



IN THIS ISSUE

- [Long term plan budget talks](#)
- [Incident response team on the job](#)
- [Spotlight on tsunami at Whangamata and Whiritoa](#)
- [BUSIT timetable changes for long weekend](#)
- [New Coromandel summer water sampling programme underway](#)
- [What's causing the reddish water?](#)
- [Don't miss out – sign up now!](#)

COUNCIL MEETINGS

JANUARY 2015

[Council](#)

Monday 19 January –
10am

[WRC Resource Consent Hearing](#)

Wednesday 28 January
2015 – 10.00am

[Tuwharetoa MTB/Waikato Regional Council Joint Committee](#)

Thursday 29 January
2015 – 1.30pm

FEBRUARY 2015

Long term plan budget talks



Waikato regional councillors are meeting over at least three days next week to agree on the programme of works and budget for the next 10 years.

The meeting is open to the public and due to begin at 10am on Monday 19 January, and is scheduled for the week.

The draft budget includes a number of business cases for new investment for approval by the council. It also includes efficiency savings of \$1.6 million and a proposal for \$800,000 in levels of service reductions.

At this stage, the draft budget is proposing a 0.3 per cent increase to existing ratepayers; however, unfunded items could take the increase to 1.3 per cent in year one.

Want to know more? Visit our website to [read the agenda](#).

You might also be interested in [watching a series of three minute interviews with some of our regional councillors](#). They were asked what they see as being the big issues for the Waikato over the next 10 years, and the role the council has in resolving these issues.

Incident response team on the job

[Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2015-2025 Hearing](#)

From Monday 2 February 2015 - 9.30am

[Hearing Appointments Subcommittee \(If required\)](#)

Wednesday 4 February 2015 - 9.30am

[Strategy & Policy Committee](#)

Wednesday 4 February 2015 - 10.30am

[Environmental Performance Committee](#)

Wednesday 11 February 2015 - 10.00am

[Integrated Catchment Management Committee](#)

Thursday 12 February 2015 - 10.00am

[Aka Aka Otatau Drainage Subcommittee](#)

Friday 13 February 2015 - 9.00am

[Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Joint Committee](#)

Friday 13 February 2015 - 1.00pm

[Waikato Spatial Plan Joint Committee](#)

Monday 16 February 2015 - 9.30am

[Regional Land Transport Plan 2015-2045 Hearing](#)

From Monday 16 February 2015 - 9.30am

[Coromandel Catchment Committee](#)

Tuesday 17 February 2015 - 10.00am

[Waipa Catchment Committee](#)

Wednesday 18 February 2015 - 10.00am

[Council \(for LTP\)](#)

Thursday 19 February 2015 - 10.30am

[Chief Executive Employment & Remuneration Committee](#)

It's been a busy start to the new year for Waikato Regional Council's incident response team. In just the past week staff have attended the scene of the plane crash on Lake Taupo and, more recently, a truck crash on SH25 near Tairua.



On Lake Taupo, we deployed booms to soak up a tiny amount of hydraulic fluid, which leaked from the engine as it was lifted from the water and onto a barge. Our staff believe there's been no significant environmental impact on the lake and its water quality.



Incident response staff on board our harbourmaster's vessel watched as some of the plane wreckage was lifted from the water and taken to shore by a helicopter.



The truck and trailer unit was carrying about 20,000 litres of molasses when it crashed on SH25. We remained on scene until the truck and trailer were removed, the road cleaned up and reopened to traffic.



About 200 litres of molasses mixed with a small amount of diesel and oil leaking from the truck. We brought in a vacuum truck to suck up the spilt fluids and take them away for appropriate disposal.



Spotlight on tsunami at Whangamata and Whiritoa

Talk to expert staff about tsunami hazards and risks at Whiritoa, Whangamata and Onemana during two separate open days over the upcoming long weekend.

Thursday 19 February
2015 – 2.00pm

[Finance Committee](#)

Wednesday 25 February
2015 – 10.00am

[Council](#)

Thursday 26 February
2015 – 1.00pm

[Lake Taupo Catchment Committee](#)

Friday 27 February 2015
– 10.00am

Waikato Regional Council has worked with the Hauraki and Thames-Coromandel district councils to commission new scientific research to better understand the impacts of a tsunami event on Whiritoa and Whangamata.

At both seaside locations, the research has found that parts are vulnerable to inundation from a large, near-source tsunami.

The open days are an opportunity to talk to tsunami experts and council staff to find out more about the research. We're also seeking public feedback on the best approach to managing the tsunami risks. In particular, event organisers are interested in hearing thoughts on such things as:

- emergency management procedures that should be adopted
- best ways to educate our community
- restricting facilities like kindergartens or resthomes from being built in the path of a potential tsunami.

Further information on the tsunami hazards and risks, including inundation maps, posters and reports are available on the [Waikato Regional Council website](#).

Whangamata

9.30am - 3.00pm, Sunday 25 January 2015
Thames-Coromandel District Council Office
620 Port Road
Whangamata

Whiritoa

9.30am - 1.00pm, Monday 26 January 2015
Emergency Management Centre/Library
Whiritoa Beach Road
Whiritoa

BUSIT timetable changes for long weekend



New Coromandel summer water sampling programme underway

A special monitoring programme of 18 coastal sites



on the Coromandel Peninsula is underway.

The summer programme will measure water quality and assess what effects rivers and streams and other factors may have on these popular swimming locations.

Results will be used to support priority stream restoration works programmes and thereby continue to preserve the Coromandel's water quality. This work will also help prioritise the council's coastal water quality science projects and the development of future monitoring programmes.



The monitoring will include a range of standard water quality tests (concerning oxygen, nutrients, suspended sediments and faecal bacteria).

Where faecal bacteria levels are high we will also send samples to the Cawthron Institute for faecal microbial source tracking. This method uses 'genetic markers' to identify the presence and relative contributions of human and ruminant animal sources of faecal contamination.

The findings from the testing will be known in the middle of 2015 and will help determine any extra works or other activities needed to improve water quality.

Read [more about the testing here](#).

What's causing the reddish water?



Testing shows recent discolouration at a number of Waikato's hydro-lakes is likely to be caused by a high concentration of the algae *Ceratium*.

High concentrations of the algae has been found at Lake Maraetai and low levels at Lake Karapiro and Ohakuri. More testing is being done at other hydro-lakes.

Algae experts and public health have advised that this species of algae is not known to produce toxins harmful to health, but it's suggested people could take a precautionary approach and avoid contact with any reddish water in the lakes.

The blooms that have been seen are dense in parts and may possibly irritate the skin and respiratory system. So, the public may prefer to take a precautionary approach and avoid contact with the water where there are visible blooms or discolouration.

Ceratium is not new to the hydro-lakes but it is usually found at low levels.

Algae can often 'bloom' in waterways during hot summer conditions.

Anyone concerned about health issues can contact the Public Health Unit of the Waikato District Health Board on the freephone 0800 800 977. For queries specifically regarding the upper Waikato River (from Taupo to Lake Maraetai) contact the Public Health Unit of the Bay of Plenty District Health Board on 0800 221 555.

Don't miss out – sign up now!

Don't wait to receive this newsletter from a friend or colleague. Get the monthly *Your Waikato* e-newsletter direct to your inbox - [subscribe now!](#)

We'd love you to share this e-newsletter with others so they're up-to-date with our latest news. You can do this via:



[Forward to a friend](#)

[Edit your subscription](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

Private Bag 3038
Waikato Mail Centre
Hamilton 3240

Freephone 0800 800 401

