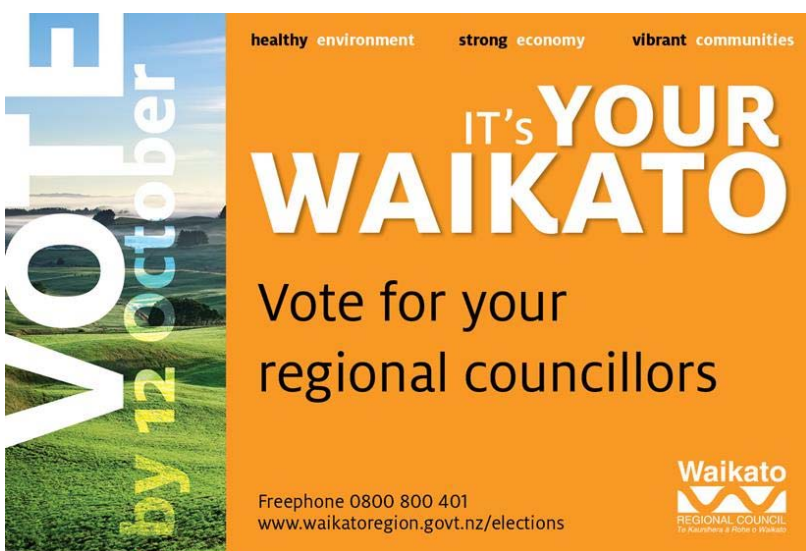




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Don't delay, vote today



Turn intentions into actions

Get cracking Waikato.

That's the message to eligible voters in this year's Waikato Regional Council elections after figures showing voting actions are falling well short of intentions.

Our recent research indicated 79 per cent of Waikato people intended to vote, 15 per cent said they wouldn't and 6 per cent didn't know. Females aged over 55 were most likely to vote while males aged 18-34 were most likely not to vote.

But, with just over a week to Election Day 12 October, a check of voting returns for city and district councils indicated under 20 per cent of voters had actually sent their vote in.

To help voters ensure they get their vote in, the regional council is supporting a Hamilton election event being organised in Garden Place on Friday 11 October by a group of Hamilton students. People can hand in voting forms there or post office boxes can be found at this link: <http://bit.ly/GzFZeB>.

Thirty-eight people are contesting seats in the six general and two new Maori constituencies in this year's Waikato Regional Council elections. Voting papers must be sent back by midday on Election Day 12 October 2013.

Head to the [Waikato Regional Council website](#) to check out our snappy animations in te reo Maori and English pointing people to election information.

## Community reps sought for plan change group



People wanting to make a difference when it comes to the health of the Waikato and Waipa rivers are being asked to consider putting their names forward as one of four community representatives on a Collaborative Stakeholder Group.

The 20-strong group is being formed as part of the Healthy Rivers: Plan for Change/Wai Ora: He Rautaki Whakapaipai project.

Under the project, the group will be involved in making recommendations to Waikato Regional Council and iwi partners on a regional plan change. A plan change will involve limits and targets for land-based activities so as to protect the health of the two rivers.

Most of the places on the group have been set aside for a range of stakeholder representatives but there will also be four general community representatives.

"This Collaborative Stakeholder Group will make recommendations to guide development of policy to help restore and protect the health of the Waikato and Waipa rivers," said the council's acting group manager policy and transport Tracey May.

“We’re keen to hear from community representatives who can help represent the views of the general public on this group.”

Applicants for the community positions must live in the Waikato or Waipa river catchments (see the map on [Waikato Regional Council's website](#) for details).

Applications close at 5pm on Wednesday 23 October. For an application pack go to [www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/healthyrivers](http://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/healthyrivers), call 0800 800 401 or email [healthyrivers@waikatoregion.govt.nz](mailto:healthyrivers@waikatoregion.govt.nz)

For farmers



We’re hiring



## Boost for regional council awareness and approval ratings



Thanks for your confidence.

More than 90 per cent of Waikato residents surveyed know what the regional council does and 61 per cent say it provides good or very good value for money.

High-level results of the council’s 2013 annual Image and Awareness brand survey showed 72 per cent of people could name one or more Waikato Regional Council activities off the cuff. When asked if they knew the council was involved in activities read from a list, awareness increased to 93 per cent.

Residents’ confidence in the role of the council has grown in the past year, demonstrated by a greater proportion of residents who feel the council leads the way for a sustainable future (63 per cent agree or strongly agree), does useful planning, consenting and regulatory work (64 per cent agree or strongly agree), works effectively for the sustainable management of natural resources (65 per cent agree or

strongly agree) and provides clear information (55 per cent agree or strongly agree).

There had also been a significant increase in confidence with 59 per cent of residents agreeing or strongly agreeing that they have confidence that the council makes decisions in the best interests of the region.

