

Māpua – June 2021

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Revised funding option confirmed for Waimea Community Dam overruns

Tasman District Council has resolved to proceed with funding the Waimea Community Dam overruns through a revised option agreed by the partners.

Revised Option A provides for a more favourable impact on the general ratepayer than the option A consulted on.

That initial option preferred by Council would have seen the general ratepayer funding a portion of the irrigator share of overruns until no longer required.

Revised Option A limits the period to 5 years with an estimated average cost to residential ratepayers of \$5 a year.

The Council had initially resolved to proceed with the Revised Option A during Tasman's 10-Year plan deliberations in May, subject to the formal agreement of the other parties by 4 June.

Revised Option A means some of the Council debt and all irrigator debt to fund the overruns will be held in Waimea Water Ltd (WWL), a joint venture company of the Council and Waimea Irrigators Ltd (WIL).

Part of the interest on that debt will be paid through WWL water charges to the Council, and the rest by water charges to Irrigators through WIL.

At the same June 4 meeting, Council also decided to initiate an independent investigation into events leading up to and including the decision to proceed with the dam in November 2018.

Council chief executive Janine Dowding recommended that the Council proceed with the investigation saying that it would provide transparency around decision-making for the dam project.

"The cost overruns have been hugely disappointing. If we could have better anticipated them, then we need to learn from that.

“Those lessons would likely be valuable for other large Tasman projects as well as districts that are looking at water security solutions.”

The review will focus on the quality of the information and advice provided to the project governance board and the Council up until November 2018 when the Council made the final decision to proceed with the dam.

The investigation, estimated to take 3 months, will be undertaken under the oversight of the Audit and Risk Committee.

The investigation does not change the Council’s contractual obligations relating to the dam project.

Do you qualify for a rates rebate?

Did you know that if you’re a low-income earner, you can have some of your rates credited to your rates account?

You can apply for a rates rebate if you pay rates on the address you live at, you were living at the address at the beginning of the rating year (1 July) and your name is recorded in the Rating Information Database as ratepayer.

You can’t claim a rates rebate for the rates payable on a property that’s used mostly for business, farming, commercial or industrial purposes, or a home that isn’t your usual place of residence.

Rebates are calculated based on your household income, rates and the number of dependents. The minimum income level is \$24,000. If you have received a rates rebate in the past, you should have automatically received an application form and guide last year.

You have until 30 June 2021 to apply for a rebate for the current rating year.

If you aren’t sure if you’re eligible, call us on 03 543 8400 before you go to the trouble of putting in the paperwork and we can check for you.

For more information visit our website tasman.govt.nz, and search ‘rates rebate’.

Māpua boat ramp receives funding in Tasman's 10-Year Plan

A new boat ramp facility at Māpua’s Waterfront Park is one step closer after Tasman District Council agreed to allocate \$700,000 towards the project over the next three years.

As part of deliberations on Tasman’s 10-Year Plan 2021-2031 and the Coastal Asset Activity Management Plan (Section 14), Council agreed to funding for a new Tasman Bay boat access facility.

The funding allocation is \$50,000 in 2021/2022, \$50,000 in 2022/2023 and \$600,000 in 2023/2024, and will be funded from the Moutere-Waimea Ward Reserve Financial Contributions account.

The resolution noted that Council’s contribution towards the boat ramp is capped at \$700,000 (excluding inflation), or at two-thirds of the total project cost, whichever is the lesser amount.

Council noted that under Section 80 of the Local Government Act 2002 the decision is inconsistent with the Māpua Waterfront Area Masterplan.

However, the reason for the inconsistency is to respond to community requests and amendments to the plan will be considered at the next review.

Further stakeholder engagement will take place with interested parties, including Iwi and the local Tamaha Sea Scouts, concerning their future requirements and how they may be incorporated into this project.

New signage and upgrades for Māpua Wharf Precinct

The development of Ngaio Reserve is progressing well and all going well should be completed in 4 to 6 weeks.

Due to its significant archeological status the park is being done with a sympathetic approach to its cultural history which mean as little digging has taken place as possible.

The primary objective was to build on top of the land rather than disturb it.

All timber being used on site for things like tables, seats and bike racks is being made of recycled wood to fit in with the natural landscape and were made by members of the local Menzshed.

An extremely realistic synthetic turf is being laid because grass won't grow well in the sandy soils of the area. The turf is guaranteed to look good year round.

Meanwhile, new signage will soon be installed at the southern entrance to the Māpua Wharf Precinct.

The signage will be more visible than what is currently displayed and will serve to remind people that the precinct is restricted to foot traffic, except for short term delivery vehicles between 7pm and 10am.

