



### MAPARA ROAD FOOTPATH EXTENSION TO BEGIN LATER THIS MONTH

**WORK ON A footpath extension on Mapara Road between Acacia Heights Drive and L'Arte Café and Gallery will get underway later this month.**  
The extension received funding of \$400,000 from central government as a 'shovel-ready' project and head of operations and infrastructure Kevin Strongman said the project would be a great addition to the area.  
"We're seeing increasing numbers of people using the pathway as Mapara Road grows in popularity, and this upgrade

will make it safer and more accessible," he said.  
"In 2020, we completed a 300 metre extension of the footpath opposite Krissell Place and up the hill to Acacia Heights Drive, so the funding we received from the Provincial Growth Fund means we can now link through to that."  
Contractor Camex Civil will be carrying out the work and pedestrians are being asked to follow signage and traffic management during construction and to treat the work site with caution.



### TAUPŌ TO GET NEW CHARGING STATIONS FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLES

**NEW ELECTRIC vehicle (EV) charging units are being installed in the carpark off Roberts Street near Burger King, increasing options for charging locations for EV users in Taupō.**  
We are delighted to be able to provide four carparks to support this initiative and increase access to EVs, ultimately reducing carbon emissions.  
The charging stations will allow any EV user to recharge their vehicle, typically in 10 to 30 minutes, and will complement two existing charging stations that already exist on Kaimanawa Street and State Highway 5.  
ChargeNet is aiming to have the new charging units ready to use next month.

### UPGRADES TO STORMWATER SYSTEMS IN TURANGI AND TAUPŌ GET UNDERWAY

**THE STORMWATER SYSTEMS in Turangi and Two Mile Bay will be upgraded to improve the quality of stormwater reaching the lake.**  
Stormwater separators, or 'Downstream Defenders' as they are known by producer Hynds, use centrifugal force to remove pollutants from stormwater.  
A Downstream Defender is being installed in Turanga Place in Turangi, following a previous Defender installed in the Kohineheke Reserve in Turangi. The new Defender scheduled for Taupo will be installed beneath the Two Mile Bay boat ramp car park and follows similar devices already operating at Hawaii Reserve and along Lake Terrace.  
Asset manager for stormwater Brent Aitken said the two installations are part of an ongoing effort to improve the quality of the district's stormwater network.  
"The Downstream Defenders have nothing projecting above ground so are not taking up space and are virtually invisible to the community, but they do a great job of removing the pollutants that are carried into our system by rainwater," he said.  
"Every four months we empty around 1.5 tonnes of pollutants



from each Defender, so that is a considerable amount of material we are stopping from reaching our lake. We have focussed on installing the Defenders in the larger catchments as these have the highest levels of pollutants, including oils and sediment, cigarette butts, plastic waste, cans and other pollutants. The Defenders catch all of this, so they can make a very measurable improvement to water quality."  
The Turangi installation is scheduled to be completed later this month and the Two Mile Bay works will be completed by early March weather permitting. Alternative parking at the Two Mile Bay boat ramp car park is available.

### RATES INSTALMENT REMINDER

FEBRUARY 22

A friendly reminder that the latest rates instalment is due on Monday, February 22. There are heaps of ways to pay including over the phone, online at [taupo.govt.nz](http://taupo.govt.nz), through internet banking or with direct debits, automatic payments or other instalments. Give us a call on 07 376 0899 if you need any guidance – we're here to help. For more information head to [taupo.govt.nz/rates](http://taupo.govt.nz/rates).

### PEDAL YOUR E-BIKE OVER HERE

**DO YOU WANT to learn more about how to work your electric bike and use it to its potential? Come along to our e-bike skills course and learn to ride safely in a variety of traffic conditions.**

We are holding three e-bike sessions, with the first on Saturday, February 27 from 9.30am to 11.30am. All you need are basic bike handling skills and your own e-bike to bring along. This course is perfect for those who are new to e-bikes, have recently purchased one, or just want to improve their skills. You can register online at [taupo.govt.nz/roadsafety](http://taupo.govt.nz/roadsafety) for the session at the end of the month, or one of our other sessions in April or June. For more information, contact our road safety coordinator Sarah Wraight on [swraight@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:swraight@taupo.govt.nz) or on 07 376 0720.

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