

Māpua Community Association update – April 2022

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Change Drives Tasman District Council's Draft Annual Plan 2022/2023

Substantial changes in the wider legislative, social, and economic environment in which the Tasman District Council operates are highlighted in its new draft Annual Plan 2022/2023.

Councillors have agreed to release the document for public consultation.

Last July the Council adopted its 10 Year Plan 2021-2031 which is a key planning tool for the Council's activities and the community outcomes it aims to achieve.

However, the landscape has changed dramatically since that document was adopted.

There are two options on the table. An increase of 7.7% in the overall rates revenue, or by deferring some work and projects that can reduce to 5.51% – however both options are up from the planned increase of 4.17% flagged in the 10-year Plan.

Like businesses and households, the Council is experiencing pressures from external economic factors including high fuel costs, inflation, higher interest and finance charges, supply chain issues and skills shortages.

There are also three key factors in the increase in water costs; the changes required to the delivery of water supplies under the recent Water Services Act, the withdrawal of a major industrial water user and the costs associated with the Waimea Dam.

Despite these challenges we still need to manage and deliver essential services while at the same time dealing with the demands of the growth Tasman District is experiencing.

Council has agreed to fund the dam cost overruns on an interest-only basis in the short term and is using some income from forestry to reduce the impact on rates.

It should be noted when people are comparing rate increases nationally that Tasman District Council is a unitary authority, a combination of a District Council with the environmental responsibilities of a Regional Council. Essentially, we are two Councils in one, and one of the five nationally.

There are many ways to engage with the Council. You can attend an online public feedback meeting, complete a submission form, or upload a video submission online.

The online forums will be taking place on the following dates:

- Wednesday 20 April 2022, 10.00 am – 11.30 am
- Tuesday 26 April 2022, 6.00 pm – 7.30 pm
- Tuesday 3 May 2022, 6.00 pm – 7.30 pm

Public hearings are scheduled for Wednesday May 18

All information is available on the Council website tasman.govt.nz/annual-plan

Tasman removes My Vaccine Pass entry requirement at facilities

Tasman District Council will no longer be requiring a My Vaccine Pass for entry to its libraries.

My Vaccine Passes will also no longer be required at the Richmond Aquatic Centre or the Motueka Recreation centre from opening on 5 April.

At other community and recreation centres at Moutere, Golden Bay and Murchison, number limits for gathering will increase to 200 but distancing and mask wearing protocols remain in place.

Campgrounds at Pōhara, Motueka Top 10, Collingwood and Murchison will also lift their vaccine pass requirements from 11.59pm 4 April.

Council has followed Government advice throughout the pandemic as we've worked to keep our community as safe as possible. This week's announcement about changes to the traffic light system and the relaxation of the need for vaccine passes should be seen as a positive sign that we are on the path to the relaxation of all restrictions.

We thank everyone for their patience, understanding, and their will to do the right thing to protect themselves and each other. It will be a relief to be able to welcome everyone into these much-loved facilities once more.

We must also appreciate that while this is a big step in the right direction, the virus hasn't disappeared.

We'll still be requiring masks to be worn indoors and asking everyone to follow social distancing protocols.

Māpua and Tasman Community Associations residential survey

Residents are invited to participate in the Māpua and Districts Community Association (MDCA) – Tasman Area Community Association (TACA) 2022 Residents Survey.

Feedback from residents helps Community Associations set their priorities. MDCA and TACA have been proactively working with Tasman District Council regarding their residents concerns related to housing development, roading, walking and cycling pathways, reserves management and protecting coastal and wetland habitats.

Māpua and Tasman are communities that Tasman District Council has identified in their Future Development Strategy for rezoning to allow rapid residential growth and significant expansion of their townships.

MDCA and TACA are therefore seeking their residents' input on the very important issues that will help shape their futures as population grows and communities continue to expand.

You can participate in the survey by scanning the QR code, or link in the April 1 Newsline.

Paper copies of the survey will also be available at the Tasman General Store, Māpua Library, Māpua Four Square and Māpua Community Hall. Completed surveys can be dropped off anonymously at either the Māpua Community Hall or Tasman General Store drop boxes.

The information provided by residents is voluntary and strictly confidential, and results are expected to be collated and reported by the end of May 2022. Look out for this survey and have your say by taking part.

2022 Future Development Strategy consultation still open for submissions

Public Consultation is still continuing on Tasman District and Nelson City Councils' joint Future Development Strategy (FDS) for the period 2022-52.

The FDS outlines a proposal of consolidated growth focusing largely along State Highway 6.

This proposal includes prioritising intensification of housing development in Nelson, Atawhai, Stoke, Richmond, Brightwater, Wakefield, Māpua and Motueka, along with managed expansion around Nelson, Stoke, Richmond, Brightwater, Wakefield and Māpua, including opportunities for rural residential development.

Some managed expansion is proposed around Tasman's rural towns of Murchison, Tapawera, St Arnaud and in Golden Bay.

A secondary part of the proposal involves potential new communities in the vicinity of Tasman village.

