

Māpua and District Community Association meeting update – October 2023

1. **Summary and next steps in Māpua Masterplan process**
2. **Tasman decides on a Māori Ward**
3. **Plenty of us are getting on board the ebus**
4. **You could qualify for a rates rebate**

Summary coming and next steps in Māpua Masterplan process

Thank you for your support of the Māpua Masterplan so far.

In the last month or so, we have enjoyed hearing and receiving the ideas and suggestions of the Māpua community about what is important to you.

Overall we have received more than 700 submissions in written, post it note, online or in-person format, while staff and Councillors spoke to over 350 people during the engagement sessions held on September 2nd and 14th.

As a result we have collected some valuable feedback from the in-person and online responses, all of which are now being collated.

We will create a summary of our findings, which will be published in the coming days.

The next steps involve staff working on options to address the issues and opportunities that have been presented, before undertaking a second round of community engagement on these options before the end of the year.

We will continue to keep everyone notified of our progress, including the confirmed dates for the next phase of engagement.

If you have any questions, you can get in touch with us at mapuamasterplan@tasman.govt.nz.

Tasman decides on a Māori Ward

We will have a Māori Ward for the 2025 and 2028 local body elections after Councillors voted for its establishment following recent legislation enabling Councils to make that representation change.

The one Māori Ward will sit across the entire District with one vacancy to be filled at the next local government election in October 2025. All people on the Māori electoral roll in Tasman will be able to vote for their preferred Māori Ward candidate.

The successful candidate will become a Councillor and provide Māori communities with fair and effective community representation.

The inclusion of the Māori Ward will now be part of the wider regional representation review. This review will include the location and nature of general wards and the number of Councillors in each ward. It will also investigate the structure of our Community Boards.

We expect to release a proposal for the representation review for public consultation next year

Plenty of us getting on board the ebus

There were 68,000 journeys on Nelson Tasman's new eBus service during its first month of operation, an impressive 68% increase compared with the average monthly usage from the last seven months (January to July) of the old service.

Patronage on the service continued to climb across the month with a 16% increase from week one to week four.

Between the launch of the service on Tuesday 1 August and the end of the month, there was an increase of 675 journeys a day.

The new Motueka and Wakefield routes are also proving to be popular with close to 3,000 journeys on the Motueka route alone across the month.

The strong and growing numbers through the first month show the new eBus service is succeeding and with petrol sitting at around \$3.00 a litre, the eBus is clearly helping some family budgets.

While the eBuses have made a great start, there are still a few bumps needing ironing out and we're going to continue to improve the service with some future refinements in timetables and routes.

Four weeks of real-time data can now be used to refine timetables and make improvements where possible.

There are processes that we need to go through before implementing any major changes, but we will be looking at one of the issues most raised – an earlier route 1 and 2 service from Nelson to Richmond.

You could qualify for a rates rebate

Help is available for lower-income earners to meet their annual rates bill. To be entitled to a rebate, you must be the person who pays the rates on the property that you live in full-time. You must also be listed as the ratepayer in our Rating Information Database (RID).

This database has all the information about rates and ratepayers for every property in our area. You can't claim a 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 like a holiday home.

Rebates are calculated based on your household income, rates and the number of dependents. If you have received a rates rebate in the past, you should have automatically received an application form and guide. Please apply as soon as you can, although you do have until 30 June 2024 to apply for a rebate for the current financial year.

If you're not sure if you're eligible, head to our website for more information – tasman.govt.nz and search 'rates rebates', otherwise call us on 03 543 8400 and we can check your eligibility for you.