### Council signs off successful year

Waikato Regional Council has signed off on a successful financial year with the completion of several high profile projects and ongoing strong financial performance.

The 2012-13 annual report highlights the council's solid performance against its plan for the first year of the 2012-2022 Long Term Plan.

This includes good progress toward the long term goals of sustaining land and water, facilitating regional development and meeting the requirements of co-governance with iwi.

All up, the council achieved 82 per cent of its performance targets and delivered an operating surplus for the year.



### Two big wins for environmental projects



Waikato Regional Council teams do great work.

Two key environmental projects involving Waikato Regional Council have topped their categories at the Resource Management Law Association awards held on Saturday.

The projects category was won by the \$22 million Tui Mine remediation at Te Aroha, carried out with funding from central government, the regional council and Matamata-Piako District Council, and with support from local iwi and the Department of Conservation. The regional council managed the works involved and the trophy on the night was accepted by the project manager, Ghassan Basheer (pictured above left).

Also, the publications category was won by the menus of farming practices to improve water quality, developed by the regional council in association with the Upper Waikato Primary Sector Partnership. The award was accepted by Waikato Regional Council agriculture advisor, Ross Abercrombie (pictured above right).

## Be careful with kauri

Good news for Waikato kauri but we still need to be careful.

A recent survey in parts of the region has not detected any signs of the tree disease kauri dieback, which has been devastating stands of kauri on Great Barrier Island, and in forested areas of Northland and Auckland.

However, further soil sampling is planned for the future in other areas.

In the meantime, the council urges people to be careful when they are travelling between areas where kauri grow.

To help the Waikato be kauri dieback-free, ensure footwear, tramping gear and equipment are thoroughly cleaned before entering forests and thoroughly cleaned again afterwards.



## Tsunami height risk increases





Know what to do when you see or feel the signs of tsunami.

New data showing increased tsunami height risk in the Waikato underlines the need for coastal communities to be well **prepared for the dangers they could face.**

For the region's coasts, the new **data released by the Minister for Civil Defence** shows a general increase in the potential wave height from an offshore earthquake, highlighting the importance of knowing what the signs of a potential tsunami are.

If people in coastal communities feel a strong earthquake, an unusually long earthquake, or notice a rapid drop in the sea level, they should immediately head for high ground or inland as far as possible. Do not wait for official warnings.

## Funding for long-term fix of leaky old roof



Waikato Regional Council has approved expenditure of \$570,000 to fix the ageing, leaking roof of its main office building in Hamilton.

The council's leaky building in Grey St has been under repair for the past six months. As remediation work has progressed on the water-damaged A Block at the front of the building, the full extent of the leaks in the adjoining B Block roof have become clear.

The roof repairs will be carried out by building facilities contractor CoveKinloch, which has spent the past six months remediating the leaky building.

Meanwhile, earlier today contractors began to 'unwrap' the building, however, the remediation work is not expected to be complete until the end of the year. [Read more...](#)

## Variation 6 first



The first water take consents for farmers to be issued under a less costly "group consenting" process are about to go out the door from Waikato Regional Council.

Each of the 206 groundwater consents in the Waihou catchment, to be posted within the next few weeks, is due to cost farmers about \$800, compared to the \$1500 to \$3000 that could normally be expected if they were done individually.

The next group of consent applications to be processed will be those for ground and surface water from lower Waikato catchment farmers, alongside farmers applying for surface water in the Waihou catchment.

## Keep old TVs out of landfill

Hold onto your old TV so it can be safely recycled by the TV TakeBack programme.

TV TakeBack starts in the Waikato on 23 October, ahead of the switchover to digital television on 1 December.



People will be able to take advantage of a Government subsidy and drop off old TVs for no more than \$5 at locations around the region. It will be free to drop off TVs in some districts, with district councils covering the \$5 charge.



Waikato Regional Council Waste Minimisation Facilitator Marianna Tyler said: "Televisions contain harmful materials such as lead, mercury and phosphorus, which need to stay out of our landfills. TV TakeBack means your TV won't contaminate our precious land or water by going to landfill.

"Your TV will be safely recycled, and the material from it can be used in a number of ways, here in New Zealand and overseas," she added.

Components (like copper and steel) can be recycled locally, or sent overseas to specialist recycling facilities. Metals such as steel can be melted down and used in new items for the construction or agricultural industries. Precious metals like gold can be recovered for use in new electronic appliances.

Glass can be remanufactured overseas into new televisions or monitors, used for sand blasting or in industrial processes.

The TV TakeBack programme covers a limited number of TVs, so keep an eye on their website [www.tvtakeback.govt.nz](http://www.tvtakeback.govt.nz) for opening hours, locations and costs.

Some retailers are offering TV TakeBack services before 23 October, and details of these are also available on the website.

TV TakeBack is a partnership between central and local government, retailers and recyclers.

## Getting social and sharing our news



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