

Māpua – July 2021

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Ngaio Reserve opening

Māpua's newest park is officially opening, and you are invited. Ngaio Reserve will be officially opened with a public ceremony at 10.00 am on Sunday 18 July.

Tasman's 10-Year Plan adopted

After months of deliberations, 1719 public submissions and countless hours of work behind the scenes, Tasman's 10-Year Plan 2021–2031 has been adopted.

The Plan was passed at a full council meeting on June 30, setting out the key projects and services planned for the Tasman district and how much the Council will invest in the services and infrastructure.

Overall, Tasman's 10-Year Plan 2021–2031 aims to:

- Ensure there is sufficient zoned and serviced land available to develop new homes and businesses.
- Respond to climate change.
- Focus on building, renewing and maintaining our infrastructure.
- Deliver on priority work programmes – roading, water, wastewater, stormwater, environmental improvements, climate change, recreation and important community spaces and facilities.

Tasman's Mayor Tim King said the adoption of the Plan had occurred during an unprecedented period of growth and change for the region, under the backdrop of approaching central government reforms.

King said the scope of projects and services included in the final Plan reflected the needs of Tasman as an area of rapid growth.

He said the Plan provided the infrastructure necessary to match projected population expansion with the costs being largely met by those who directly contribute to growth.

The document also reflected the Council's commitment to climate change response and a healthy and sustainable natural environment, which was apparent in the decisions around investment on four key choices:

- providing for housing and business development;
- funding of the Waimea Community Dam;
- an amended ownership model of Port Nelson and Nelson Airport; and
- a number of new initiatives to implement our Climate Action Plan.

King said the decision to proceed with revised option A to fund the Waimea Community Dam offers the best outcome for Tasman ratepayers and a more equitable funding mechanism for irrigators.

It means that the irrigators pay for most of their share of the cost overruns, rather than Council collecting their share through a targeted rate.

This had also allowed the Council to lower its proposed net debt cap from \$282 million to \$250 million.

Infrastructure will be the major area of investment, with \$110.5m going towards water, wastewater, roading and stormwater renewal and replacement, with a further \$136 million spent on additional improvements to existing services.

Growth-related infrastructure has been allocated \$95.8 million.

Walking and cycling improvements have been allocated \$40.1 million.

\$23.4 million will be spent on waste management and minimisation improvements, \$16.5 million on water safety and source improvements and \$20 million on river improvements.

Other areas of investment include iwi partnerships and capacity building \$2.3m, economic development and tourism \$4.35m, Motueka Community Pool \$3.2m (2023-2024) and the Regional Museum Research Facility \$3.2m (2023-2024).

The Plan comes into effect on 1 July and will be in force until 30 June 2024.

Māpua works summary

A moratorium on infrastructure investment in Māpua is expected to end on 1 August 2021.

While there are some additional details still to be confirmed, this is great news for the further development of the area.

In the meantime, here is a quick rundown of the established works occurring or recently completed.

Installed: Emergency Wastewater Storage Tank installation at Higgs Road. The upgrades will increase the storage capacity of the system in each location, to reduce the risk of wastewater overflow in the event of a pump failure, power outage, or storm event.

Completed: Rabbit and Best Islands Watermain replacement: The water main that traversed Best Island and Moturoa/Rabbit Island were in poor condition and not large enough to cater for growth. The pipe was very fragile and often broke, increasing the likelihood of losing water supply to the Māpua community.

To minimise that risk, we were operating the water network servicing Māpua at reduced pressure to help protect the pipe.

To fix these issues, we installed a new water main to improve water supply resilience, cater for growth and allow the water network to operate at higher pressure.

In place: Waimea (now Māpua) Water Treatment Plant Upgrade & Waimea Bores. Previously served Māpua and Richmond. Now renamed the Māpua WTP and as of 2-3 months ago, serves Māpua only.

Expected for completion end of July: Māpua Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Upgrades. The existing water main running along Aranui Road and Stafford Drive is in very poor condition. There are frequent pipe bursts at many locations. To reduce the risk of pipe breaks, the water is at a lower pressure than desirable.

The Māpua wastewater network is inefficient. There are five pump stations between Ruby Bay and Māpua Wharf, which pump wastewater from one section of pipe to another. Parts of the system are often at capacity during high rain events.

There is no odour control and little or no emergency storage at the existing pump stations to store wastewater during power outages, mains breaks or high rainfall events.

The upgrade to the stormwater channel will improve drainage from properties on Stafford Drive adjacent to Broadsea Avenue. Council have recently secured easements allowing us to do this work.

The project will address these problems and provide more capacity to allow for growth in the area.

