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KEY DATES

Council meetings

3 February, 9.30am:
Regional Transport Committee

3 February, 1pm:
Regional Public Transport Plan Development Committee

Happy New Year!



We hope you had a fantastic time over the festive season and you enjoy the upcoming anniversary long weekend. Waikato Regional Council offices reopened for business two weeks ago and already plenty has been happening. Read on to find out more.

Tsunami open days this weekend - Tairua and Pauanui



7 February, 10am:
Hamilton Public Transport
Joint Committee

11 February, 1pm:
Strategy and Policy
Committee

11 February, 4pm:
Healthy Rivers Wai Ora
Committee

12 February, 9.30am:
Hearings Appointment
Subcommittee

12 February, 10am:
Council

13 February, 10am:
Integrated Catchment
Management Committee

14 February, 9.30am:
Aka Aka Otatau Drainage
Subcommittee

18 February, 10am: Lake
Taupo Zone
Subcommittee

19 February, 10am:
Central Waikato Zone
Subcommittee

20 February, 10am:
Coromandel Zone
Subcommittee

21 February, 10am:
West Coast Zone
Subcommittee

25 February, 10am:
Finance Committee

27 February, 9.30am:
Hearings Appointment
Subcommittee (if
required)

27 February, 10am:
Council

Visit [our website for full meeting details](#), including agendas.

Tairua and Pauanui residents are invited to two information open days this anniversary weekend to learn more about the threat of tsunami and share ideas for better managing the risks.

The work is part of the Eastern Coromandel Tsunami Strategy, which is being developed by Waikato Regional Council and Thames-Coromandel District Council.

Using the latest information, knowledge and tsunami computer models, scientists have been able to determine that the greatest risk of significant tsunami inundation in Pauanui and Tairua will come from earthquakes occurring along the Tonga-Kermadec Trench. In such cases, the travel time between the source and impact is between one and three hours.

The scientists, who will be at the open days to answer people's questions, have also been able to identify where sea inundation is most likely to occur.

Civil defence emergency management staff will also be at the open days to discuss tsunami warnings and what to do if and when a tsunami warning is given.

The open days will provide residents and visitors with an opportunity to learn more about the tsunami threat to the settlements of Pauanui and Tairua and provide feedback on ways to manage the tsunami risk.

This feedback will inform the ongoing work of the tsunami working group, which comprises members of the Pauanui and Tairua communities, as well as from the Tairua-Pauanui Community Board, emergency services, and district and regional councils.

The Eastern Coromandel Tsunami Strategy

Work on the tsunami strategy initially focussed on Whitianga because it's the location most at risk from the impacts of tsunami. The attention has now turned to Tairua and Pauanui.

Over time, the councils will be working with each major settlement on the Coromandel's east coast, with work about to start on the Whangamata and Whiritoa communities.

The open days

DAY ONE: Saturday 25 January 2014
Pauanui Fire Station Meeting Room
10:00 am until 3:00 pm

DAY TWO: Sunday 26 January 2014
Tairua Rugby and Sports Club
10:00 am until 3:00 pm

Extra precautions needed by boaties on west coast waters

Waikato Regional Council is reminding boaties to take extra precautions when heading onto the water on the region's west coast.



The warning comes ahead of the anniversary long weekend and in the wake of several serious incidents this month at Raglan, which could have ended tragically.

In two of the incidents subsequent inquiries by the council found there was little more the skippers could have done, but that the precautions taken had saved the lives of all those on board.

“It just goes to show how even the most prudent boaties can get caught out, especially on the west coast which can be particularly unforgiving,” said the council's navigation safety programme manager, Nicole Botherway.

“We're urging boaties heading out onto the water this weekend to have a heightened level of awareness around their equipment and abilities as a skipper.

“Bars are not to be underestimated and the skipper is responsible for all people on board. If you go out on the water unprepared then you are taking an unnecessary risk with the lives that are in your hands,” Mrs Botherway said.

Before heading out boaties should follow five simple rules to help them stay safe:

1. Life jackets: take them – wear them.
2. Skipper responsibility: you are responsible for everyone on board.
3. Carry communications: take at least two separate waterproof ways of communicating.
4. Marine weather: check the forecast first.
5. Avoid alcohol: sober skippers are responsible skippers.

