

MILESTONE FOR TAUPŌ TOWN CENTRE TRANSFORMATION



MORE THAN A year into our Taupō Town Centre Transformation project we are starting to see all the hard work pay off as the new Titirapenga Street arterial route nears completion. Big thanks to our contractors for working last weekend to get our resealing done.

The Lake Terrace/ Titirapenga Street intersection is one of the last pieces of the arterial route to be finished and will work in conjunction with the lights and priority changes on Titirapenga Street. With this cross-town traffic diverted away from the CBD we now have a much more pedestrian-friendly town centre, better access to the Tongariro Domain and more parking on Tongariro Street.

This is a huge milestone for our project and it's great to have the new traffic flow bedding in. While the intersection will be opening soon, we will be keeping the northbound leg of Lake Terrace closed for a few extra days so that the concrete on the new pedestrian crossings can fully cure. We know that many in our community have been looking forward to these additional crossings. They are another important part of the project that makes for safer streets.

NEED HELP WITH YOUR TECH?



TIRED OF NOT being able to figure out why your device won't do something or keeps doing things you don't understand? Taupō Library is running free drop-in sessions to help!

Come along and get a hand with your tech-related queries. Bring your devices, programmes and app questions and local tech experts will help you with them.

This is a free drop-in service every Friday at Taupō Library from 10am to 11am, no bookings necessary.

MAJOR OVERHAUL FINISHED AT KINLOCH WASTEWATER PLANT

A \$17.5 MILLION upgrade to the Kinloch Wastewater Treatment Plant has just been finished.

The upgrade works began in February 2021, not only to improve the treatment processes but also make the system more resilient and accommodate future growth.

Council infrastructure manager Denis Lewis said contractors had done a great job of working through Covid-19 disruptions and supply chain issues to get the upgrade completed.

"This was a sizeable and quite complex piece of work," Mr Lewis said. "The treatment process has had a major overhaul with new screening equipment, biological treatment process, membrane filtration, new control room, and underground emergency storage tanks among a large number of changes at the site."

"The highly-treated wastewater is now irrigated under the golf course fairways and will help with grass growth, so this is an environmentally-friendly win-win outcome."

Most of the upgrade work was completed late last year and the plant was up and running for the peak summer season. Work over the last few months has included fencing, groundworks and completing the structural strengthening of a second tank ready for future use.

"Overall, the upgrade improves the reliability and resilience of the plant," Mr Lewis said. "That means we can continue to manage our wastewater responsibly so that we can protect the health of our community in an environmentally sustainable way, but it also means we are future-proofing our system for the growing Kinloch community."



VOTE22 CAMPAIGN ENCOURAGES PEOPLE TO STAND



IT'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT elections in October and time for people to consider whether they want to stand.

As part of the Vote22 campaign encouraging quality candidates, outgoing Tūrangi-Tongariro councillor Tangonui Kingi spoke to us about why he stood for council and his pride in making the community a better place. Check out his video and find information for intending candidates at taupo.govt.nz/vote22.

Our community needs leaders from a range of backgrounds and experiences. Bring your talents to the table this election.

What do you stand for?

If you see something which requires council assistance, easily report it using our Antenna app.

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DISTRICT PLAN PROPOSED CHANGES: A CASE STUDY

A (SLIGHTLY) SIZEABLE ISSUE: Bob and Sarah have bought a section that has great views but it's a little on the small side. They have worked with an architect to design just the right size dream home. A catch though - its footprint takes up just over 30 percent of the section. That means that under current rules, they'll have to spend time and money to get consent for this, neither of which they are rich in.

Council's consenting staff have seen more and more people falling into Bob and Sarah's position over recent years and usually approve the dwelling size in these cases. They've looked at what other councils do and found the permitted coverage in the Taupō District Plan is quite low compared to similar-sized districts.

A POSSIBLE SOLUTION: Taupō District Council is proposing to amend the district plan rules to push the permitted residential coverage up to 35 percent. This will save time and money for people building and also means its resource consents team can spend their time on more important issues. This change is proposed for most residential areas,

however excludes some areas such as low density, high density and Kinloch Residential Environments. You can find further information and have your say at taupo.govt.nz/districtplanchanges. Consultation closes at 4.30pm on Monday 13 June.