Expected for completion December 2021: Pomona Road Reservoir Upgrade. We've removed the old timber water tank on the site at 149 Pomona Road and are replacing it with a new 2,500cu.mt concrete water supply reservoir tank and installing new pipework to feed it.

To offset the lost storage capacity during construction of the new tank, we've installed additional temporary water storage tanks at the Stagecoach Rd reservoir site.

The new larger tank will improve the resilience of the water supply and cater for growth in Māpua and Ruby Bay.

Housing preference survey results released

The results of a regional housing preference survey have been released, outlining the importance Nelson-Tasman residents place on various aspects and characteristics of dwellings and locations.

Tasman District and Nelson City Councils procured the survey from Market Economics and Research First in May 2021.

The survey canvassed 600 residents with at least 80 percent from within the Urban Environment of Nelson, Hira, Richmond, Brightwater, Wakefield, Motueka, and Māpua.

These responses are then tied to demographic characteristics to understand how people choose dwelling typologies and locations where prices played no part in choices.

Respondents' financial constraints were also taken into account.

The survey then presented housing options (drawn from approximately 200 combinations) that are at or below the amount respondents are able to spend and the respondent chose a preferred option.

The survey, therefore, gains a detailed understanding of factors important to respondents in choosing types of housing (and therefore to Nelson Tasman residents in general), in an unconstrained manner as well as in a situation where they must make trade-offs in the price experiment section.

The results from this survey have informed the Council about housing preferences and have informed its three-yearly housing and business assessment.

The survey will also enable the Council to zone for the correct type of housing in the emerging Tasman Environment Plan.

While a majority (71 percent) of respondents preferred stand-alone dwellings, an increased proportion prefer attached dwellings/apartments, when compared with previous surveys.

Previous surveys showed between 80-90 percent preferred stand-alone dwellings.

The majority (62 percent) of older residents prefer standalone dwellings, but a significant proportion also prefer attached dwellings (31 percent) and these would generally be smaller dwellings.

A further 6 percent of older people prefer apartments.

Overall, 34 percent of respondents could not afford to buy a dwelling and only 5 percent of these could afford to rent. The remaining 28 percent couldn't afford to buy or rent.

Those survey respondents that could not afford to purchase a house in the Nelson Tasman Urban Environment were asked about preferences for renting.

The location was ranked as most important by 46 percent of rental respondents – almost twice as high as the next category (house type). Least important in their choice is the dwelling's value.

In terms of the towns surveyed in Tasman's Urban Environment (Richmond, Motueka, Mapua, Brightwater, Wakefield), Motueka is the worst mismatch according to the housing preferences survey.

In Motueka, 26 percent of respondents would live in that location if they could, but given financial constraints, this drops to 11 percent.

Conversely, the income-constrained demand in Tasman Rural and Waimea plains is higher than the unconstrained demand.

These are therefore locations that people choose less often when unrestrained by their financial situation.

The findings indicate that some of the urban demand may be driven to these more rural areas of Tasman or even back into residential parts of Nelson, given they are constrained in terms of their first choices by affordability issues.

The highest-rated features for Tasman were the proximity to a GP/healthcare provider and the coast or beach.

Local environment features had some of the highest regarded features.

78 percent consider that being safe from crime is very important.

This is the highest-rated feature overall across all categories and reflects that safety is a fundamental need.

Still on local environment features, 64 percent chose to be away from industrial areas and 62 percent safe from natural hazards.

Tasman District Council pauses work on Significant Natural Areas

In recognition of the successful Native Habitats Tasman Programme, Tasman District Council has taken the decision to not begin work on desktop assessments of potential Significant Natural Areas (SNA) as they await the new National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity.

Tasman Mayor Tim King said the Council has decided not to pursue a District-wide SNA mapping project as has been carried out in other parts of NZ in response to growing landowner concern around the way we go about achieving our goal to reverse declining biodiversity.

“Conversations at recent landowner feedback events have highlighted the pressure that many rural landowners and businesses are facing,” King said.

“We have heard from locals that uncertainty around what it will mean to have land classified as a SNA under the anticipated National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPS-IB) is adding to their concerns.

“As a council, we know that to achieve good long-term outcomes for biodiversity we need to all work together. In many places across the District, there are pockets of thriving biodiversity thanks to the good work of landowners who have nurtured their properties and restored native habitats.

“We are committed to working with our iwi partners, communities, and stakeholders to help support biodiversity restoration and have therefore taken the pragmatic decision to not begin desktop and aerial assessments of potential SNA while we will await the NPS-IB.”

The Council will continue to work with communities on other important resource management projects as part of the Tasman Environment Plan programme.

