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COMMUNITY NEWS WITH TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL 9 AUGUST 2019

## WASTEWATER BREAK UPDATE

We've been asked many questions following the water and wastewater main breaks on Lake Terrace in July. Here, we answer some frequently asked questions.



### What caused the water main to break?

We don't yet have a full picture of what caused the water main to break. When it broke, it washed out the pumice on the lake edge, exposing the footpath, wastewater pipe, and other infrastructure. When the footpath collapsed it broke the wastewater pipe. Independent investigations are being carried out to try and figure out why it happened.

### Why was the pipe on the lakefront? Will the replacement be moved away from there?

Wastewater is a gravity fed system. The pipes leave your house, run down the roads, and come together at a larger pipe at the lowest point, which transports it to the wastewater treatment plant. This is standard engineering practice and design worldwide.

The replacement pipes have been moved as far away from the lake edge as we can and now run down

the southbound traffic lane of Lake Terrace.

### When will the road re-open?

We are working as fast as possible and will open the road as soon as we can. Teams from around the country have been designing the infrastructure services and a new retaining wall. The delicate nature of the earthworks makes working in the dark (even with the best lights) dangerous. Work is now focussed on excavating the washout face, so most of our contractors are working in that space and out of sight, but once that has been completed the process of building the retaining wall and reinstalling services will begin on Lake Terrace.

### What effect has this had on water quality?

Environmentally, we are working with Tūwharetoa, Waikato Regional Council and Public Health on what residual effect if any there is, and what

we can do to mitigate that. Current monitoring shows due to natural actions, the area is healing itself and the best thing from a scientific perspective is to let it heal over time. Monitoring has shown E. coli levels down the Waikato river and the spill site are back to normal levels.

### What will it cost?

We don't yet have a full picture of how much this is going to cost. We do have a disaster recovery fund to help pay for such things, and we will be looking at other income streams. While this is a major job, it in no way impacts on Council's financial stability, nor our ability to deliver other community projects.

### What can I do?

Spills are still occurring, caused by wet wipes and other products causing blockages in pipes, which then flows into our stormwater system. We can only remind everyone if it isn't pee or poo don't flush it down the loo!

## TURANGI TREE REMOVAL

Several trees have been removed in Turangi due to their roots impacting services.

Up to 70 trees in the wider Turangi area are being removed as a result of root structures causing damage to footpaths, water and wastewater pipes and affecting drainage.

A survey was carried out on the trees following a list of those marked for removal was presented and approved by the Turangi Tongariro Community Board.

The tree removal work was expected to begin next week and be completed over the next month.



## SECOND PHASE OF WAKA TIWAI RESTORATION UNDERWAY

The second stage of the restoration of Waka Tiwai – the waka at Taupō Museum has now begun.

This phase of the project is consolidation, which involves a mixture of two solvents being blended together to create a consolidation formula. This is applied with syringes and brushes to the waka walls and hull where the structure of the wood has deteriorated. Conservator Rose Evans has been tasked with the restoration project.

During this consolidation stage the Tūwharetoa Gallery has been sealed, with restricted entry.

The waka was originally found at Opepe in the 1950's and was outside and exposed to the elements for decades next to the Taupō Police Station. It was relocated to Taupō Museum in 2006 and has become very fragile due its age.

The first stage involved the removal of lichen and bacterial growth, a slow and arduous process carried out with great care to avoid damaging the waka itself.

The end goal of the project will stop any further deterioration and leave a positive outcome with a taonga that many future generations will be able to enjoy.

LAST WEEK TO GET YOUR NOMINATIONS IN IF YOU WANT TO RUN FOR COUNCIL!

Forms are available at our customer service centres and at [taupo.govt.nz/elections](http://taupo.govt.nz/elections)



## » WHAT'S ON?

Until Aug 12 CATalogue Exhibition, Taupō Museum  
For more information visit [www.lovetaupo.com](http://www.lovetaupo.com)