



10-Year Plan adopted

The lowest rates increases in over a decade and a long term strategy aiming to make the district an even better place to live have been adopted by Taupō District Council in its 10-Year Plan to 2025.

The council this week signed off on the plan that will guide the services, key projects and initiatives it is planning to undertake in the next 10 years.

Mayor David Trewavas said the plan had a strong focus on maintaining what we have as well as consolidating some of the gains already made and conservatively building on what made the district special.

“One consistent message we received was to limit rates increases and reduce our debt,” said Mr Trewavas.

The plan had allowed the council to limit rates increases to between two and three per cent each year for the next 10 years, even with inflation adjustments. It would also see gross debt reduce from \$162 million to \$103 million by 2025 and net debt reaching zero by 2023.

Mr Trewavas said there had been 464 submissions on the consultation document and they had helped finalise the council's decisions, particularly in the case of the rock climbing wall which had been earmarked for closure.

“There was strong community support for the wall to be retained and we listened and reacted accordingly,” he said.

Other decisions made following feedback from the community included:

- The funding of community grants be set at \$275,000 per annum
- A review of the community grants policy taking place in the 2015/16 financial year.
- Ending involvement in the school holiday and after school care programmes and transferring the services to Youthtown.



- Discontinuing the Les Mills classes at the Taupō Events Centre, as contracts expire.
- Continuing to provide housing for the elderly from 2015 to 2018 or until a suitable alternative provider is found.
- Increasing funding for Enterprise Great Lake Taupō by \$25,000 to \$375,000 a year, for the funding of the business attraction campaign.
- Continue funding Destination Great Lake Taupō by \$1.75 million a year.
- Continue the same level of funding for events.
- To steadily reduce the amount of income currently applied to rates from the TEL fund to create a community fund for community services and projects, with a framework a guiding philosophy for the fund to be developed before the next Long Term Plan.

A full copy of the Long Term Plan will be available at www.taupo.govt.nz and at council offices and libraries by the end of July.

Celebrating milestones

One of the great things about being the Mayor of our fantastic district is that you are often called upon to help celebrate milestones. It is great to get out and about in the community to help people mark occasions of note whether it be an opening of a new building, an event to celebrate a particular success, or even someone's birthday! All of these things help contribute to this being a great place to live.



As a council we celebrated a major milestone this week with the adoption of the Long Term Plan for 2015-2025. We are particularly proud of the plan we have developed as it has a strong focus on maintaining what we have as well as consolidating some gains made by those before us, and conservatively building on what makes us special.

We have also managed to limit rates increases to between two and three per cent each year for the next 10 years, and that has to be worth celebrating!

A big thank you to everyone who gave us feedback on the plan. Your feedback certainly helped us make informed decisions that have put us in good stead to battle any issues and ensure that our district remains a great place to live in the coming years.

Another milestone I recently helped celebrate was the 40th birthday of the Taupō Citizen's Advice Bureau. This is an organisation that largely relies on volunteers and receives around 2500 calls a year from people in need and they do a great job. A big well done to everyone involved. Your contribution is truly valued.

I must also make special mention of Brent Howie, a well-known Taupō real estate agent who began his local career selling timeshares. He has retired after several years at LJ Hooker and has been a great contributor to the town.

A big thumbs up also to emergency services who were on standby for a large part of last weekend due to the storm event. Thankfully our district was largely unscathed but our close neighbours in Whanganui and Rangitikei were not so lucky. I am sure you will join with me to wish them well over the coming weeks as they clean up the mess the deluge left behind.

Mayor David Trewavas • dtrewavas@taupo.govt.nz

Emirates Melbourne Cup to visit Taupō



Taupō residents will have another reason to get excited about the Emirates Melbourne Cup when the trophy itself comes to town next month. The arrival of the Emirates Melbourne Cup coincides with the 50th anniversary of the Taupo Racing Club this year.

As a popular events hub, our town has been chosen as one of four Kiwi destinations the Emirates Melbourne Cup is visiting as part of its tour around New Zealand, Australia and Malaysia.

The 18-carat gold Emirates Melbourne Cup is being hosted with the help of our events team, which plans to celebrate its arrival with plenty of fanfare.

Events manager Steve Giles says the Emirates Melbourne Cup is recognised by New Zealanders as one of the most prestigious and he was looking forward to its arrival in Taupō on Sunday, July 26.

“Events like the Emirates Melbourne Cup are a highlight on the calendar of many Kiwis and we are keen to join the community in welcoming the winner's trophy of such a high profile race,” he says.

The Emirates Melbourne Cup will be on display to the community between 9am and 11am at Roberts Street Reserve. From 2.30pm it will be on display at a ticketed event at the Hilton Lake Taupō. The proceeds from this will be donated to Lake Taupō Hospice.

It is valued at \$AUD175,000 and will be a great opportunity for those interested to get a close look at the Emirates Melbourne Cup and have their photo taken with it.

Improved lighting for better safety

New lights are going in at South Tongariro Domain next month to improve the safety around footpaths and make the area a more pleasant place to be after dark.

The work is being done to eliminate black spots and encourage people using the freedom camping area to move between the car park and the central business district.

It will also assist with our desire to improve safety in the town centre as a whole by creating better visibility at all times of day. Our CCTV cameras are able to capture images more effectively in well-lit areas and as a council we want to ensure they are being used to their maximum potential.

LED lighting will be used to brighten up the area, with nine existing lights replaced and 11 new ones installed. LED lights are being used because they have a long lifespan, are high quality and use less power than the lights currently being used.

Facilities manager Andrew Boden said at the moment, there were some areas of footpath that were completely dark.

“We need to improve this area and make it more user-friendly, while also promoting the links between the town centre and the boat harbour area,” he said.

“The South Tongariro Domain is a beautiful place and lighting it up will make it easier for people to use at all times of day.”

The work is expected to start next month.

What's on

- Until-2 Aug Te Hau - The Wind, Matariki exhibition and activities, Taupō Museum
- 28 Jun Rongoā Māori – use of native plants for therapeutic purposes and Māra Kai – gardening by the moon, Taupō Museum, 11am-1pm.
- 2-4 Jul ANZ Young Farmer Contest – Grand Final, Tongariro North Domain and Riverside Park
- 4-18 Jul School holiday activities at the museum and libraries

For more information on Taupō District events visit www.GreatLakeTaupo.com

Email your elected members at councillors@taupo.govt.nz

For more information call 07 376 0899 or go to www.taupo.govt.nz

