

# NEWSLINE

PĀNUI

5 MARCH 2021  
ISSUE 492

## Waimea Dam features largely in Long Term Plan

You will have heard by now that Waimea Water Ltd, the company building the Waimea Dam, has announced an increase of the price estimate for completion, rising from \$129.4 million to an estimate of \$158.4 million. We were expecting a price increase due to the impact of Covid-19 on the timeline and other drivers and had budgeted for an increase of up to \$8 million. Obviously, this number has been surpassed.

While the increased cost is disappointing for everyone involved, the dam is now over 50% complete so there is very little choice open to the Council but to provide for the costs and support the delivery of the project. The dam is providing for a long-term solution to the region's urban and rural water supply challenges, while also providing for the social, environmental and cultural values of the river.

The Council relied on the best advice available to scope and price the dam prior to giving the 'go-ahead'. Despite the significant time and investment, it is now clear the risks were under-estimated and this, alongside the impact of Covid-19, has resulted in the situation that we find ourselves in today.

At last week's Council meeting, where it was hoped our Long Term Plan (LTP) would be adopted for consultation, Councillors agreed to defer adoption of the LTP to provide time for staff to identify a way forward for the LTP in light of the price increase. We still have to adopt an LTP by 30 June, including a period of public consultation and deliberations.

Staff have had to quickly identify and investigate the options available for how it is to be paid for and by who. Council considered the information and agreed a way forward at the meeting.

The solution provided to the Council to consider sees a small increase in the overall projected

rates revenue increase, from 4.5% to 4.54% in year 1 of the LTP. The Council will also need to increase its proposed net debt limit of \$260 million to \$282 million. The increase to \$282 million is still well within the Council's borrowing limits. The revised debt level also provides enough headroom to respond to an unexpected event like a natural disaster.

The proposal will now be incorporated into a revised Long Term Plan Consultation Document for Council consideration on 18 March. The new proposed dates for consultation are 24 March to 24 April, with hearings being held 3–7 May.

# MAYOR'S MESSAGE



By now, you will be aware of the increased price estimate for the completion of the Waimea Dam and the Council's proposed response to it. This is extremely disappointing and frustrating especially on the eve of releasing our draft LTP for consultation, which we have had to defer until 18 March.



I am certain this project is beyond the essential and sustainable supply of freshwater for both urban needs and irrigation. It is about how the partnerships between central and local government and other groups within our community work. Many of the most significant challenges we face throughout the district; housing, climate change, freshwater management and growth for example, are going to require such partnerships to succeed and how we respond collectively to this challenge will determine the success

of partnerships in the future.

Councils around the country face huge pressures to meet the demands of both increasing standards and growth. It is infrastructure projects like this that provide part of the reason for the imminent 'three waters' legislation that will fundamentally change who will provide water, wastewater and stormwater services to their communities.

We are looking to deliver a LTP consultation document outlining our plans to cater for our growth and

other challenges covering a huge range of projects across all Council responsibilities for the next 10 years.

We are operating in a time of unprecedented change and uncertainty, which will not make any of these already difficult decisions easier.

I encourage everybody to take an interest, even if it is only about a specific project or service within the plan and provide feedback.

**Mayor Tim King**

## Home insulation subsidies make a difference

Tasman District Council contributed \$20,000 to the Warmer Healthier Homes Te Tau Ihu Charitable Trust, for use in the current financial year. The Trust provides grants to retrofit insulation into qualifying owner-occupied homes across Te Tau Ihu (top of the South).

The Trust works alongside the Energy Efficiency Conservation Authority's Warmer Kiwi Homes grant scheme. The grant made by the Council enabled the Trust to leverage a further \$180,000 from central Government.

Within Tasman the programme has helped to insulate 128 homes in the first six months to 31 December 2020, one of these was in the Waimea Village. The Trust has also insulated a number of homes in Nelson and Marlborough.

Heating and insulation can make a massive difference to your health. Having adequate home insulation can also mean that you use less wood in your wood burner, which in turn helps reduce air pollution in winter.

To be eligible for a grant, you will need to be the homeowner (owner-occupied):

- Of a home built before 2008, AND Have a Community Services Card or SuperGold combo card (with CSC endorsement); OR

- Live in an area identified as low income. In Tasman, this includes some areas of Richmond and Motueka in particular.