This includes progressing the Outstanding Natural Landscapes and Features and Coastal Environment Projects, natural hazards work, freshwater management, and preparing coastal communities for climate change.

Associate Minister for the Environment (Biodiversity) Hon James Shaw and Minister of Local Government Hon Nanaia Mahuta wrote to councils on 11 June 2021 regarding progress on the NPS-IB.

The letter advised the gazettal of the NPS-IB has been delayed and encouraged councils to continue work to identify SNA.

TDC Environmental Policy Manager Barry Johnson said the Council’s pause on SNA work does not affect the District’s long-standing voluntary survey programme.

“Council has been working to survey land on a non-compulsory basis through the Native Habitats Tasman and wetlands programmes for years and this work is continuing.

“The Native Habitats Tasman programme involves willing landowners agreeing to have their property surveyed by an ecologist, who then provides a detailed report on the significance of the area and potential management options. Around 70% of landowners contacted by the programme take up the offer to have their land surveyed and mapped.

“Recently, Tasman District Council successfully secured \$2 million through Jobs for Nature to undertake weed control in local SNA.

“This will support landowners of identified SNA and may serve as an incentive for others to be part of the programme,” Johnson said.

Membership of the Native Habitats Tasman programme includes Tasman District Council, Department of Conservation, Forest and Bird, Federated Farmers, Friends of Nelson Haven and Tasman Bay, and Ministry of Primary Industries.

Changes to local government

Important changes are coming regarding the landscape of local government and how our Council may operate in the future.

Resource Management Following a review commissioned in 2019, the Government has decided to repeal and replace the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) with three new Acts:

- The Natural and Built Environments Act
- Strategic Planning Act
- Climate Change Adaption Act.

The new laws aim to improve the natural environment, enable more development within environmental limits, provide an effective role for Māori, and improve housing supply and affordability.

It also aims to reduce and simplify planning processes, time and costs.

An exposure draft of the NBA was released on June 29, before it heads to a select committee. The new Acts are intended to be introduced to Parliament later this year.

Three Waters Reform

Central and local government have acknowledged urgent challenges facing local government water services and infrastructure, and the communities that fund and rely on these services.

The Three Waters Reform aims to address the ability to plan, fund and finance reliant water systems whilst meeting safe drinking water standards and national and local environmental objectives.

Responsibilities for water services are proposed to be transferred to a small number of water supply entities.

These publicly-owned entities, established by statute, will own wastewater, stormwater and drinking water assets and be responsible for all infrastructure needs.

Once more information about the entities is released, we will need to consult on and make the decision on whether to be part of the Three Waters Reform and transfer our three waters infrastructure to any new entity.

It is expected that our decision to opt in or out will be made by November 2021.

Local government review

In April, a review into the Future for Local Government was established. The scope of this review comprises the function, role and financing of local government, as well as creating a system that strengthens Treaty partnerships, through the role and representation of iwi/ Māori.

An interim report presented to the Minister in September will signal the probable direction of the review and key next steps.

Following public consultation, a final report will be presented to the Minister and Local Government New Zealand in April 2023.

Late dog registration still available

In Tasman, it only costs \$50 to register an urban dog or \$30 for a rural dog.

Annual registration closed on 30 June.

However, late registrations can be made until July 31.

Those that remain unpaid after this date will incur a 50% penalty fee.

Not registering your dog is an offence against the Dog Control Act 1996.

If you do not register your dog an infringement notice may be issued, or your dog may be seized and impounded, or you as the owner may be prosecuted.

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

Outstanding Community Service Awards

Often the unsung heroes of Tasman District fly under the radar, working tirelessly in the background in roles that keep the wheels of numerous community groups and organisations turning.

Now is the time for these fabulous people to be officially recognised in our annual Outstanding Community Service Awards.

Nominations are now open for this year's awards. Nominees must be residents of Tasman District and have been involved in a range of voluntary activities that have benefited their community for 20 years or more.

Nomination forms are available on our website and at all our service centres and libraries.

They give an outline of the type of information you need to include, so please use them when nominating someone for an award.

Nominations close at the end of August. Winners will be presented with a framed certificate at a special ceremony in December.

For more information and to apply, visit tasman.govt.nz and search 'community awards'

Infrastructure Acceleration Fund – partnerships sought

At least \$1 billion of grant funding is available under the Infrastructure Acceleration Fund (IAF) to fund infrastructure that unlocks housing developments in the short to medium term and enables a meaningful contribution to housing outcomes, especially affordability.

We are interested in hearing from developers and landowners who are interested in partnering for proposals by 12.00 pm Thursday 15 July. Visit tasman.govt.nz for more information.