

Māpua and District Community Association update – April 2023

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Setting our priorities for the next 10 years

We have started preparing our 10-Year Plan for 2024-2034. A lot has changed since the current 10-Year Plan was adopted in June 2021 and our first step is to revisit the community priorities – are they still valid, have they shifted and are there any that should take preference?

We are running several small, facilitated workshops throughout the District, working with locals to find key themes, test the current ones and look to the future. The outcomes from these workshops will be shared online via Shape Tasman, inviting further views and feedback. These priorities will guide our planning and later consultation opportunities as we shape the 10-Year Plan over the next 18 months.

The 10- Year Plan is reviewed every three years, allowing for changes in our environment and what we must account for when making decisions.

To stay up to date with the 10-Year Plan, keep an eye on Newsline, shapetasman.govt.nz and our social media platforms.

Tasman’s Draft Annual Plan out for consultation

On 23 March 2023, the Tasman District Council agreed to begin public consultation on the draft Annual Plan 2023-2024.

The community will be asked for their views on some tough choices the Council is having to make at a time when everyone is feeling the pressure of increasing costs.

The Council is keenly aware of the impacts being felt in the community of high inflation, increased interest rates and the overall of cost of living.

The Council is proposing a 9.06% rates increase, which is being driven by a range of issues, including inflation, insurance, interest rates, and supply chain disruptions. These increases that are affecting individuals, families and businesses are also impacting on Councils costs.

We have tried to strike the right balance, but we don’t for one minute underestimate the impacts.

As a regional and district council Tasman needs to meet environmental and community needs.

We are trying to balance cost pressures without cutting the services and functions that our communities value the most, and to make decisions that consider the short, medium and long term interests of Tasman.

Tasman is one of only six unitary councils in New Zealand. This means our rates are charged for both our district and regional functions.

Despite this, data that combines the district and regional council rates for 66 of the 67 territorial authorities in New Zealand shows Tasman's rates per unit figure (total rates revenue, including metered water charges, divided by the number of rating units) places us the 34th highest in the country.

The Consultation document explains what measures the Council is proposing to take to reduce costs, it also explains what other options were considered and why Council is not recommending those.

"We are being open about what's possible, noting that Councils don't have an option about the some of the services and functions we manage. We want to hear from our community before we make any final decisions".

Formal consultation will commence on 29 March. Copies of the consultation document will be available at service centres, libraries and available online at shape.tasman.govt.nz.

You can also keep up to date on the Annual Plan through Newsline and our social media platforms.

Rural Conversations - Find out what changes to land and water management could mean to you.

You're invited to an information event hosted by Top of the South Rural Support Trust and Rural Women NZ, with short presentations from Tasman District Council staff and an opportunity to talk one on one with them about what the changes may mean for you.

Our District is underpinned by primary production. These events are open to all local agribusiness, rural landowners, and those supporting our rural communities.

Dates and venues

- **Murchison:** Thursday 27 April, 11.00 am – 2.00 pm, Murchison Sport Recreation and Cultural Centre
- **St Arnaud:** Thursday 27 April, 4.30 pm – 7.30 pm, Lake Rotoiti Community Hall
- **Collingwood:** Monday 1 May, 11.30 am – 2.30 pm, Collingwood Memorial Hall
- **Upper Moutere:** Tuesday 2 May, 11.00 am – 2.00 pm, Moutere Hills Community Centre
- **Tapawera:** Tuesday 2 May, 6.30 pm – 9.30 pm, Tapawera Rugby Football Rooms

Sound management of land and water resources in New Zealand is a critical issue. Understanding the recent government regulations is important for rural communities and Council. We realise this keeps changing and there is more still coming, and that this is confusing, adding stress and pressure onto farmers.

Council now has a better understanding of what these changes mean. At these events we'll look at recent government changes, what's still to come and how this may impact you. You will meet the Council staff tasked with implementing these changes, have an opportunity to clarify any questions and find out what support may be available to you.

MPI On Farm Support will be joining us to introduce their staff and explain what their role is. Refreshments will be provided.

Topics include:

- Essential freshwater legislation
- Freshwater farm plans
- Intensification
- Wetlands
- Intensive winter grazing
- Nitrogen use and reporting
- Stock exclusion
- Fish passage
- Riparian and wetland enhancement and funding
- Significant Natural Areas (SNA) and biodiversity protection
- Plant and animal pest management
- Outstanding Natural Landscapes and Features
- Resource consenting
- Pricing agricultural emissions
- The Land and Freshwater Plan and having your say on the future rules

Rates invoice dates change

Our finance team is making a few tweaks to the way they do things. From next month, we will send out our rates bills a bit earlier.

We're making some small changes to our systems, so instead of getting your invoice for the next rates period arriving in May, it'll come to you in mid-April – but don't panic because the payment date will remain the same as it always has.

The upside is it will give you more time between receiving the invoice and needing to pay, so will hopefully help with your household budgeting. If you have any queries, give us a call and we can help you out.

Helping our fish survive and thrive

The Tasman Jobs for Nature Fish Passage Project assesses and fixes in-stream structures on private land to help fish get upstream.

This work is free to landowners. It involves a small field team visiting to visually check waterway crossings and in-stream structures, such as culverts, for any barriers to fish moving through.

Barriers can include if a structure is perched, undercut, too steep or blocking water flow, if water is too fast or flow is lost through a structure. If a barrier is found, the team can carry out work to make it easier for fish to pass through.

Each fix takes around 15 to 30 minutes, with the use of materials such as rubber aprons, mussel spat rope and baffles. These low impact fixes for existing structures may require more permanent solutions at a later time. However, it will certainly make life easier for the fish for the foreseeable future.

The field team (Kūmanū Environmental) is currently visiting properties in the Moutere and Tākaka areas this autumn. With the support of landowners across the District, the project aims to complete 4,350 assessments and 1,655 fixes between July 2021 and June 2026.

A key aim of the project is to complete whole catchments to better connect waterways for fish. This Tasman Jobs for Nature Project is funded by Ministry for the Environment and Tasman District Council

If you are keen to know more or would like advice on installing new or existing structures, contact freshwaterimprovement@tasman.govt.nz.

Home insulation subsidies make a difference.

We contributed \$60,000 to the Warmer Healthier Homes Te Tau Ihu Charitable Trust, for use over the first three years of our current 10-Year Plan 2021 – 2031. 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. Our grant enables the Trust to leverage a further \$240,000 from central Government.

Within Tasman, the programme has helped to insulate 163 homes between July 2021 and November 2022, and there is still funding available for eligible homeowners.

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 Card with CSC endorsement, or live in an area identified as low income, or are families referred through the Ministry of Health's Healthy Homes Initiative.

Low-income areas are defined as being a New Zealand Deprivation Index 8, 9 or 10 area. In Tasman, this includes some areas of Richmond, Motueka, Brightwater and Tapawera in particular.

Homeowners can find out if they qualify for a grant (80 – 100% subsidy) by contacting the project contractor, Absolute Energy. Visit absoluteenergy.co.nz.