

### TESTING EFFORTS RAMPED UP AFTER COVID CASE



WITH NEWS LAST Friday of the first confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the Taupō District, testing efforts were ramped up and Council made the Taupō Events Centre available to Lakes District Health Board staff to use as an additional testing site to help cope with the increased demand.

Taupō District Mayor David Trewavas says now that COVID-19 may be circulating in our community, extra vigilance is needed to keep ourselves and others safe.

Mr Trewavas says the best way people can protect themselves is by ensuring they are vaccinated.

The current rate of vaccination in the Taupō District is 74.3% fully vaccinated.

"To protect our families, whānau and friends, let's get this number up," Mr Trewavas said.

"Let's get vaccinated, let's get serious about mask-wearing, let's scan and let's social distance - we can do this."

### COUNCIL EMBRACING EVS, HYBRIDS AND E-BIKES



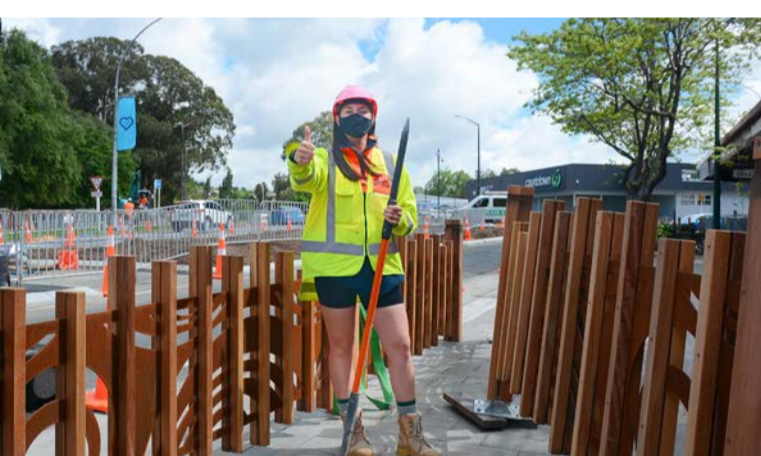
Taupō District Council staff are making shorter trips on foot, by bike and by e-bike.

TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL is embracing more eco-friendly modes of transport and equipment with the addition of EVs, hybrids and e-bikes to its fleet and a host of electrically-powered tools for its Parks and Reserves team.

Fleet manager Deb Atkinson says Council is replacing pool cars with hybrids and electric vehicles while also reducing its overall number of cars and introducing e-bikes.

"Office-based staff are currently located in various offices around the Taupō town centre," Deb said, "and often travel short distances, making e-bikes and walking a great alternative that is good for the environment as well as health and wellbeing. Council are keen to see more people using their feet and their bikes to get around town, and the town centre transformation project is centred around exactly that, so transitioning our fleet away from fossil fuels is our ultimate goal."

### TOWN CENTRE TRANSFORMATION CONTINUES UNDER COVID PRECAUTIONS



IT'S STILL FULL steam ahead on Tongariro Street, with our contractors masking up and observing COVID precautions to make sure work continues. At the northern end, street furniture, guard rails and cobble stones are being installed, build outs completed, and the centre islands are taking shape along the length of Tongariro Street.

To prepare Tongariro Street for resealing later in the month, we will be repairing the subsurface of the road starting from the northern end at the Spa Road roundabout. This will mean that the south-bound lane will be closed intermittently over the coming week, so please follow all directions from the team. Thanks for your patience folks, and as usual please drive safely around the work sites.

### CONCRETE PROGRESS IN AIRPORT UPGRADE

THE CONSTRUCTION OF the new Taupō Airport terminal is well underway, with the foundation poured and framing going up. The new terminal will be approximately twice the size of the existing building.

Airport operations manager Kim Gard says it is exciting to see the foundation in place and the project becoming a reality. "A lot of people have worked really hard to get this project over the line and the new terminal is going to be a fantastic addition to the wider district and a real asset to locals and visitors alike," she said. "In addition to the new terminal we will have a sealed carpark with more than 120 spaces, offering safer and efficient traffic flow for users, and a terminal that is more functional as well as being a fitting introduction to the district.

"Despite the disruptions caused by COVID-19 including delays to the supply chain, we are still on track to see the project completed in late 2022 - so watch this space, exciting things are coming!"



From left: Taupō Airport general manager Rhys Frearson and operations manager Kim Gard on the foundation of the new terminal building.

### COMMUNITY LEADERS SHARE THEIR VACCINATION STORIES



AS THE TAUPŌ District continues to move towards the 90% COVID-19 vaccination target, our community leaders are sharing their reasons for choosing to be vaccinated.

Turangi-Tongariro councillor Tangonui Kingi is one of those who agreed to tell his story in a short video on the Taupō District Council Facebook page last weekend, which attracted several thousand views.

Cr Kingi says he chose to be vaccinated because he supports the health professionals and the expert advice that the COVID-19 jab is the best way of protecting yourself and your whānau.

He says while it was his own personal choice, he encourages anybody who is hesitant about receiving the vaccine to search up accurate and credible information about it.

Keep an eye out on our Taupō District Council page for more videos on our community leaders.

