

## HAVE YOUR SAY ON OUR ANNUAL PLAN 2022-23

**WE'RE CALLING FOR community feedback to help shape our plans and priorities for the next 12 months.**

This feedback process is part of council's Annual Plan consultation period on now until 4.30pm on Thursday 14 April.

Taupō District Mayor David Trewavas said hearing from the community is an important part of shaping the plan – which continues to evolve due to the fast-moving environment we find ourselves in.

“What we aim to achieve with this plan is balancing affordability for ratepayers with maintaining the levels of service and investment that our district needs to thrive.

“What I'm sure we are all feeling right now are the ongoing effects of Covid-19, including constraints on the availability of resources, materials and supplies, alongside increasing inflation rates not seen in over three decades. These are impacting on the affordability of many of our plans and projects.

“With this evolving situation, and in order to balance that affordability, we need to be a bit more flexible in our approach to investment across our district. This means we're looking to reprioritise some of our projects and

activities to later years, while focusing on delivering many of our projects already underway, including the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity afforded to us with Taupō Town Centre Transformation project.

“By reprioritising projects, it allows us to keep the projected capital spend over the next 12 months around the same as what we had planned for.”

The Annual Plan consultation document has details of the major projects planned for the next 12 months, how the current climate has affected these and what council is proposing. It also details updates to council fees and charges, the proposed Towncentre Taupō management rate increase and changes to the council's significance and engagement policy.

Based on the current plan, the projected average rates rise for 2022-23 is around 8.35%. A proportion of this is due to increasing government costs and regulations, such as the requirement to purchase carbon units which have doubled in price in the past 12 months under the Emissions Trading Scheme.

To read the Annual Plan consultation document and to make a submission, head to [taupo.govt.nz/haveyoursay](https://taupo.govt.nz/haveyoursay).



Cr Anna Park (right) and community engagement team member Hellmuth Hartung at our community drop-in sessions.



## MIRO STREET UPGRADE ON HOLD

**WORK ON THE Miro Street road surface upgrade between the Crown Road intersection and No. 30 (Taupō Smash Repairs) has been put on hold until later in the year.**

The work was projected to renew damaged kerbs and channels and replace the existing road surface, but council infrastructure manager Denis Lewis said the potential for key members of the contractor's team to have to isolate due to Covid-19 meant the next stage of work would be postponed till September/October.

“Our contractor Downer has been doing a great job. Working around the disruptions to staffing and the supply chain has thrown up some real hurdles,” Mr Lewis said.

“We don't want to start the next stage of the project knowing that there is the potential for the work to be interrupted right when the weather is likely to deteriorate and key staff are away, as this would really impact the businesses in this area. So reluctantly we are putting off the next round of work on Miro Street till later in the year.”

Mr Lewis said that once the Miro Street site had been tidied up and some pavement repaired, the contractor team would be diverted to the Taupō Town Centre Transformation work being carried out on Titiraupenga Street.



Downer crew with the new speed cushion on Horomātangi St.

## TAMAMUTU/TĪTIRAUPENGA WORK ALMOST COMPLETE

**THE RUN OF fine weather may be well and truly over but our contractors have still been out and about putting the finishing touches to the upgraded Tamamutu/Tītiraupenga intersection. Project manager Izelda Cruz said that a new speed cushion had been added to Horomātangi Street and this would be followed by more on Tamamutu Street.**

“We have installed a speed cushion on Horomātangi Street near to where it joins Tītiraupenga Street to slow traffic as it approaches the new lights to the east of Taupō Primary School,” Ms Cruz said.

“Similar cushions were installed on Tamamutu Street late last year, and these will be followed by more cushions around the Taupō Primary School pedestrian crossing on Tamamutu Street. The cushions here are designed to not only make the crossing safer for pedestrians but to slow traffic on Tamamutu Street in general so that it integrates better with new intersection priority.

“We will also be hydroseeding the new grass berms around the intersection this week, so as usual are asking people to drive safely!”

## MAKING OUR ROADS SAFER FOR EVERYONE

**WE'RE PROPOSING SPEED limit changes throughout the district to help keep all people safer on our roads and streets.**

Public consultation opened last week on council's Speed Management Plan, which includes an overall strategy to setting speed limits over the next 10 years as well as outlining an initial set of speed limit changes over the next three years.

The proposed changes do not involve state highways. These are the responsibility of Waka Kotahi – the NZ Transport Agency.

The first set of speed limit changes has been grouped into the following areas: 30km/h speed limit outside schools, rural district roads, Taupō town centre, Taupō and its surrounds, Kinloch, Turangi, Whareroa, Eastern Bays.

Community feedback is being sought on two topics: on the approach council is taking to set consistent speed limits across the district; and people's thoughts on the first group of proposed speed limit changes.

Visit [taupo.govt.nz/haveyoursay](https://taupo.govt.nz/haveyoursay) to make a submission. Consultation is open until 4.30pm on Friday 13 May.