Homeowners can find out if they qualify for a grant (90 – 100% subsidy) by contacting the project contractor, Absolute Energy.

[absoluteenergy.co.nz](http://absoluteenergy.co.nz)

# Nelson-Tasman Regional Public Transport Plan 2021 – 2031



We're asking for feedback on the Nelson-Tasman Regional Public Transport Plan (RPTP) 2021 – 2031. This sets our two Council's public transport priorities for the next three years.

We are proposing some changes to the bus services in Richmond and Nelson to improve the public transport service. In addition, running public transport services to Wakefield and Motueka. We are now seeking feedback from the wider community to see if there is support for the changes we're considering.

Some of the proposals include:

- New urban routes between 7.00 am and 7.00 pm, seven days per week.
- Hourly weekend service.
- Single urban fare.
- Community Transport services to Motueka, Golden Bay, Wakefield and Hira.
- Morning and evening bus to Motueka and Wakefield.
- Super stops at Richmond, Stoke, Tahunanui, Hospital and Nelson.

There are further improvements planned for forthcoming years.

## PROPOSED NEW BUS SERVICES

**Route 1:** Nelson > Hospital > Bishopdale > Stoke > Richmond  
+ Extension to Māpua > Tasman > Motueka

**Route 2:** Nelson > Tahunanui > Nayland > Stoke > Richmond  
+ Extension to Hope > Brightwater > Wakefield

**Route 3:** Atawhai > Nelson > Victory > Hospital

**Route 4:** The Brook > Nelson > Washington Valley > Tahunanui > Airport



# Te Taihu Regional Land Transport Plan 2021 – 2031

We're also seeking feedback on the Draft Te Taihu Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP) 2021 – 2031.

We've worked with Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency, Marlborough District and Nelson Councils to draft the plan which prioritises the transport projects for the next seven years and seeks funding for them.

Here are some of the proposed projects for Tasman that we'd like your thoughts on:

- A package of projects to improve walking and cycling facilities throughout the district.
- Changes to the transport network in Richmond.
- Improved transport routes to cater for growth in Richmond West.
- Safety improvements on SH6 between Richmond and Wakefield and on SH60 between Richmond and Motueka.
- Improvements to public transport.

**Get all the details on both the Regional Public Transport Plan and the Regional Land Transport Plan on our website, [tasman.govt.nz/feedback](https://tasman.govt.nz/feedback) or check out a hard copy at the Council offices in Richmond, Motueka, Tākaka and Murchison. Both include details of how to have your say. We'd love to hear from you by 5pm Wednesday 17 March 2021.**

# Gambusia: Pest of the Month

Gambusia are a very small fish, with an olive-green body and silvery-white belly, and are found in about 53 drains and creeks along the coast of Tasman Bay, from Riuwaka to the Nelson Golf Course.

These tiny fish are native to North America and were introduced to New Zealand in 1930 in the belief that they could control mosquito populations. Unfortunately, gambusia also eat other native aquatic invertebrates that can help control mosquito populations, and in some circumstances, this can actually lead to an increase in mosquito numbers. They also cause harm to native fish species. As such, they are considered an unwanted organism in New Zealand

and it is illegal to breed, release or keep them.

The Department of Conservation is now assessing the feasibility of eradicating this pest fish from the South Island. If you see this fish, please report the specific location to your local DOC or Council office, and always remember to thoroughly clean boats and fishing gear once it has been in contact with water to avoid the spread of other aquatic pests.

*Supplied by Renan Falleiros*



## Camping ambassadors busy around the district

Our Freedom Camping ambassadors are out and about all summer, helping our visitors get acquainted with the rules around camping the ensuring they have a great holiday and our environment is well-looked after.

Thanks to a grant from the central government Responsible Camping Funding, the Ambassadors are working more hours per week and will be available right through until the end of March.

Here's a snapshot of what the team have been up to lately.

- Recommending alternative nearby accommodation for three kiwis on a cycling trip who found they

weren't able to pitch their tents where they expected.

