

## Māpua and District Community Association meeting update – March 2024

1. **Waimea Community Dam starts augmented water release**
2. **Next steps in Māpua Masterplan process**
3. **Your chance to influence our pest management plan**
4. **Tree damage underlines growing vandalism issue in Tasman Reserves**
5. **Prohibited Fire Season in place through Nelson Tasman**

### Waimea Community Dam starts water release

Waimea Water Ltd (WWL) has commenced releasing water from the reservoir to support relief from the worsening drought as the dry and warm summer conditions continue.

On Saturday 2 March 2024, water from the reservoir was released through the smaller of three permanent dispersing valves constructed to release water from the reservoir in dry periods.

Te Kurawai o Pūhanga, the reservoir behind the Waimea Community Dam, reached its full capacity and the spillway commenced flowing on Sunday 21 January 2024. However, over recent weeks, and as the work to transition to the permanent pipes was completed, the lack of rainfall saw the water flowing into the reservoir and out over the spillway reduce significantly.

WWL expects the two larger dispersing valves will be operational within the next two weeks, but in the meantime, the completed small valve has been made operational ahead of the other two.

The smaller fixed cone valve has increased flow into the Lee River at a time when it is severely needed.

As a result, we were able to lift water restrictions for most urban and consent holders across the Waimea Plains and Māpua/ Ruby Bay zones.

Release from the reservoir will be curtailed for periods over the next few days as some works are completed, but with the intention to run the valve at close to capacity outside of work needs and hours.

Once the other two dispersing valves are operational and their performance verified, the dam will be fully commissioned. Commissioning is scheduled for later in March.

### Next steps in Māpua Masterplan process

Thanks so much to everyone who attended our community drop-in sessions on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> February.

We're extremely grateful for your support and your feedback on the options and actions we have developed.

By 20 February – we had already received more than 400 pieces of feedback from the community – provided in person, in writing or through our Shape Tasman page.

Just as impressive was having more than 200 people attend the February 29 session - an amazing turnout. Thank you!

We expected this high level of responses to continue right through until the close of this feedback round on Sunday March 10.

It is important to clarify that nothing has been pre-determined at this stage and any suggestions that we are putting forward are only options for consideration.

Several more steps are still to come in the process – and therefore more opportunities for the public to make their voice heard are available to you.

Once we have completed our consultation of Masterplan options, we will then finalise a draft Masterplan for public review.

It's at this stage that submissions, hearings and deliberations will take place, after which we will make the final decision on the Masterplan.

We will, of course, keep you up to date around these dates and opportunities.

The end outcome is that we can produce a final Masterplan that reflects the views and aspirations of the Māpua community, and which will be implemented through methods such as plan changes and 10-Year Plan funding.

If you have any questions, you can get in touch with us at

[mapuamasterplan@tasman.govt.nz](mailto:mapuamasterplan@tasman.govt.nz).

## Your chance to influence our pest management plan

We are seeking your feedback on a partial review proposal to amend the Tasman-Nelson Regional Pest Management Plan 2019 – 2029 (RPMP) which allows for rules around new pests and refines our current policies. This is your opportunity to influence pest management activities and policies in our region.

As with the development of the current RPMP in 2018/2019, the partial review proposal is a collaborative effort between Tasman District and Nelson City Councils.

The proposal intends to declare blue passion flower, moth plant, common and purple pampas, water celery, Vietnamese parsley and several pest and wilding conifer trees as new pests in the whole, or parts of, Tasman-Nelson.

It also serves to amend existing pest policies and rules around boneseed, Mediterranean fanworm (Sabella) and feral/stray cats, placing new obligations on occupiers of land and marine craft/structures accordingly.

The partial review proposal does not otherwise affect the current RPMP, except for minor changes required to update the plan and reflect the inclusion of the new sections, policies and rules.

We will consider all submissions before making amendments to the RPMP. A hearing is planned for 27 May, before we finalise the amended plan in June. Both Councils are expected to approve and adopt the plan later in the year.

Visit [shape.tasman.govt.nz/pest-plan](http://shape.tasman.govt.nz/pest-plan) for more information and to share your feedback. Alternatively, you can write to: The Chief Executive, Tasman District Council, 189 Queen Street, Private Bag 4, Richmond 7050.

## Tree damage underlines growing vandalism issue in Tasman Reserves

We're asking two things of people as we look to reduce the level of damage to our parks and reserves. If you feel the need to damage property – take a breath, it's not yours. If you see it – let us know.

We've recently had nine Himalayan Oak trees in Hoddy Estuary Park ring-barked, seemingly intending to kill them, as well as two other trees cut down in another area of the reserve.

The Himalayan Oaks are a particularly sad loss, given they were planted by the community back when the park first opened more than 15 years ago, and they were developing into beautiful trees.

Unfortunately, this is an example of a wider trend that we are seeing across Tasman, where members of the public are damaging exotic species in our green spaces.

In the past month, our Reserves team have also had to deal with numerous incidents of theft and vandalism at other spaces – including Washbourn Gardens, White Gate Reserve and Wakefield.

These actions are illegal and could result in prosecution by the police if the culprits are identified. Instead, this takes up thousands of dollars and many staff and contractor hours that should be spent on projects and items that enhance, rather than destroy community facilities.

We're frustrated and extremely disappointed that people have taken it upon themselves to cause damage in various forms – there is nothing accidental or naive about this and the actions of a few with obvious issues ruin the opportunity for everyone else to use and enjoy these spaces.

Please call us on 03 543 8400 to report any damage or provide information that could help us identify those responsible and reduce the incidence of vandalism taking place.

## Prohibited Fire Season in place through Nelson Tasman

FENZ has announced the Coastal, Waimea and Nelson North zones in Nelson Tasman moved to a prohibited fire season from 6am on Saturday 17 February, until further notice.

A prohibited fire season means no outdoor fires are allowed and all fire permits are suspended. Persistent hot and dry weather, above average winds and below average rainfall has increased the fire danger.

We've had a heavy build up of grass across the District following the wet winter and spring which has now dried out and is posing a significant fire risk.

These are the conditions where wildfires start easily and can quickly get very difficult to control.

For example the recent Lee Valley fire on 7 February started from sparks igniting roadside grass and then spreading into forestry.

FENZ asks that people be cautious and not carry out activities that pose a fire risk, such as mowing, welding, and driving through long grass.

If you must mow your lawn or undertake any farm activity that's likely to generate sparks, do it first thing in the morning when it is still cool..

People can also take simple steps to make their properties easier to defend against fire.

This includes:

- Clearing flammable material from 10m around homes and buildings.
- Moving firewood stacked against houses
- Clearing gutters of dried leaves etc that will easily catch fire
- Clearing flammable material from under decks
- Trimming trees and bushes and removing the trimmings
- Keeping grass short (using a trimmer with a nylon line is safer in these conditions than a mower or trimmer with a metal blade that could create a spark)

Go to [www.checkitsalright.nz](http://www.checkitsalright.nz) for further tips on how to stay fire safe.