

Māpua Community Association update – June 2022

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Walking and Cycling Strategy moves forward

Our new Walking and Cycling Strategy has been adopted.

The strategy focuses on providing residents with safer choices about how they travel, by improving walking and cycling across the urban areas of Tasman and sets a framework for the creation of a high standard of connected cycle networks in those areas.

The strategy proposes:

- separated and protected on-road cycleways on key routes
- slow speed areas in our town centres
- some slow speed residential 'neighbourhood greenway' streets
- shared paths in some places
- safer crossings for pedestrians, particularly on busier roads and near schools.

Close to 250 submissions were received during the consultation process which led to a great deal of fine-tuning and amendments before the strategy was adopted by the Strategy and Policy Committee.

Targets within the strategy aim to get a much larger proportion of journeys to work and school by either walking or biking in the next 15 to 20 years.

This will create a safer transport environment, improve the health and wellbeing of our residents, and help reduce congestion and carbon emissions. This closely aligns with the Government's recently released Emissions Reduction Plan.

Building for the future

We are currently facing a dilemma regarding our main campus in Richmond. Made up of five buildings of different ages and construction, it has been known for some time they do not collectively meet current seismic standards.

It would cost \$20.6m to bring the campus up to current standards, whereas it would be between \$23 and \$26m for a new building and we consider it sensible not to invest good money on old buildings.

Retrofitting the current campus without improvements would leave us with a site that is siloed, inefficient and not supportive of current working practices or big enough for current staff levels.

We are already leasing extra space, adding to the inefficiency of our current accommodation. The current campus is of little relative value as it is neither modern, attractive nor has office space that could be easily leased or sold.

Already costing over \$1m a year to operate due to its deficiencies and age, it does not have a bright future. The Three Waters Reform and Local Government Review are unlikely to affect the need for appropriate space.

Services will still have to be locally delivered to the community regardless of the chosen framework. We will be discussing the possible impact of doing nothing with the current campus and the options that could be considered including:

- Scenario 1: (Council Build and Own) – a new Council-owned building on Council land on Queen Street.
- Scenario 2: (Council Land, Market Build and Own, Council Lease) – a building not owned by Council, built on Council land.
- Scenario 3: (Market Land, Build and Own, Council Lease) – we lease a development which requires entering a long term (minimum 20 years) market rental agreement.

All options will incorporate future value for ratepayers regardless of the future of Local Government in Tasman. As the discussion continues over the next year, residents will be able to contribute.

In-person Public forum attendance returning to Council meetings

Public attendance at council meetings is still being done via Zoom, not face to face at this stage.

However, we are now allowing public forum to be carried out in person for Council, Committee and Community Board meetings. However only one person at a time will be admitted into council chambers or meeting room. There is still no public gallery at this stage.

If you wish to speak at Public Forum, you are still required to register beforehand.

You are also still required to wear a face covering when visiting Council offices, libraries and indoor community facilities.

Future Development Strategy moves to joint committee stage

Deliberation hearings on the Nelson-Tasman Future Development Strategy 2022-2052 have concluded.

Staff and elected members from both Councils met at FDS workshop briefings in late May and deliberation hearings on May 31, June 1 and June 2. The public were able to join the deliberation hearings via Zoom.

The Nelson Tasman Future Development Strategy (FDS) Subcommittee, made up of staff and elected members from Tasman and Nelson city councils, deliberated on the key matters raised, guided by feedback from the community during the consultation period and reports provided to the subcommittee.

Staff will now begin updating the FDS based on the information that has emerged from deliberations including some amendments to sites.

The intention is for the Joint Committee of the Nelson City and Tasman District Councils to consider adopting the policy decisions arising from the FDS on 27 July 2022 and for the same Joint Committee to either consider adoption of the FDS itself or delegate adoption to the FDS Subcommittee by the end of August.

These decisions will enable us to shape the growth of Nelson City and the Tasman District over the next 30 years.

Information on overall progress of the strategy can be found at tasman.govt.nz/fds.

Do you know a community superhero?

Every year our Outstanding Community Service Awards officially recognise and celebrate the special people who make our communities a better place to live.

If you know one of these unsung heroes who works quietly away with little recognition, please get in touch and nominate them for one of our Outstanding Community Service Awards.

Nominations are open now and close on 31 August with an awards ceremony planned for later in the year. Please note, nominees must be residents of Tasman District and have been involved in a range of voluntary activities for 20 years or more.

Head to our website or one of our service centres to fill in an application form. Visit tasman.govt.nz/community-awards.

Stand for Tasman's future

Attention all first-timers and anyone considering standing for Tasman District Council in this year's local election.

Nominations open in mid-July for the 8 October election. Now is the time for potential candidates to be considering their nomination.

If this sounds like something that you would like to pursue, we welcome your interest.

To gain some background knowledge, we encourage those considering standing for council to contact someone who has been on council in the past and talk through what's involved in the role.

Another good option is to go to the Council's website and look at recent meeting agendas and take note of the topics, because those are the issues that councillors will be deciding on going forward.

Just getting a grasp of the general topics will give an overview of much of the work a councillor does.

More information is available on our website, tasman.govt.nz/elections.