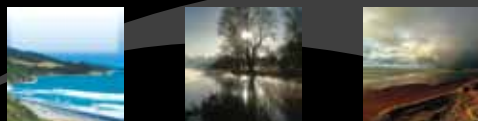


Feb - Mar 2012



LINK

Waikato District News

Council prepares for the future

In April, the council will be consulting on the draft Long Term Plan, which provides the detail of the council's plans for the next 10 years to 2022.

Potential growth and economic development are both challenges and opportunities which will have a big impact on our district. The infrastructure and facilities needed to provide for a bigger population will put demands on the council's budgets during the next 10 years. Equally, growth also provides us with the potential to grow economically.



Meridian Wind Farm at Te Uku

Major projects will be included in the draft plan. Some are necessary to maintain the services we have, others to provide for the long term. Whatever we decide, we also have to ensure we balance our work programme with our resources – are we prepared to reduce or retain existing levels of service to achieve other objectives?

Developing our economy

Waikato district's economy has great potential – we're already seeing increased development in the northern part of the district and this trend will continue.

Following our economic summit last year, we intend to act as a facilitator, to develop connections with and between businesses and industries and the community as a whole.

It is through strong relationships and active partnerships that our district will generate jobs and maximise the value of our considerable resources.

Decision-making

Once we've received your responses to the draft plan, the council will consider your viewpoints as it decides what will go ahead, what will change and what will be put on hold.

Some of the critical criteria for these decisions are affordability and sustainability, ensuring we can maintain our present assets, being open to changing our levels of service, thinking long term and strategically, and being realistic about what we can achieve.

Some of the major projects are highlighted on page 7. There are other major initiatives, such

as the Waikato Expressway, with portions of state highway to be made over to the council as local roads, adding considerably to the maintenance budget. This also means we have to consider its effect on the development of some of our townships.

We're also reviewing how we provide our library services in cooperation with Hamilton City, so that we can continue to provide a great library service to all users, while keeping our costs down.

These are just a few of the questions and issues that will be in the 2012 – 2022 Draft Long Term Plan.

You'll hear more about it all in April, when the draft plan is released for public consultation. ■

Mayor's message



Welcome everybody to 2012, I hope your Christmas and New Year break was safe and relaxing.

The year ahead will be a busy one and I'd like to remind you that the council's Long Term Plan, which outlines our vision over the next decade, will be released for public consultation over the next couple of months. We have many challenges facing our region, but opportunities as well, and I'd urge you to get involved and have your say in shaping the future of the Waikato.

An issue I'd like to reflect on is one that led to some contention among farmers last year in the former Franklin district area that is now a part of the Waikato district: the bylaw regarding the movement of stock on public roads.

I know that farming lies at the very heart of the Waikato economy and your council is committed to supporting farmers in any way we can.

However when it comes to the issue of moving stock on public roads, your council also has a duty to act on behalf of all road users and protect the interests of ratepayers by minimising damage to roads.

Above all the driving factor behind this bylaw is safety. The safety of farmers, the safety of motorists and the safety of stock.

It's important to realise that as the population in the Waikato district continues to grow there are more cars on our rural roads, travelling at higher speeds. We did not want to sit back and wait for accidents to happen before addressing this issue.

The Livestock Movement Bylaw provides a simple set of rules covering the movement of stock, rules which have been well accepted in the existing Waikato district for a number of years. We are taking a common sense approach in a bid to minimise the cost to farmers: this means stock underpasses will not be required in a number of cases.

I want to assure farmers that we have listened and incorporated their feedback into a bylaw that represents the best outcome for everyone.



Allan Sanson
Waikato District Mayor
mayor@waidc.govt.nz



Safety first *with livestock movement bylaw*

Travellers on rural roads in the northern part of the Waikato district can expect to see many more flashing amber lights, stock signs and dayglo vests from 1 July.

On this date, farmers in the former Franklin district area that is now part of the Waikato district will come under the Waikato District Council Livestock Movement Bylaw passed in 2011.

The bylaw protects the safety of farmers and road users with simple rules that govern how stock can be moved on public roads said general manager of roading and projects Ian Gooden.

"The bylaw that we have best meets the differing needs of farmers, road users, and the council as the custodian of the roads," Mr Gooden said.

The bylaw identifies four types of stock movement.

- In urban areas or roads which have more than 2,000 vehicles a day, moving stock is prohibited.
- On sealed roads, livestock will need a Livestock Movement Permit.
- On unsealed roads, livestock can be moved without a permit subject to certain conditions.
- All movement of dairy stock will require a Dairy Crossing Permit, regardless of whether the road is sealed or unsealed.