The FDS will influence all of our futures; the location and availability of new housing and the types of housing future generations will be able to live in, so it's essential that we get your feedback.

A consultation document summarising the strategy is available online, at libraries and service centres.

This will provide an overview of the proposal, as well as submission forms to provide feedback for consideration.

Our online consultation programme - which includes a series of community, stakeholder and general webinars – finishes this week, ahead of the closing of submissions at 5pm on Friday 14 April.

For more information on the FDS and how to have your say visit www.tasman.govt.nz/fds.

Growth Plan Change

We are also working on a plan change to rezone land for housing in Murchison, Brightwater, Mapua and Wakefield and to enable higher densities on residentially zoned land in Motueka. We are also

looking at enabling higher residential densities in the Brightwater, Māpua and Wakefield plan change areas.

The majority of the plan change areas were adopted in the 2019 Future Development Strategy (FDS). A plan change is the next step in the process after locations for new homes and businesses are identified in the FDS. The development of the 2022 FDS and the plan change to rezone land are working concurrently to enable Tasman to meet its growing demand for housing.

As we prepare to meet this potential demand, we want your input into how we can best accommodate the expected growth in our region and the proposed plan change areas and rules.

Consultation on the draft growth plan change will run from 14 March 2022 to 14 April 2022. We want your feedback on the draft plans and policy framework.

Your feedback will help to shape and refine the proposal before it goes through a formal legal plan change process under the Resource Management Act. The formal process includes notification, submissions, hearings, decision making and a right of appeal to the Environment Court.

Please go to our website at Tasman District Council and search 'Draft Changes and Planning Proposals' for more information.

Pomona Rd reservoir completion a watershed for works programme

The completion of the Pomona Rd reservoir project has signalled the end of a large programme of water and wastewater upgrades for Māpua and Ruby Bay, providing reliable infrastructure while also allowing for future growth in the area.

The completion of the reservoir project was acknowledged on 25 March, with council and contractors Fulton Hogan celebrating a job well done which will benefit residents for years to come.

The new 2500 cubic metre reservoir saw the creation of a new concrete tank, replacing the previous timber tank which leaked and lacked earthquake resilience.

Additional capacity was included to support residential and business growth.

The total allocated budget for the project is \$4.6M, which also included the Stagecoach reservoir upgrade completed last year, and the water pump station upgrade as part of the overall project.

It is one of six projects funded under the Crown Infrastructure Partners (CIP) programme which also included the installation of emergency storage tanks at pump stations, the Richmond West Trunk Watermain and Māpua reticulation.

The programme also included replacement water and wastewater trunk main in Māpua and Ruby Bay and wastewater upgrades – also to support growth and prevent overflows – and a new trunk main over the Best Island and Rabbit Island to replace the existing brittle pipe and provide for growth.

Other projects to be completed in the broader wastewater and water programme include upgrades of the source water bores, Māpua Water Treatment Plant.

The programme also created increased storage capacity at Stagecoach Road reservoir. Upgrade work also occurred at Aranui and Higgs Rd as well as Stafford Drive.

Tasman considers Dam cost overrun funding options

We are investigating options to address projected cost overruns for the Waimea Community Dam. This will include engagement with Waimea Irrigators Limited, the Government and other project funders.

Waimea Water Limited has advised that the estimated cost to complete the dam has risen to \$185m. This leaves a \$20m shortfall from earlier estimates.

Drivers of the cost increases include the location's geology, inflationary and construction pressures along with supply chain issues arising from the pandemic.

Council has included in its Draft Annual Plan for 2022/23 interest applied to the loans drawn to cover the \$20m shortfall currently estimated to be \$783Kpa.

This will be partly offset by a decrease in budgeted dam operating costs in 2022/23 as these will only commence partway through the year. This will be funded through increased water charges and local and district-wide targeted rates.

Council is also utilising income from its Enterprise Activities to cover the interest related to irrigator's share only for 2022/23 year as it investigates other funding options.

It is important that appropriate funding channels were used to share the costs appropriately until a clearer picture the impact the impending Three Waters Reform may have.

Council noted that with identified but unquantifiable risks remaining, further cost increases through to project completion cannot be ruled out.

A further update from Waimea Water Limited is expected in June 2022.

Moutere Eastern Groundwater Zone remains in Stage One Water restrictions

Stage 1 water restrictions, requiring a 20% reduction in allowable take, will continue for water permit holders in the Moutere Eastern Groundwater Zone for another fortnight, beginning Monday 28 March, 2022.

The rain that has been experienced has not had an appreciable upward lift in groundwater levels in the deep Moutere aquifers and any pumping after the rain will see further decline.

In the interests of ensuring some stability in aquifer levels the restrictions need to stay in place for 14 days, until Monday April 9, 2022.

We will continue to monitor the situation and if levels rise above the trigger for restrictions, they can be lifted.

Restriction of domestic water use within the rationed water management zone means watering of lawns or decorative gardens is not permitted, although stock drinking water is not restricted.

General conservation of water by those on council supplies was encouraged. Full details of the restrictions can be found at tasman.govt.nz/link/water-restrictions.