

NEW PARKING CHARGES TO COME INTO EFFECT AT TAUPŌ AIRPORT



NEW PARKING CHARGES will come into effect when Taupō Airport's new terminal opens; and reflect the growth of the airport and its surrounding business precinct.

The new charges will help to maintain the newly-constructed airport carpark and terminal, which is currently underway with a budget of \$9.237 million. Of that, \$3.367 million was allocated in Council's Long Term Plan, along with a \$5 million grant from the Crown's Provincial Development Unit, and \$870,000 from the Ministry of Transport. Work is scheduled for completion in December.

The development includes a new sealed carpark with more parking spaces and lighting to replace the old carpark which was unlit and grassed.

Taupō District Council deputy chief executive Julie Gardyne says the carpark charges reflect the council's user-pays philosophy and will help reduce the financial impact on ratepayers.

"The new carpark is a huge improvement over the previous one, being much safer for winter use when flights are arriving in darkness, and a lot easier to navigate in the wet," Ms Gardyne said.

"The intended charge structure, which is subject to Ministry of Transport approval, will see the first 30 minutes free, so people can do drop offs and picks up. Then fees of \$2 per hour will apply up to a maximum of \$14 for 24 hours. The best part is, the system is fully automated, with cameras registering vehicle registration numbers, and then users can pay at the barrier or at terminals in the carpark. We'll also be looking at long-term concession rates if there is demand."

Ms Gardyne said Taupō Airport was one of the few regional airports to still have unpaid parking.

"Its level of operations have increased considerably over the years, so we need to make sure that it is properly funded by those that use it most. The contributions from the parking will be invested back into running the airport and its infrastructure. Our airport is transitioning from a medium-sized regional airport to an important transport hub and business precinct that plays an important economic role for our entire district, and the charges we have settled on are very competitive, being lower than all other airports of comparable size. For example, Napier Airport charges \$5 per hour and it is \$4 per hour at Rotorua Airport."



SPEED MANAGEMENT PLAN ADOPTED TO KEEP ROAD USERS SAFE

TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL has adopted an interim speed management plan aimed at keeping road users in the district safe.

The interim speed management plan includes a list of priority one changes to speed limits to be approved and implemented over 2022 and 2023. Consultation for the draft Speed Management Plan 2022 was completed between March and May this year and 249 submissions were received. These were taken into account when developing the interim SMP adopted by Council on Tuesday and many of the changes proposed were adjusted to reflect those submissions.

The focus for priority 1 changes (within the next two years) are:

- streets around schools
- town centres, including Tūrangi town centre and Kinloch
- setting speed limits on new or unclassified roads (including in new subdivisions).
- rural roads with high safety issues or community concerns.

The speed limit around the majority of the district's schools will be reduced to 30km/h. Some schools on busier roads will be 30km/h only at the start and end of the school day.

As part of the Taupō Town Centre Transformation Project, the speed limit on Roberts Street will be reduced to 10km/h to provide greater safety to pedestrians in the area. The speed limit on other town centre roads will be reduced to 30km/h.

Other busy areas, such as near the Paetiki and Tauhara shopping centres and sections of the Kinloch and Tūrangi networks, will also have their speed limits reduced, following requests from the communities there.

Read more at www.taupo.govt.nz.

7000 TREES FOR MANGAKINO

Taupō District Council is planting 7000 native trees in Mangakino, which will have a range of benefits for the local environment and wildlife.

Council parks manager - open spaces Andrew Moor says the trees are being planted at three sites close to Lake Maraetai. While they are being planted as a condition of consent, it is a great opportunity to create bush areas and enhance the habitat in the area.

"The team is planting an area of Matakuri Island that is very wet, hard to maintain, and where vehicles get stuck," he says.

The other two areas chosen for planting are along the golf course.

"We chose these areas because we and the Mangakino Golf Club currently mow them, which takes time and expends carbon, when they aren't utilised as part of the golf course. It's better to plant, create habitats for birdlife and insects, and expand on the River Trails experience."

Read more at www.taupo.govt.nz.



HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE EASTER SUNDAY TRADING POLICY

TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL'S Easter Sunday Trading Policy is being reviewed and members of the public will have their say.

Since 2017, Council has had a policy in place which allows for all shops in the district to trade on Easter Sunday. Under the Shop Trading Act 1990, the policy must be reviewed after the first five years.

After discussing the matter in its August meeting, Council is proposing the Easter Sunday Trading Policy be continued as it provides clarity and ensures a level playing field across the district for all shops.

The only amendment would be to the policy's review period. This amendment will change the review period from five to 10 years. While there is no requirement for a review period, Council believes 10 years is appropriate as this is best practice for ensuring the relevance of policies.

Before we make a decision, we need your feedback on the following two options:

A) Adopt the amended policy: This means all shops will continue to be allowed to open on Easter Sunday in the Taupō District if they choose to.

OR

B) Revoke the policy: This means only shops permitted by the act and those in the Taupō Town Centre would be permitted to open on Easter Sunday.

Have your say at www.taupo.govt.nz/haveyoursay. Submissions are open from 28 September to 31 October and a hearing will be held on Tuesday, 13 December at 11am in the Taupō District Council Chambers.



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