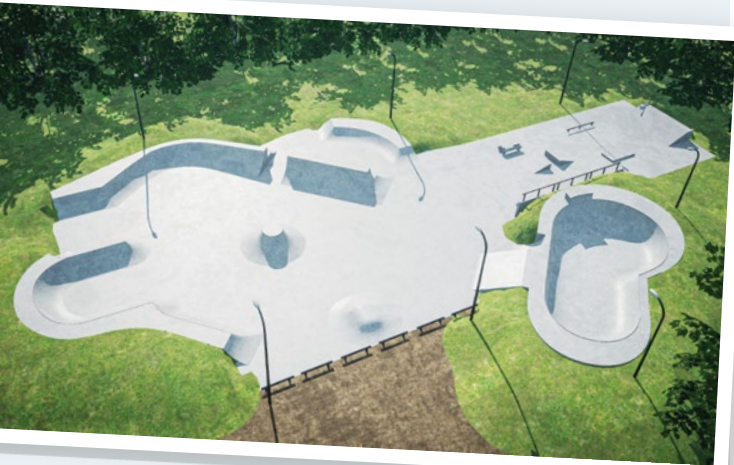
- Advising one couple of the difference between simply buying a "self-contained" sticker for their van and the actual authorisation involved.
- With assistance from a local resident, helping out a camper whose van got stuck.

Building on partnerships with

community stakeholders remains a key function of the Freedom Camping Ambassadors. The team regularly connects with i-SITE staff, where they are always warmly welcomed, and help with questions about the changes in the bylaw and options for camping in the area.

They also send campers in the right direction to find their nearest café, shops and activities to enjoy while they spend time in our amazing region.

An advertisement for DO (Davis Ogilvie) Engineers / Surveyors / Planners. The background is a black and white photograph of a surveying instrument on a tripod in a mountainous landscape. The text is white and yellow. The logo 'THINK PLAN DO' is prominent, with 'DO' in yellow. Below it, 'Engineers / Surveyors / Planners' is written. A list of services includes 'Land Surveying / Resource Management', 'Environmental Science / Geotechnical Engineering', and 'Civil and Structural Engineering'. Contact information includes the phone number '0800 999 333', email 'nelson@do.nz', and website 'www.do.nz'. The address is 'Level 1, 42 Oxford Street, Richmond 7020'. The company name 'do DAVIS OGILVIE' is at the bottom, with 'ENGINEERS / SURVEYORS / PLANNERS' underneath.



## Proposed Motueka skatepark upgrade

We have spoken to some of the skatepark users at Old Wharf Road, Motueka, and come up with a vision of an improved skatepark that will provide for different skill levels.

Depending on the final plan and available budget, the potential upgrade has been broken into three separate stages. Should funding become available and due to the cost of the overall upgrade, it could be completed over a number of years.

- Enhance the existing park to provide new features including a volcano, roller bump and 8 foot quarter with 3 metre channel gap.
- A 'plaza' area that allows new riders, skaters and juniors to gain skills and confidence while separating them from more experienced users.
- A 6–8 foot bowl to provide additional challenges for skaters, scooters and riders.

### Tell us what you think

Does this design meet your current and future needs? Is there anything else you would like to see included? In what order would you prefer the stages to be completed? Do you have any other comments?

**You can provide feedback online at [tasman.govt.nz/feedback](http://tasman.govt.nz/feedback) up until Monday 22 March. For further information please contact Lynne Hall, email [lynne.hall@tasman.govt.nz](mailto:lynne.hall@tasman.govt.nz) or phone 03 543 8492.**

## Stricken ship found a safe harbour in Tasman



A crack in the hull of the 290 metre long, 92,000 tonne sand carrier *Taharoa EOS* sent it into Tasman Harbour for repair last week, creating a curious feature on the Nelson Tasman horizon for some time.

The Singaporean-flagged ship, owned by Stella Faith Shipping, was not in distress. There was no oil leak or danger to the crew nor to the environment. Although water was entering one of the vessel's ballast tanks through a crack in the hull, the vessel's pumps were able to remove it.

In granting permission to enter waters administered by Council, there were a number of steps to take, said Tasman Harbour master Dan Cairney.

