

TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL ADOPTS LONG-TERM PLAN 2021-2031

OUR PLAN. OUR TAUPŌ DISTRICT.

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SHAPING
OUR FUTURE.
TAUPŌ DISTRICT LONG-TERM PLAN 2021-2031

AFTER CONSIDERING 474 SUBMISSIONS and hearing from more than 50 individuals and organisations, Taupō District Council has adopted its Long-term Plan 2021-2031.

Deputy mayor Christine Rankin said council has set new strategic goals that will not only service our community well today, but also for many years to come.

"We've listened to the community and delivered across a range of priorities such as major investment in core infrastructure across the district, improving access to safe drinking water, strengthening our response to climate change and better outcomes to address housing issues.

"We're also delivering services and initiatives that will support our unique communities directly. While we are united as one district, it's important to understand what's required for specific communities, and we've included long

term planning to deliver this," said Ms Rankin.

"We believe the decisions we've made in finalising this plan hold us in good stead moving forward and will ensure the Taupō District is, and will remain, a great place to live."

An increase to the fees and charges for new developments and subdivisions was also adopted. These development contributions help fund the necessary facilities and infrastructure to support the growth of the district and provide new or upgraded infrastructure for water, wastewater, stormwater, transport services and reserves. For more information on development contributions, head to the Taupō District Council website.

The projected average rates rise for the first year of the plan is 8.7 per cent, followed by 7.3 and 3.7 per cent for the second and third years.

For more information on the Long-term Plan 2021-2031, head to taupo.govt.nz/ltp.

REPRESENTATION REVIEW STARTS SOON

Have your say

HOW DO YOU WANT to see our councillor and wards electoral system work across the Taupō District? That's something we want to hear your thoughts on over the next few weeks.

We will soon be seeking this feedback as part of a formal Representation Review following our District's decision to create a Māori ward – a move taken to better ensure all local voices of our ratepayers and residents can be fully heard.

Setting up this new ward means we are now required to take a fresh look at how all the communities and people in our district are represented.

Our initial proposal involves keeping things the same for the Taupō ward, the Mangakino-Pouakani ward, and the Taupō East Rural ward. But it does involve changes to arrangements about how local voices are represented and heard in the Turangi-Tongariro ward. We want your thoughts on this.

We also want to know how you think our Māori ward should be arranged – we are proposing a district-wide ward with two councillors, based on the numbers on electoral rolls.

We are strongly encouraging all residents and ratepayers to have their say on our proposals. Your views will help us get it right.

Visit www.taupo.govt.nz/repreview to find out more about the overall initial proposal. From July 7 more detailed information on what we are suggesting, and why, will go live on the webpage. From that date you can also then have your say via the site.

The formal consultation period runs from July 7 until 4.30pm August 9. During this time you can also email representationreview@taupo.govt.nz to have your say.

Given the extent of proposed changes in Turangi-Tongariro ward we will be holding a Turangi drop-in event where you can come along to learn more, and use our iPads to make submissions on the spot if you wish. The event runs between 10am to 12noon on July 7 outside the Turangi Library.

LOCALS ON THE TOOLS AS PART OF TAUPŌ AIRPORT UPGRADE



LOCAL CONTRACTORS HAVE BEEN confirmed for the next stage of the upgrade to the Taupō Airport Terminal and the Airport carpark. The upgrade will see the construction of a new terminal building designed by local architects Stephenson and Turner and built by Watts Construction, as well as improved parking facilities to be constructed by CAMEX. This work follows on from an upgrade of the Airport's water and wastewater infrastructure in 2020.

The project has a budget of \$9.237 million and will be funded with \$3.367 million allocated in Council's 2018-28 Long-term Plan, a \$5 million grant from the Crown's Provincial Development Unit, and \$870,000 from the Ministry of Transport.

The existing airport terminal was built in 1979 and chief executive Gareth Green said the new terminal and improved parking would be of great benefit to locals and visitors alike.

"Our district is growing and more and more of our community are moving around the country for work or travel," Mr Green said. "This upgrade makes that much more convenient, but it also means that visitors are given a really great first impression of our district – and an equally great impression when they fly out."

Airport manager Rhys Frearson said that the upgrade was a considerable boost to the district's transport infrastructure and it would be followed at a later date by an expansion of the airport apron to allow for additional capacity. "The current building is really stretched beyond capacity," he said. "The new terminal is going make a huge difference to our operational capability, whilst providing a great customer experience and leaving a lasting impression for those passing through."

Construction is expected to get underway in July. We will keep the community updated with disruptions but please be mindful and give yourself plenty of time to check in.



CELEBRATE MATARIKI IN THE TAUPŌ district at Whakanuia! An intimate evening of kapa haka and performing arts, featuring local kapa haka group Ngā Taikura ō Tūwharetoa, special guest Whirimako Black, and much more.

Sunday, July 11
3 – 6.30pm
Great Lake Centre
Tickets are \$5, purchase at trybooking.com/nz/HSX

Check out other events happening around the Taupō District for Matariki throughout July: Raranga (weaving) pieces showcased at Taupō Museum, Matariki Dawn Cruise to see Ngātoroirangi at the Māori Rock carvings with Chris Jolly Outdoors, an exhibition at ZeaYou Gallery celebrating the creativity of Matariki, and a Matariki planting day with Tuwharetoa Trust Board and Greening Taupō. All events are free or koha. For more info, including dates at times, head to lovetaupō.com/matariki