On New Year's Day a boat was swamped by a rogue wave and sank while crossing the Raglan Bar. The skipper and his passenger, both wearing lifejackets, were thrown into the water.

The skipper had about 10 years' experience and had attended a number of courses, including a bar crossing training day run by the Raglan Coastguard with support from the regional council.

A week later, on Tuesday 7 January, a powerboat sunk on rocks at Whale Bay after a rough Raglan bar crossing smashed the boat's windscreen and damaged the canopy, resulting in the two passengers suffering cuts to their hands.

Instead of attempting another bar crossing, the skipper wisely chose to come in to another bay, where he was caught out by some rocks (pictured).

A third incident, which resulted in seven men in a 5.5 metre vessel being rescued in rough seas on Monday night, is being investigated by the regional council.

Buses fully wheelchair and pram accessible



Great news for people in Hamilton – our public buses are now fully wheelchair and pram accessible.

It's one of only a few public transport networks in New Zealand which is fully wheelchair accessible, with the region's fleet provided by Go Bus, Pavlovich, Turley Murphy and Waipawa Buses.

Go Bus is contracted by the regional council to operate Hamilton's urban services and has spent \$4 million adding 10 newly-built low-floor accessible buses to its fleet this week.

"We're delighted to be able to extend our fleet in this way to make public transport more accessible for people in Hamilton," said Go Bus commercial director, Craig Worth.

"It's been a significant investment but one which we felt was worth making to enhance the positive experience for BUSIT passengers."

The council's acting public transport operations manager Ben Barlow said: "All 26 bus routes in Hamilton now have air-conditioned buses, with space for wheelchairs and prams.

"This is a key milestone for the BUSIT network. It means people with mobility issues or in a wheelchair, and those with young children in prams, can be certain each Hamilton bus is accessible when they're planning trips."

Gerri Pomeroy from CCS Disability Action Waikato welcomed the move. "We're really excited that all the buses will be wheelchair

accessible. It makes journeys better and easier for people with a disability, especially if they don't have independent access to a car."

[Read more...](#)

Back to school by bus – tips for parents



Most Hamilton schools are either **on or are a short walk to a bus route, and some schools have several routes nearby**. Can't or don't want to do the school drop-off and pick-up this year – get your kids on the bus!

The BUSIT team at the Transport Centre in Bryce Street have put together the following tips ahead of the first school term getting underway:

- Use BUSIT's [online Journey Planner](#), email busit@waikatoregion.govt.nz, call 0800 4 BUSLINE (0800 4 2875 463) or pop in to see us at the Transport Centre about the best way to get your son or daughter to school on the bus – there may be quicker routes you haven't considered.
- To ensure you're getting the best fare, use a [BUSIT card](#). Buy your BUSIT card and top it up now, before the first day of school. BUSIT cards are available for purchase and top up by cash on all the region's buses and by cash or Eftpos at the Transport Centre.
- Make sure you hold onto your original BUSIT card purchase receipt – this means if the card is lost or stolen we can transfer your credit onto a new card.
- [Child fares](#) are valid all year round on any of our services, just ensure they're wearing a school uniform or can show the driver their school ID.

For farmers ▶▶

We're hiring ▶▶

For farmers: Effluent irrigation field day a hit





More than 100 farmers and rural professionals turned out for an effluent irrigation field day held by Waikato Regional Council on a private farm at Waitakaruru on Wednesday (pictured).

The council's proactive monitoring team has this season identified issues where the application of effluent to high risk soil and hump-and-hollow land resulted in a direct discharge of effluent into surface water drains.

The use of hump-and-hollow systems can be a very effective way of draining pasture, but it can also increase the risk of dairy effluent and nutrients contaminating farm waterways.

The solution to avoid ponding and run off is to irrigate to the soil conditions, match the application depth with the soil water deficit and match the application rate with the infiltration rate of the soil.

While council permitted activity rules allow a maximum of 25 millimetres of effluent to be applied to land, researchers David Holbrooke and Ross Monaghan have identified that effluent should be applied to hump-and-hollow land at a maximum application depth of only 10 millimetres and the application rate must not exceed the ability of soil to absorb the effluent (the soil infiltration rate).