"We enlisted the services of the appropriate marine surveyors and engineers to report on the extent of the repairs that needed to be undertaken. While we have a responsibility to assist a ship in need, we were very conscious of the responsibility to ensure it did not in any way pose a risk to our environment, either while anchored or through the repairs that needed to be made."

*Taharoa EOS* was due to enter New Zealand waters at 0500 hours Sunday February 21, and was destined to berth at the Taharoa iron sands buoy, about 140m south of Auckland, to load iron sand. When the crack was discovered, it diverted to Tasman Bay, the nearest safe anchorage.

"The vessel sat outside the 12-mile limit until the necessary checks were made and only when the necessary reports were made by independent experts did we feel comfortable letting her in," Dan said.

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## Richard's working for Wakefield

We're continuing our series of profiles of the winners of 2020's Outstanding Community Service Awards, paying tribute to those who work so hard to make our District richer for everyone. This week, we're celebrating Wakefield's Richard Martin.

Part of a long-standing Wakefield family, Richard grew up to next to the local sportsground, and, like his father, became part of the Wakefield Domain Board and the Wakefield Recreational Reserve Committee when Council took ownership. As well as serving on the Wakefield Community Council for many years, he's spent 30 years on the Nelson A&P Association Show Committee, which he joined in 1978. President in 1988 and 2002, he was appointed a Life Member in 2009.

Richard and the Martins joined the Nelson Rowing Club in 2005 when daughter Chelsea took on the sport and he has served on the committee for eight years, the last

four years as President, a position he still holds. Recently, the Martins refenced their former property to allow public access to the Wai-iti River, helping create a walkway that links Wakefield Recreation Reserve with Edward Baigent Reserve, which led to its subsequent purchase by Council.

Richard's nominator, Wakefield's Colin Gibbs, says Richard was also a key driver of establishing the Wakefield School and Community Pool and the Wai-iti Dam build, both important community resources.

"He's someone who's not scared to say a few words when needed and is a good community man for Wakefield."



**AWESOME  
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Richard says he's always believed that the passion and lead for community projects has to come from its people.

"We live in a day and age where people go 'Oh what are council doing?' But if you want to live in a strong community then you have to create it. It has to come from within."

## Keep saving water

Although we're entering autumn, it's important that we keep saving water.

Please check our website and the radio for updates on the current restrictions in place.

Even if restrictions aren't in place for you, we all need to conserve water as much as possible. There's lots you can do at home and at work to reduce your water use. Check them out at [tasman.govt.nz/water-saving-tips](http://tasman.govt.nz/water-saving-tips) and remember, every drop counts!

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# NEWSLINE UPDATES



KEEPING YOU INFORMED ABOUT NEWS AND EVENTS IN THE TASMAN DISTRICT • 5 MARCH 2021

## Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund

The Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund applications are now invited until 30 April. The Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund offers help with travel costs for rural sports clubs and rural school teams. The fund is to help young people aged from 5 to 19 participate in local sports competitions. Sport NZ fully funds the Rural Travel Fund, which Council administers locally on their behalf. The next funding round closes on 30 April 2021. Head to [tasman.govt.nz/grants](http://tasman.govt.nz/grants) to check out the funding guidelines and complete an application form.

## Maritime events

**Event activity:** Classic Boat Show

**Date and location:** Saturday 6 & Sunday 7 March, Lake Rotoiti, Kerr Bay.

**Event activity:** Power Boat Regatta

**Date and location:** Saturday 13 & Sunday 14 March, Lake Rotoiti, Kerr Bay

**Event activity:** Queen Charlotte Yacht Club Racing

**Date and location:** Saturday 20 & Sunday 21 March, Lake Rotoiti

Further details for these and any new events may be viewed at [tasman.govt.nz/maritime-events](http://tasman.govt.nz/maritime-events). The Harbourmaster has granted authorisation for these events under the provisions of the Navigation Safety Bylaw 2015.

## Register to speak at a public forum

The public forum in Council meetings is a popular avenue for residents to discuss issues, make suggestions or ensure their councillors are aware of important points of interest. As the forum is very popular as an effective channel to meet with elected members, we need to manage the number of people wishing to speak. To ensure everyone has the best opportunity to speak at the meetings, please register your intention to speak with us before the meeting. To register, please complete the simple form on our website, [tasman.govt.nz](http://tasman.govt.nz) (search 'public forum') or call us on 03 543 8400 at least 48 hours before the meeting you wish to speak at.

