

Māpua Community Association Update – October 2022

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A new Council and a new council term

The voting's over, the papers have been counted and election results are now available at tasman.govt.nz/elections, but to get to this point it has taken a detailed and thorough process.

The first step was progressive results. These were the votes counted by the deadline of noon last Saturday and were released a few hours after polls closed.

The second count yields the preliminary results – this is the count including those cast on the final day but counted after closing time, not including special votes.

The third count yields the final results and includes all votes received. Usually released in the week following the polls closing and these are now on our website.

So, what's happening now for the members of the new Tasman District Council and Community Boards?

For those who were successful in being re-elected, it will feel like business as usual, but for newcomers to the Council Chambers, there will be a whirlwind of training and introductions to systems and processes as well as the establishment of various committees.

The inaugural meeting and swearing in ceremony is on Thursday 27 October at Te Āwhina Marae in Motueka with the first formal Council meeting scheduled for Thursday 3 November.

Help us develop your Tasman Environment Plan

We are about to begin our next round of community engagement in developing a new environmental blueprint to shape the future of our District for generations to come.

We are in the process of replacing our current resource management plans with a single, modern version – Aorere ki uta, Aorere ki tai- Tasman Environment Plan (TEP).

Tasman is a great place to live. Though like the rest of New Zealand, we have some big environmental challenges and need to plan for future growth.

To create the new plan, we need to understand your views and knowledge on key issues.

This is important as despite the proposed reform of the RMA, the real world needs and challenges facing the people of Tasman remain the same.

Through quality policies, we can build greater resilience in the face of a changing climate and natural hazards, turn around biodiversity loss, retain productive rural land, protect and restore waterways, and plan for sustainable development.

Over the coming years, we will be working closely with Tasman communities to ensure the new TEP provides necessary environmental protection, restoration and community resilience.

This includes quality and appropriate development of Tasman's towns, local centres, rural areas, and coastal places, protecting and restoring our land and air, and applying a ki uta ki tai (from the mountains to the sea) approach to water management.

Our upcoming round of engagement will involve staff and councillors having conversations with you about Tasman's issues and opportunities and getting your feedback on how we should address them through the TEP.

What we learn will make a difference in how the TEP is shaped. Numerous community events and consultation opportunities are planned for November and December 2022.

These will be listed on our website environmentplan.tasman.govt.nz and various other channels soon.

End of Covid-19 restrictions

Following the Government announcement that the traffic light system is being retired, wearing a face mask while visiting our service centres and libraries is no longer required. Please respect anyone around you who still chooses to, or needs to, wear a face mask.

The clear screens on our counters will remain in place. With fewer people wearing masks, they give our front-line teams a level of protection and security.

Council meetings will take place in person and via Zoom, and public forum presenters can speak in person or online without the previous requirements of mask wearing and physical distancing.

Stock Control Bylaw adopted

Having heard and worked with the rural sector in recent weeks, an improved final bylaw has been adopted to enable a workable way of managing stock crossings and droving on roads in Tasman District.

The amended Stock Control and Droving Bylaw 2022 was presented to Full Council for consideration and adoption on 22 September 2022.

The bylaw is intended to ensure the activity goes ahead safely for drovers, animals and all people that use our roads.

The adopted version reflects the changes sought by a hearing panel in light of submissions received., It now allows farmers more flexibility to do what best suits their specific circumstances, while still ensuring the safety of all road users.

This allows the Council to still meet its objectives, but in a way that is more workable to farmers.

Under the terms of the new bylaw, stock refers to "any farm animal, including cattle, sheep, pigs, goats and deer, but excluding horses."

The final bylaw requires drivers to make reasonable efforts to avoid effluent on the road and includes the removal of specific requirements as to how the road is kept clear of excessive fouling for crossings - including the 50 metre set-back requirement.

Submissions made it clear that most farmers take their responsibilities to their community very seriously and are already doing a lot to ensure safety.

We thank the farming community for their positive engagement with the process and helpful suggestions.

While we didn't get it all right in the draft, the process added huge value to the end product.

While this bylaw seeks to minimise risks and hazards, we remind people driving what they have to do when they are driving on rural roads – be vigilant. There may well be stock and people on the road down the road.

The bylaw will come into effect on November 1, 2022.

Exciting plans for new Government funding in Tasman

New community facilities, upgrades for recreational activities, new transport projects, and an Iwi/Council cadetship scheme are just some of the initiatives Tasman District Council is hoping will benefit from its share of the government's Three Waters Better Off Support Funding Package.

At its final full council meeting on Thursday, councillors agreed to seven initiatives equating to 20 individual projects for its share of the Government's \$2 billion fund to invest in community wellbeing.

Tasman has been allocated a total of \$22.55 million, with \$5.64 million available now through tranche one. The money is in recognition of the significance of the transfer of responsibility for three waters service delivery.

The Council's priorities for use of the money included spreading the spending and benefits across every ward in the district and putting some of the funding towards debt reduction efforts or investing for future use.

A series of council workshops and discussions along with one-on-one meetings with community boards, Te Taihu Iwi, Nelson, and Marlborough Councils have assisted in identifying the projects the council wants to fund.

The Council wants to spread the funding across projects in every ward in the district to maximise the wellbeing benefits for our communities. This means investing in community spaces and recreation areas and supporting active transport options.

Some funding is also going towards costs that would otherwise be met by ratepayers or borrowing, such as accelerating planned future work or the costs of meeting new Water Services Act 2021 requirements.

The trial of a Council/iwi cadetship programme is expected to help grow iwi capacity and build capability to meet engagement demands.

The Council was required to submit its application to the Department of Internal Affairs, which is responsible for managing the funding, by the end of September.

Planned Projects and Initiatives relevant to Brightwater include \$1,000,000 for work to meet the new requirements of the Water Services Act 2021 and \$200,000 for feasibility work and detailed design of a Waimea Community Facility.

New bus routes on their way in 2023

New bus routes are on their way including daily express services to and from Wakefield and Motueka as we move toward more sustainable transport options in the District.

The newly announced reshaping of routes will see greater flexibility and improved connections right across the region's bus network from July 2023.

For example, the first morning Motueka express will depart Motueka with stops at Tasman, Māpua and Richmond West, then the Richmond and Nelson Hospital hubs before arriving in Nelson City prior to 8.00 am.

That service will make four return trips a day with the final one leaving Nelson City after 5.00 pm. Passengers will be able to connect to other routes via hubs at Richmond, Nelson Hospital and Nelson City.

The Wakefield service will be similar with stops at Brightwater, Hope and Richmond South before transiting the hubs at Richmond, Nelson Hospital, and Nelson City.

The development of a Nelson Airport route in the new network configuration will effectively mean Motueka and Wakefield residents will be able to ride to and from the airport by changing buses at Richmond and Tāhunanui.

At this stage, a fare structure is based on zones. Any travel within a zone is \$2. Any time you cross a zone the fare increases by \$2.

This collaboration between Tasman District and Nelson City Council will be introduced in July 2023.