Council discussions with farmers identified these issues are not necessarily well known, so the field day was held to showcase the different irrigators. The field day demonstrated irrigators from Williams Engineering, Hi-Tech Envrio Solutions and RX Plastics that can apply effluent at a low rate and low depth.

Field day attendees heard that as well as using the right irrigation equipment, they need effluent storage for the days the soil is saturated .

A big thanks from the council to all those that attended and helped with the day.

Farmers who were unable to attend but are seeking more information can contact the council's proactive monitoring team on 0800 800 401 or attend the [Effluent Expo on Tuesday 25 March at Mystery Creek Events Centre](#).

401 Grey St reception reopens





On Monday Waikato Regional Council's reception again began welcoming visitors through the main entrance to the 401 Grey Street office (pictured). It had been moved to a relocatable building after work began last April to remediate the water-damaged A Block at the front of the building.

Meanwhile, work to replace the ageing, leaking roof at the council's Hamilton East headquarters is getting underway. Some council staff have been relocated from the council's B Block while the work is undertaken over the next five months, however, it is expected the work will have a limited impact on visitors to the main office building. It is anticipated the repair work, costing \$570,000, will be completed in May.

The total cost of remediation work is to be funded from the council's 2012/13 budget surplus.

Progress on project to safeguard the Hauraki Gulf



The Hauraki Gulf attracts thousands of New Zealanders over the summer and a project to safeguard its future for generations to come has just announced significant progress.

The Sea Change/Tai Timu Tai Pari stakeholder working group composition has been decided by more than 130 people from a range of interested groups – from industry bodies to conservationists – and a separate process has also been completed to select 4 mana whenua representatives. This group – comprising a total of 14 members – will have a major leadership role in the development of a marine spatial plan for the Hauraki Gulf.

Sea Change/Tai Timu Tai Pari, a two-year project and the first of its kind in New Zealand, will develop a new spatial plan for the Hauraki Gulf (Tikapa Moana/Te Moananui a Toi).

The plan, to be delivered in late 2015, will identify solutions to issues in the 1.2 million hectare Hauraki Gulf Marine Park area and what is needed to safeguard its future. Plan recommendations will guide the development of policies and processes of various councils and agencies with a view to safeguarding the gulf's core cultural, environmental, social and economic values.

Sea Change/Tai Timu Tai Pari is a partnership involving mana whenua, Auckland Council, Waikato Regional Council, the Hauraki Gulf Forum, the Department of Conservation, and the Ministry for Primary Industries. The wider public will also be involved throughout the development of the draft marine spatial plan through broad engagement.

To find out more about the project, including who's on board and how to contribute and stay informed visit the [Sea Change website](#).

Recycling old TVs protects the environment

Cleaning up around the bach or home this weekend and wondering what to do with your old TV? Don't dump it to landfill where it can harm the environment. There is a convenient and inexpensive (or free) option to drop off old TVs for recycling.

People can take advantage of a Government subsidy and drop off old TVs for no more than \$5 at locations around the Waikato region. It's free to drop off TVs in some districts, with district councils covering the \$5 charge. People not wanting to miss out on the subsidy should take their TV to the nearest drop off point now, as the subsidy only covers a limited number of TVs.

Waikato Regional Council waste minimisation facilitator Marianna Tyler said: "There are over 30 TV TakeBack drop off sites around the



Waikato region, including 7 on the Coromandel. So people with an old TV from their bach, or who're having a big New Year clean up at home don't have to travel far to do the right thing for the environment.

"Televisions contain materials like lead and mercury which can be hazardous to humans and the environment. TV TakeBack means your TV won't go to landfill and contaminate our precious land or water.

"Televisions are dismantled safely here in New Zealand, and materials from them used here 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 website www.tvtakeback.govt.nz has drop off sites, opening hours and locations for the Waikato region, and indicates if it's free or if a \$5 drop off charge applies.

TV TakeBack is currently rolling out in the North Island. Almost 181,000 unwanted televisions have been collected so far under the programme, which is a partnership between central and local government, retailers and recyclers, and coincides with New Zealand's switch from analogue to digital television.

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