## Last call for Creative Communities funding applications

Tasman District Council's Creative Communities Scheme has funding available for groups and individuals to run arts projects in our area and applications are invited until 10 March 2021. Visit [tasman.govt.nz/creative-communities](http://tasman.govt.nz/creative-communities) for more information and to complete an application form.

## COUNCIL HUI



Unless otherwise stated, all meetings will be held at Council Chambers, 189 Queen Street, Richmond. Access to meetings will continue to be available via Zoom video conferencing for those who are unable to attend in person. See [tasman.govt.nz/meetings-calendar](http://tasman.govt.nz/meetings-calendar) for details.

**Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit**  
Friday 5 March, 9.30 am. Public forum

**Golden Bay Community Board**  
Tuesday 9 March, 9.30 am. Collingwood Fire Station, Elizabeth Street, Collingwood. Public forum

**Accessibility for All**  
Friday 12 March, 10.00 am. Community meeting

**Joint Committee**  
Tuesday 16 March, 9.30 am. Nelson City Council, 110 Trafalgar Street, Nelson. No public forum

**Motueka Community Board**  
Tuesday 16 March, 4.00 pm Motueka Service Centre, 7 Hickmott Place, Motueka. Public forum

**Audit and Risk**  
Thursday 18 March, 1.30 pm. No public forum


**Nelson Tasman Regional Landfill Business Unit**  
Friday 19 March, 1.30 pm. No public forum

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# WHAT'S ON IN TASMAN



## Children's Day / Te Rā o Ngā Tamariki

**Sunday 7 March, 10.00 am – 2.00 pm.**

In partnership with the Richmond Aquatic Centre, we are hosting a day of interactive games and activities as part of national Children's Day. There will be sports competitions, art and science activities, a stage with young performers, face painting, archery, tug of war, music from Kath Bee and magic with Faerie Lou. You can also swim at the Aquatic Centre for just a gold coin donation on the day and don't forget you can access the Centre from the slip road off the Richmond Deviation.

## Finding the funding for your community project

Need some money for your community event or project? Come along to one of two Community Development and Funding Roadshows in March to find out what's available and how to apply for funding to make it happen. Whether

your idea is big or small, needs just a few dollars or a bit more, this info session will help you figure out how to access community funding.

Community partnerships co-ordinator Gary Alsop says the roadshows will cover a wide range of opportunities. "It's from one end of the scale to the other: projects, events, workshops, community initiatives, or social services; it's open to everyone."

The Roadshows include information and presentations from Council, the Rata Foundation, Department of Internal Affairs, Te Pūtahitanga o Te Waipounamu, Sport Tasman, and the Office of Ethnic Communities.

Topics covered include funding and resources, sustainability and resilience, and expo stalls.

Each organisation will host a stall after the main presentations, where you can discuss your funding and community development opportunities in further detail.

The two events will be held in Motueka on **Thursday 18 March from 10.00 am – 1.00 pm** at St Thomas Hall, 101 High St, Motueka; and in Nelson/Stoke on **Thursday 25 March from 10.00 am – 1.00 pm** at the Pūtangitangi Greenmeadows Community Centre.

Register at [Eventbrite.co.nz](https://www.eventbrite.co.nz). This event is brought to you by the Nelson Tasman Funders Network.

## Take and Make for Book Lovers

Motueka Library has free Take and Make Book Lovers Notebook kits available for bibliophiles of all ages to collect. Simply drop in to Motueka Library **until 31 March** to pick up your perfect little artsy journal.

## The Hippy Years

Geoff Rennison will be at Tākaka Library on **Tuesday 16 March at 2.00pm** to talk about his hippie years in Totaranui – and how a small team created a revolution in Green Management. It's free to attend and everyone is welcome.

## Events during Alert Level changes

If you're wondering whether an event at your local library has been postponed or cancelled due to Alert Level changes, visit the What's On page on [tasmanlibraries.govt.nz](https://tasmanlibraries.govt.nz) to check. We keep our What's On page updated with the latest information so you know whether the event or group you've been looking forward to attending is still taking place.

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