Permits are issued for free, allow for multiple crossings, and are valid for up to five years. Regardless of whether a permit is required safety measures will be required when moving stock, including warning signs, flashing amber lights and dayglo safety vests. Farmers will have an obligation to minimise the impact of stock on the road surface, and to avoid leaving excess muck behind.

Farmers should apply for permits early, and get up to speed with the bylaw ahead of 1 July, urged Mr Gooden.

For further information and a copy of the bylaw visit www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz or contact Judy Whanga on (07) 824 8633.



Customer needs Survey

► Have your say!

Waikato District Council is committed to having strong and positive relationships with our customers. This survey will give us an overview of your needs, identify the areas we need to improve and highlight aspects of value. We'd also like to hear your suggestions on how we can improve the way we do business based on your needs going into the future.

As you answer the questions please only consider your relationship with us as a Waikato district resident or ratepayer and not any dealings you have had with us as a contractor or supplier.

Your identification and your answers are completely confidential. If you'd like your answers to be identified as coming from you, there is an opportunity to do so at the end of the survey.

The survey will take less than 10 minutes to complete. If you would prefer to complete the survey online please see the feedback options listed at the end of this survey (page 6 of Link).

We need to receive your completed responses by **4pm Wednesday 28 March 2012** to make sure we can include your views.

Thank you for your feedback.

Please tick your preferred options

1 Please identify which group you belong to

- Property owner
- Tenant
- Short-term resident
- Other method (please specify) _____

Organisation

2 Considering your organisation's dealings with Waikato District Council, how do you currently tend to communicate with us?

Please select all that apply below.

- In person
- By phone
- Mail
- Email
- Text
- Other method (please specify) _____
- I don't currently deal with Waikato District Council

 Please tick your preferred options

Organisation

3 How would you prefer to deal with Waikato District Council?

Please select all that apply below.

- In person By phone Mail Email Text
- Other method (please specify) _____ I don't currently deal with Waikato District Council

Information

4 How would you prefer to get general information from Waikato District Council? By general information we mean information about what Waikato District Council is doing and planning that is relevant to all stakeholders.

Please select all that apply below.

- Email Physical newsletter Email newsletter Waikato District Council website
- Personal visit Telephone call Other method (please specify) _____
- Not interested in this sort of information

Social responsibility

5 What do you think are the positive aspects of your dealings and relationship with Waikato District Council?

Please be as specific as possible when filling in your answer below.

Social responsibility

6 How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of these statements?

Please select one for each statement.

	Strongly agree	Slightly agree	Slightly disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Waikato District Council values its relationship with me	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I feel that my relationship with Waikato District Council is valuable	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Waikato District Council is genuine in its dealings with me	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Goals

7 What are the things about your relationship with Waikato District Council that frustrate you or that you think could be improved?

Please be as specific as possible when filling in your answer below.

8 Generally, what do you require from Waikato District Council in your dealings with us?

Please be as specific as possible when filling in your answer below.

Goals

9 What would you like Waikato District Council to do for you?

Please be as specific as possible when filling in your answer below.

10

Are there any other comments you'd like to make about Waikato District Council before finishing the survey?

Five horizontal lines for writing comments.

Fold here

We will keep your answers confidential and we cannot identify individuals or their responses in this survey. However, we would find it useful to know what people have said so we can address any specific issues.

11

Are you willing to allow us to identify your individual responses as belonging to you?

Please select one only.

Yes, I'm happy for my responses to be identified as mine

Name _____

No, I would like my answers to be anonymous

FreePost Authority Number 803



Corporate Planning
Waikato District Council
Private Bag 544
Ngaruawahia 3742

Fold here

Ways to send your feedback

Feedback needs to be returned to Waikato District Council by 4pm on Wednesday 28 March 2012

1. Fill out this feedback form and return it using the Freepost envelope provided
2. Complete the survey online at our website www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz
3. Download a copy of the questionnaire from our website www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz (in the Have Your Say section)
4. Email your response to corporateplanner@waidc.govt.nz



During February cyclists around the country have been participating in the Bike Wise Challenge 2012. Bike Wise is an annual competition between organisations to see who can get the most staff to ride a bike for at least 10 minutes or 2 km during the four week challenge period.

The Waikato District Council Bike Wise team has won the Waikato regional challenge for 100-499 staff for two years in a row, and welcomes all competition.

"It's been a great way to get staff involved in a fun event, and to promote biking as a sustainable, fun and healthy means of transport," said Richard Bax of Waikato District Council's internal sustainability group Waste Not.

The winner is decided on the percentage of participation in a department or organisation, based on the total number of staff/members in the organisation, so the more staff taking part the greater the chances of winning.



