026-27 rating year (1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027), you need to apply by 30 June 2027. Don't leave it till the last minute! We encourage people to get their application in early, as the process can take some time. Providing the correct verified documentation when you apply helps us to process your request promptly.

Find out more about rates rebates, eligibility and how to apply on our website at www.taupo.govt.nz/ratesrebate.



STORMWATER

Stormwater is something most of us never give a thought to, unless it's raining heavily.



Stormwater gully at Ngā Roto Estate.

With sudden and intense rain events becoming increasingly common, planning for where water flows across land during or after heavy rain is more important than ever, as it can cause flooding around properties.

In the Taupō District, residents are responsible for managing stormwater on their own properties. Some areas have natural stormwater gullies nearby, which collect stormwater and drain it safely away from houses.

Preliminary flood modelling for a one in 100-year flood event shows that parts of our district could be susceptible to urban flooding. Regardless of where your property is located, it is always good to think about where water flows and collects on your property and how it can be directed away from your house.

- **Grassed and gravel areas are permeable and allow water to soak in rather than run off.** If you're planning to landscape or build, consider adding more permeable areas. Increasing the amount of impermeable area, such as concrete driveways, on your property, can make flooding worse.
- **Check your downpipes discharge into a soak pit.** It is illegal for your downpipes to discharge into gully traps as this overloads the wastewater system and can cause sewage spills into the lake and rivers as well as stormwater contamination.
- **Council can't be everywhere.** Be a good resident and keep street stormwater drains clear from rubbish, leaves and debris which will otherwise block them and cause water to back up.
- **If you are building a fence, shed or other structure, be mindful of how water flows and collects on your property** – you don't want to wind up accidentally directing water towards your house.