



## SUBMISSIONS CALLED FOR ON PLAN CHANGE

One of the key roles we have in looking after the place we love is making sure we keep our community safe.

Most recently our policy team has been busy working to identify areas of the district where there is a higher chance of flooding so affected landowners can make informed decisions about what they do on their land and how land can be further developed.

It has involved flood hazard mapping by experts, countless hours of review to make sure the information is robust, and two phases of consultation with over 1000 affected landowners and stakeholders across the district.

They have had conversations with ratepayer groups, energy companies, the harbour master, infrastructure providers and real estate agents, attended meetings with stakeholders and Tūwharetoa Maori Trust Board staff, hosted two open days, held one survey and given numerous presentations. There has also been 20 meetings on site with landowners, 92 pieces of feedback and about 25 people attending each open day!

Now, the Council is at the stage where it can formally notify its intention to make a change to the District Plan to include identified flood hazard areas and call for submissions.

Policy manager Nick Carroll said Plan Change 34 – Flood Hazard was required under the law to manage the risks to people and property.



“The current District Plan does not identify all of the known flood hazard areas associated with rivers and Lake Taupō and it is important these are identified,” he said. Importantly, the new information provides detail on the likely depth and speed of flood waters enabling a risk-based approach. That means the council can be flexible enabling development in areas of low risk, while being more careful in areas of higher risk.

“We have written to all the affected landowners inviting submissions and are hopeful the work we have done will assist them in their future decision making.”

Submissions on Plan Change 34 – Flood Hazard opened last Friday and close at **1pm on 20 December 2017**. To find out more visit [taupo.govt.nz](http://taupo.govt.nz).



## NEW SEAL FOR BIKE TRACK CAR PARK

The car park at the bike track at Spa Thermal Park will have a new sealed surface in a few weeks – making the days of dust and mud a thing of the past!

Contractor TR Construction has been working on the site for the past three weeks to prepare it for sealing. It covers an area of about 1500m<sup>2</sup> and will cater for 41 vehicles including two mobility parks.

Along with bike riders, the car park is popular with other park users – particularly when Taupō’s population swells in summer and the car park at the end of County Avenue fills up.

Infrastructure manager Denis Lewis said the area had been susceptible to pot holes, and created a lot of dust in the summer and mud in the winter.

“Smoothing out and sealing the area will make for a more pleasant experience for those who use the car park and nearby facilities,” he said.

The car park is currently fenced off to allow contractors to carry out the work. It is due to be finished in early November, weather permitting.

## NEW FRUIT TREES FOR LAUGHTON STREET

Ask little Lily O’Sullivan why she enjoys planting trees between her kindergarten and the adjoining reserve and her answer is typical of a four-year-old – she likes to get her hands dirty!

But there was more to the experience than that, of course, and Lily is also looking forward to the fruit the trees will bear in the next few years.

Children from Central Kids Kindergarten Laughton helped our staff plant 12 fruit trees in Laughton Street Reserve this month including orange, mandarin, lemon, guava and feijoa trees.

Parks operations manager Andrew Moor said the idea to plant trees in the reserve came from the kindergarten, which will act as kaitiaki or guardian of the trees.

“This is about creating a sustainable environment for our children and future generations,” he said. “The trees will take a few years to bear fruit but in the meantime, Central Kids Laughton children get to learn about the trees, how to care for them and what it means for the environment.”

Central Kids Laughton is an Enviroschools kindergarten – part of a group that aims to foster a generation of people who instinctively think and act sustainably.

Head teacher Jan Smith said it was great to have children working with council staff to build a positive green environment nearby.

“All participating kindergartens have their own culture and ours is about providing food for our community,” she said.

The tree planting was the first stage of two, with another wave of trees scheduled to be planted next year.



## » What's on?

- Until 30 Oct From Broom to Boom – 20 Lives, 20 Years, Taupō Museum
- 28 Oct Taupō Fashion Show, Great Lake Centre
- 4 Nov The Taniwha, Mangakino/Whakamaru
- 11 Nov Harcourts Hound Day, Owen Delany Park
- 11-12 Nov River Wild – Raft and Run, Tongariro River
- 12 Nov Taupō Child and Parent Expo, Great Lake Centre

For more information on Taupō District events visit [www.GreatLakeTaupo.com](http://www.GreatLakeTaupo.com)

