

COMMUNITY NEWS WITH TAUPO DISTRICT COUNCIL 3 SEPTEMBER 2020







THE ICONIC LAKE edge walking track at Rangatira Point will remain open to the public with council entering into a 20 year lease agreement with the landowners – Rangatira Point Block Inc.

The Department of Conservation previously leased the land, however funding constraints saw the Department approach council to discuss a new partnership.

As part of this, council has set aside \$63,000 per annum to lease the track from Rangatira Point Block Inc., while the Department of Conservation will continue to maintain the track. Mayor David Trewavas said the decision to take over the lease and work more closely with Rangatira Point Block Inc. and the Department of Conservation was a no-brainer.

"This is an iconic area and one that offers high amenity value to this district. To be able to retain access to that is fantastic.

"Thank you to the goodwill of the owners and the good will of the council to progress with this lease," he said.



SCOOTERS GRANTED ONE-YEAR PERMIT

COUNCIL HAS GRANTED Glide Limited a one-year permit to operate their Glow scooters within the Taupō Central Business District, following an eight-month trial period.

While the trial was interrupted by COVID-19 lockdown, head of operations Kevin Strongman said the scooters had proven popular, particularly around the lakefront, with no significant issues identified during the trial.

"They are an added attraction for visitors to our district and offer a very efficient way for locals to move about the CBD and not have to worry about parking," he said.

"It's great to see that people have generally been using them very responsibly, and where any issues have arisen Glide has been quick to address these."

Glide will operate 100 scooters in Taupō and speeds are limited within the CBD with the permit able to be extended for a further

\$8.3 MILLION IN GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR IMPORTANT WATER INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES



COUNCIL HAS BEEN allocated \$8.3 million in government funding, following a council decision to participate in the first stage of the Government's Three Waters Reform Programme.

In July 2020, the Government announced a funding package of \$761 million to provide immediate post-COVID-19 stimulus to local authorities to maintain and improve three waters (drinking water, wastewater, stormwater) infrastructure, and to support reform of local government water services delivery arrangements.

Council will now sign a Memorandum of Understanding to take part in the first stage of the three-year programme and accessing up to \$8.3 million in funding that will bring forward important works to the district's water and wastewater infrastructure.

"Without this funding, these projects would not be able to occur in the short-term due to the cost," Chief executive Gareth Green said.

"A key part of this is also about stimulating our COVID-19 recovery, and these works will support this and also provide local jobs for our people," he said.

Over the next month, council staff will develop a Funding Agreement and Delivery Plan which will include a summary of the works to be funded. From there, the aim will be to get started on this work as soon as possible.

BELLY BINS GET NEW LOOK

A RUBBISH BIN is not the easiest thing to have look good at the best of times, but this challenge was taken up by our solid waste team with some striking results.

You will see the big belly bins dotted around our district, helping with waste from travellers, visitors and locals alike.

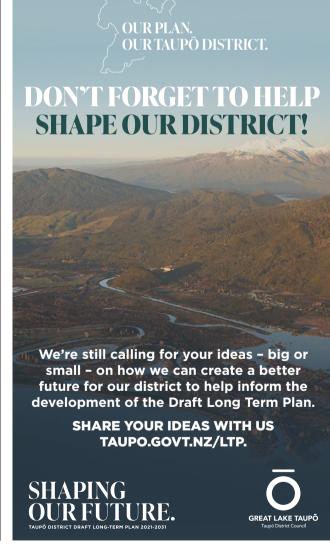
In a creative move, the bins have been wrapped to have them look a little more presentable than the standard grey colour we're used to seeing.

Stormwater and solid waste manager Brent Aitken is pleased with the new look.

"These are so much more appealing, with some fantastic pictures from all around our district," he said.

"We know we can't expect everyone to carry their waste away with them all the time, and we're hoping this helps us to be tidy Kiwis."













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