Tasman Quarterly Economic Monitor

Key points from the March 2021 report from Infometrics:

- The Tasman economy contracted slightly in the March 2021 quarter, with Infometrics estimate that economic activity over the year to March 2021 declined by 0.5% pa, a better result than the 3% contraction in the national economy.
- Consumer and business confidence appears resilient, with data from Marketview showing consumer spending increasing by 0.2% pa over the year to March 2021, once again a better result than the 3.8% decline recorded nationally. Non-residential construction has surged, with the value of non-residential consents increasing by 42.8% compared to 5.3% across New Zealand.
- Tourism spending declined by 0.8% pa, far less than the 16.6% pa decline nationally. This suggests that the region benefitted from some domestic tourism activity over the high season. It is expected that tourism spending will take more of a hit during the next quarter as domestic tourism declines in Autumn.
- Labour supply constraints remain, with the average unemployment rate over the year to March 2021 at 3.1%, compared to 4.7% nationally. Employment of Tasman residents increased by 2.2% pa for the year, compared to a decrease of 0.2% nationally. Population growth remained positive, with health enrolments (a proxy for population growth) increasing by 3.2% pa to March 2021.

•Jobseeker numbers continued to retreat from their high in the September 2020 quarter. However, the effects of COVID-19 are clear, with the average number of Tasman Jobseeker Support recipients over the year to March 2021 being 44.1% up on the previous year.

•House price growth remains the major story of the New Zealand economy. In Tasman's case, the house price increase of 17.7% between the March 2020 and March 2021 quarters is in line with the 18.2% increase recorded nationally. House sales for the year were down by 3.3% pa compared to a 13.4% increase across NZ. Residential consents increased 26.5% pa over the year to March 2021, compared to 9.1% nationally.

•Overall, the Tasman economy continues to show resilience, although continued tightness in the housing and labour market may begin to inhibit further recovery over the next few quarters.

Get funding for your community project

Do you have an exciting community project in the pipeline? Community Grants help get some of our most valuable community projects off the ground, and the next round is about to open for 2021.

Funded from rates, the grants are good value for money with an estimated \$3 – \$5 return for every \$1 spent.

Applications opened on 1 May and close on 31 July.

Funding is available for projects that are either Tasman-based or will benefit Tasman residents, meet a community need and have community support.

Priority will be given to projects that align with our community outcomes and can show financial support from other sources as well.

Grants are available for projects that fit into the following categories:

- Community and economic development initiatives
- Arts/culture/heritage/museums
- Festivals and events
- Youth and children
- Social services
- Environment
- Emergency services
- Sports and recreation facilities.

Visit tasman.govt.nz/grants for more information and to apply. Alternatively, Contact our Community Partnerships Coordinator Gary Alsop with any questions, email gary.alsop@tasman.govt.nz

Public access closed to east end of Moturoa/ Rabbit Island

Public access to the eastern half of Moturoa / Rabbit Island will be closed on two more days this winter while an organised game bird hunt takes place.

Please note that the closure will include all of the beach front at the eastern end.

Fish & Game organise the hunts, which are permitted under the Moturoa / Rabbit Island Reserve Management Plan.

The hunts are timed to coincide with low tide to avoid any effect on shore birds. No hunting is allowed within 100 metres of the high tide mark.

This year the hunts will take place on the following dates:

- Saturday 19 June, 8.30am – 3pm (Sunday 20 June reserve day)
- Saturday 17 July, 8.30am – 3pm (Sunday 18 July reserve day)

For more details contact Jacob Lucas at Nelson Marlborough Fish & Game on 03 544 6382.

See the map below of area closed due to hunting.



It's time to register your dogs

Register your dogs by 30 June 2021.

In Tasman, it only costs \$50 to register an urban dog or \$30 for a rural dog, however penalty fees will apply for late registrations.

You can register your dog online, in person or by mail.

[Register in person](#)

Use the form mailed to you or download one from our website and bring it in to any Council service centre to make payment.

[Register by mail](#)

Post your completed form and payment to any Council Service Centre:

- 189 Queen Street, Private Bag 4, Richmond 7050
- 92 Fairfax Street, Murchison 7007
- 7 Hickmott Place, PO Box 123, Motueka 7143
- 78 Commercial Street, PO Box 74, Tākaka 7142

[Register online](#)

You can fill out your registration forms on our website and pay online. Use your dog owner number as reference.

You can pay your registration fee by:

- Bank transfer to account 12-3193-0002048-03
- Online with a credit card (fees apply)

If any of your details have changed, such as your address or the number of dogs you own, you need to let us know.

Fill in the Dog Registration Update Notification form found on our website and drop it in or post it to us.

Alternatively, you can scan it and email it to dogcontrol@tasman.govt.nz.

Visit tasman.govt.nz/dog-registration

Tell us your amazing art idea

Our Creative Communities Scheme has funding available to help groups and individuals running arts projects in our area.

This could be the help your amazing art idea needs to get off the ground.

Creative Communities provides funding to support community involvement in the arts – whether it's music, theatre, festivals, mural painting, outdoor sculptures, art in public spaces, kapa haka, singing, art workshops or something else.

Funded by Creative New Zealand, the Creative Communities Scheme is designed to support opportunities for communities to participate in the arts.

There is a focus on art projects that have a broad community involvement, involve young people or support the diverse arts and cultural traditions of local communities.

If you think that fits with your project, we'd love to hear from you.

Applications are open now until Saturday 10 July 2021.

Visit tasman.govt.nz/creative-communities for more information and to complete an application form.