

## HALT TO THREE WATERS REFORM URGED



**AFTER LOOKING CAREFULLY at the Government's Three Waters proposal and surveying the community, council is requesting an immediate stop to the Three Waters reform programme.**

Three Waters involves how we as a nation will manage drinking water, wastewater and stormwater into the future, for the benefit of all.

In a submission to the Government, approved unanimously by elected members this week, council has stressed that reform needs to pause, and be linked with the Resource Management Act and Future for Local Government reviews.

Taupō District Mayor David Trewavas said that while the council agreed that some change in the Three Waters area was necessary in the future due to rising costs and environmental standards, it was not convinced, based on the information provided to council to date, that the Government's proposals were the right outcome for the Taupō District.

"The Government is clearly committed to trying to find ways to fund the increased Three Water infrastructure investment and delivery required over coming years.

"However, in our opinion, it has failed to understand the significant challenges their proposed model presents, particularly around governance and the ability for communities to control their assets.

"And also how to provide for future growth, ensuring how small communities retain their voice, and the local impact to communities."

"Three Waters assets also include neighbourhood parks and reserves that our community value, and we would hate to see these alienated from local control."

He said council has heard significant concern from its community, and believes that the Government, as the one putting forward the reforms, needs to spend more time and energy explaining the case for change in a way that resonates with communities.

"Failing to bring our communities along on the journey will encourage misunderstanding of the case for reform and increase risks to a successful transition. We are telling the Government through our submission: 'Do it with us, not to us!'"

"We have met with our iwi partners, and they have voiced concerns about the process, the lack of engagement and lack of involvement. Council is equally concerned that the proposed reforms will erode Treaty of Waitangi settlement obligations around water, and the relationships that Council has with its iwi partners over the Three Waters."

"We want the Government to seek a true partnership with us and all other councils, not only on Three Waters, but resource management and the future of local government reforms.

He said communication with the community, and specifically iwi, has not been good enough.

"It's time to take a step back, have the proverbial cup of tea and a proper chat, so we can all work through these issues together for the benefit of our local communities and nation."

## BRING ON 2024



**THE TAUPŌ DISTRICT is set to host the IRONMAN 70.3 World Championships in 2024.**

Following previous cancellations due to Covid-19, Mayor David Trewavas said he was excited to secure the new date for the world championships to be held on December 14 and 15, 2024.

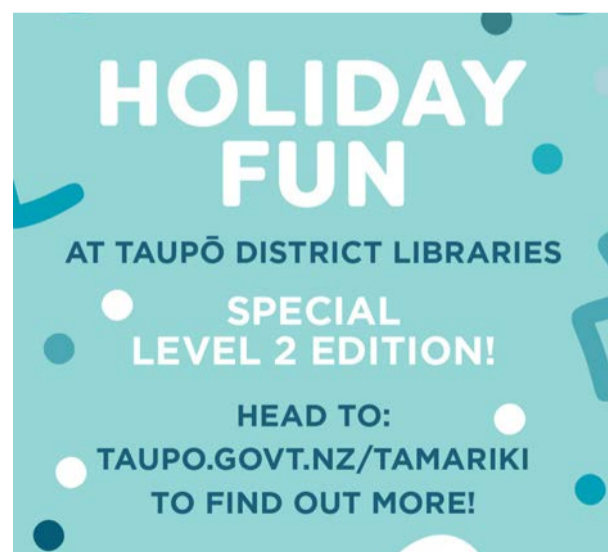
"We are proud to be the home of IRONMAN in New Zealand and are ready to show the rest of the world exactly why that is. We have been working closely with stakeholders and are very pleased to see both council and government support roll over to the new date.

The event is expected to bring in \$27 million for the district, with a significant amount of that contribution due to the number of international athletes and spectators expected to attend.

"We have already laid the foundations to host the world's best, and we can't wait to deliver an event like no other, allowing us to showcase both the Taupō District and New Zealand to the rest of the world. Bring on 2024."



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## TĪTĪRAUPENGA STREET UPGRADE PICKS UP PACE



**THE TE HEU HEU/TĪTĪRAUPENGA Streets intersection will be closed next week to speed up work on the Taupō Town Centre Transformation upgrade.**

The work was originally scheduled to be carried out under a stop/go road closure, but following consultation with nearby businesses and residents, it has been decided to fully close the intersection from Monday 4 October to Sunday 10 October. Detours will run along Ruapehu Street, Tūwharetoa Street, Tamamutu Street, and Kaimanawa Street.

Project Manager Izelda Cruz said the full closure will mean work can be done in a much shorter time frame, while providing a safer work site for the team. "Closing the intersection means we can do all the pavement construction

at once," Ms Cruz said, "so what would have taken more than three weeks and caused major frustration with stop-go operations, can now be achieved in one week and we can get traffic flow back to normal sooner."

"Despite challenging weather and lockdown, the contractor has worked really well to speed up the programme. The contractor doing the work on the pedestrian traffic light adjacent to Taupō Primary School is back in town this week after being delayed due to the Auckland lockdown, and the in-berm parking on Horomātangi Street is progressing well with just over 50 new parks being constructed. The next intersection the Downer team will move to is the Spa Road/Tītīraupenga Street one, which is programmed for mid-October."



Mayor David Trewavas

Mayor Deputy Christine Rankin

Kylie Leonard

John Boddy

Kathy Guy

Anna Park

Kevin Taylor

Yvonne Westerman

John Williamson

Tangonui Kingi

John Mack

Kirsty Trueman