Major consultations coming

In April, the council will be consulting on its draft 2012 – 2022 Long Term Plan. While we want as much community input as possible to the plan as a whole, there will be some separate consultation issues included.

The major ones are minimising our waste and our proposed Three Waters strategy to deal with water, wastewater and stormwater.

Your viewpoints will provide the council with an understanding of what you as the community think about these issues. Some background is provided here so you can think about and discuss the issues before the formal consultation process opens in April.

Three Waters Strategy

How we manage water in the future is going to be vital to our progress as a district. The Waikato and Waipa District Councils, Hamilton City Council, Waikato Regional Council and Tangata Whenua have developed a strategy to address the issues around our water, wastewater and stormwater management, looking towards 2059.

The vision is to protect and enhance public health and environmental quality. The goals include protecting our waterways and water catchments; cooperatively managing

water; promoting the sustainable and efficient use of resources and recognising and protecting cultural values.

Some of the issues include meeting future growth demands; ensuring public health is protected and improved; providing efficient and sustainable infrastructure; availability and allocation of water and protecting and enhancing the natural environment.

There are many things to consider within these and other issues – land management, where and how growth will happen, climate change, how we plan for, provide and maintain our reticulation and treatment systems, and pressures on available water and its allocation to users.

The strategy has been developed so that the councils have an integrated approach to managing water within the sub-region, while still using their own implementation plans.

Reducing our waste

We, along with every other council, have to plan how to manage and reduce waste

(a Waste Management and Minimisation Plan).

We can't continue putting food and garden waste, as well as our household rubbish, into landfills. We're already recycling, but we can do better.

Things to consider are whether we continue with rubbish bags in the areas using bags, or should we use wheelie bins as in Tuakau? Should our kitchen scraps keep going into the landfill, or should we collect them separately for compost? Whatever we ultimately decide, there will be a cost. But, it will also cost us if we don't do anything – through gas emissions and negative effects on the environment.

In the future, we'll also be discussing the best way to fund our waste management, but in the meantime, the consultation in April about the draft Long Term Plan is our first step in finding out what you think.

More information and the full strategy will be available for you to see then, so you can provide constructive feedback about how we can reduce our waste.

Very important notice:

Give way rules to change on **25 March 2012**

Give way rules in New Zealand change at 5am on Sunday 25 March 2012. It's important that road users continue to use the existing rules until then.

A public information campaign will be run in the month leading up to the date of the change, with national advertising starting 10 days before the change. This late February start date is necessary to avoid public confusion and minimise the risk of people starting to use the new rules too early.

Waikato District Council will also highlight the changes to residents in March by undertaking the following.

- Highlighting the changes on the council website: www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz
- Brochures and posters at key locations illustrating the changes
- Presentations in the five main centres in the district.

The following presentations will be held:

Friday 16 March	Riverside rooms (near library), Huntly	10.30am – 12pm
Friday 16 March	Ngaruawahia Town Hall, Ngaruawahia	1pm- 2.30pm
Monday 19 March	Community House, Raglan	1pm- 2.30pm
Friday 23 March	Town Hall (supper room), Tuakau	10.30am-12pm
Friday 23 March	Simmons Hall, Apararangi, Te Kauwhata	3pm- 4.30pm

As well as the council links and resources highlighting the rule changes, up to date information, resources and diagrams about the new give way rules can be found at www.giveway.govt.nz. If you don't have internet access and would like information posted to you please call the NZTA's contact centre on 0800 656 055.



Got an event coming up?

If you'd like an event to be listed in the next issue of Link or on the council's website, www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz, email maria.low@waidc.govt.nz.



Keep up to date with water alert levels over summer

Please remember to pay attention to the Waikato district's water alert levels over summer. Water is a limited and precious resource and it's easily taken for granted. In the summer months we tend to use more when we have less. To ensure a consistent supply we participate in the Smart Water Use campaign which promotes sustainable water use and ensures a consistent supply throughout the summer.

Smart Water Use works on a numbered alert system ranging from 1, limited restrictions, to 4, a total ban on non-essential use i.e. no lawn sprinklers! To guide sustainable water use during the drier months we promote the relevant alert level so there's enough water for everyone. Look out for alerts on our website, in local papers, on radio stations and on the Smart Water Use indicator signs on the roadsides throughout the district.

Flush-a-mug

Some plumbing fittings have the potential to allow minute traces of metals to accumulate when water stands in the fittings for several hours.

Although the health risk is small, the Ministry of Health recommends that you flush a mug (or large glass) of water from your drinking water tap each morning before use to remove any metals from your drinking water.

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Tuakau Office
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Tuakau
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