

## 3 WATERS REFORM 'HUGELY FLAWED'

**COUNCIL LAST WEEK** voiced its deep concern that the government is pushing through its sweeping reform of Three Waters, without properly consulting on, or even explaining, the move to the country's residents and ratepayers.

All drinking water, wastewater and stormwater assets and operations will be transferred to one of four large water service entities across the country. Taupō District falls within Entity B which will cover the area from the Coromandel to Taranaki, taking in 22 councils serving communities with vastly different needs. The current timetable for this change is that the new entities will be operating by mid-2024.

Taupō District Mayor David Trewavas said the Three Waters reform is a massive step with deep implications for everyone in the country. In September the council called for government to immediately halt until councils had enough time to take in the proposals.

"Neither we, nor any other councils, were listened to about this urgent need to slow down and taihoa - and that is hugely disappointing. We wanted to work with the government on this, but we have been turned down."

"We as a council representing our people immediately recognised the huge scale of the reforms being proposed and the undue haste with which they were being rushed through. These assets are the people of Taupō District's property, paid for by the local people, now just taken from us without our consent - it's simply not on," Mr Trewavas said.



Mr Trewavas said council was now waiting for its last chance to have a say, once reform legislation goes before Parliament and is considered by a select committee.

"Reform around water is needed, but we all have to be taken on this journey together. People's voices must be heard to get things right - this is an enormously complicated issue with implications for all. We also strongly encourage all of our concerned community to send their views in to the select committee too."

## STORY PLACE TREE TRIM



**TREE MAINTENANCE WORK** begins tomorrow, Friday 5 November on the Seddon Oak located in Story Place. This Tongariro Domain tree was planted as a memorial to former Prime Minister Richard John Seddon and is more than 100 years old.

Our local contractors PKV Treeworx will have traffic management in place, and a small section of the road will be closed between the western side of the new Tongariro Playground and the Police Station. There will be no vehicle access down the cul de sac and some car parks.

Foot traffic to the Taupō Court House and Taupō Museum will be retained, and team members will be directing people about when it is safe to move.

Work is due to start around 7am and is expected to be finished within four to five hours, weather permitting.

## FREE CYCLING SKILLS COURSE FOR WOMEN



**AT OUR WOMEN'S cycle skills session next month** participants will learn about how to ride safely in a variety of traffic conditions.

All you need is a bike, helmet and basic bike-handling skills and you can come along and learn from a female instructor with other women alongside you!

This course is ideal for any women who have recently purchased a bike or for those who simply want to improve their riding skills. The session runs Saturday 13 November from 9am to 11.30am.

Register online at [taupo.govt.nz/roadsafety](http://taupo.govt.nz/roadsafety) or contact our Road Safety Coordinator Sarah Wraight at [swraight@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:swraight@taupo.govt.nz) or on 07 376 0720 for more information.



## TONGARIRO TOILETS MAKEOVER

**AN INTERNAL BUILDING** renewal for the Tongariro North Domain toilet block is now well underway.

Popular with travellers and event-goers, the building will be closed while the repairs and maintenance take place.

In the meantime, signs will direct customers to the Superloo, which is open during normal business hours. Out-of-hours delivery truck drivers are to use the portaloos at the temporary bus stop on Pāora Hapi Street.

Local contractors Taupō Plumbing and Gas, Stuart Tipping Carpentry and Flooring First will complete the upgrade, which includes new flooring and wall linings and refurbished partitions throughout and new wall-mounted urinals in the men's facility.

The toilet closure will be for around four weeks, with the new-look facility set to re-open in December.



## BESLEY PARK DOG CHANGE

**THE COUNCIL CONTROL of Dogs Bylaw 2021** has now been updated following a review period, public consultation and consideration of the feedback.

Following a deliberations session at a council meeting last week, a resolution was unanimously passed that Besley Park

in Acacia Bay be left off the list of off-lead dog exercise areas.

Local dog owners still have the opportunity to exercise their dogs off-leash in the stormwater gully within the boundary between Acacia Bay Road and Reeves Road which is an assigned dog exercise area.

