

Māpua and Districts Community Association meeting update – September 2024

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We can help you reduce waste

In case you haven't heard, we are currently inviting applications for grants to support innovative projects that aim to reduce waste in Tasman.

Applications close on Wednesday 2 October.

These grants are intended to reduce waste and support community engagement and education on one or more of the following methods of waste minimisation:

- Rethink how we use and value our resources to avoid the creation of waste
- Reduce the amount of waste we create
- Reuse resources
- Recycle or recover materials.

We have funded some great initiatives in the past which have made a valuable difference in our District, so we look forward to seeing the next round of applications. Typical funding is \$5,000 or greater per application.

For full details about this grant and information on how to apply go to tasman.govt.nz/waste-minimisation-projects-grant.

Dog control service helps provide 24-7 K9 care

Our dog registration fees cover the cost of all dog services provided in Tasman. And just like the area we look after, the range of services that these fees pay for is far-reaching.

It's fair to say we go the extra mile to ensure the needs of more than 12,000 canines and their owners are being met between Richmond, Farewell Spit and down to Rappahannock.

We contract three staff to ensure the well-being of dogs is maintained across the District around the clock.

Registration fees are \$65 for a dog on a property under 1 hectare (urban), and \$45 if your property is over 1 hectare (rural).

Our dog control operations are carried out under a self-funding model. This means ratepayer subsidies are not used and only service users contribute to funding.

The revenue we receive supports public safety, responsible dog ownership, and animal welfare initiatives. This includes:

- Monitoring and enforcing the Dog Control Act 1996 and ensuring compliance with the Tasman District Council Dog Control Policy and Bylaw.
- Responding to and investigating complaints (including dog rushes and attacks on people, domestic pets, stock and wildlife, barking nuisance, roaming, lost and found dogs).
- Providing shelter services: running and maintaining the dog pound facilities, caring for strays, rehoming pound dogs, and reuniting dogs with their owners.
- Administration and maintenance of our database including the annual registration process and the NZ National Dog Database.
- Signage and advertising of dog-related issues.
- Free microchipping for dogs under six months that are registered in the Tasman District.
- Providing dog safety education for dog owners, schools and the public.

Residents survey results revealed

As always, your feedback from our 2024 Residents Satisfaction Survey has provided useful insights into what we are doing well and where we can refine our services.

This annual survey measures community use and satisfaction across a range of our services and facilities, including transportation, three waters, waste management, communication and customer service.

Between 1 May and 11 June 2024, market research company Research First called 197 landlines and 203 cell phones selected at random. The sample size of 400 is large enough to be confident that the results fairly represent all Tasman residents.

Survey questions were based on 21 performance measures relating to levels of service and targets from our 10-Year Plan 2021 – 2031. Your responses told us that of these performance measures, 15 achieved their target and six did not.

The most notable results are:

- 71% of respondents were satisfied with our performance overall (compared to 73% in 2023 and 64% in 2022);
- 69% of respondents felt our reputation was good/very good (compared to 72% in 2023 and 66% in 2022);

There was relatively high satisfaction with our recreational facilities, libraries, storm/waste/drinking water, and kerbside recycling, which all had over 85% satisfaction.

A previously unmet target that we've reached this year was satisfaction with the level of information provided by us.

Although meeting their performance targets, we will look at ways to improve public consultation, footpaths, and the way rates are spent on services and facilities.

There was little change in the use of our recreational facilities, a slight increase in the use of public toilets, and a significant increase in library usage.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the survey. Having this kind of measurable data is extremely important in maintaining a high level of service to our residents.

Planning a new waste plan

Thanks to everyone who has contributed ideas so far for the review of our regional waste plan – we received close to 200 pieces of feedback! From what you've told us – you care about packaging, a lot.

Whether it's finding ways to reduce or avoid it, or improve how it's recovered and recycled, packaging is a hot topic. Feedback has included people wanting to see more producer responsibility and products not sold in non-recyclable packaging, amongst many other ideas. You also care about food waste and garden waste, and for many, building waste is a big topic too. Alongside that, there have been many other suggestions and ideas.

Your feedback is important and forms part of the information we've been gathering about what needs to be incorporated into the plan.

So, what are we doing now? We are starting to draft a new Waste Management and Minimisation Plan for the region, which will be coming out for formal public consultation early next year

Roadside trimming time

The Tasman Alliance is out and about trimming roadside trees, shrubs and plantings. They're using tractors with trimming attachments called flail mowers to do the work which is designed to maintain the vegetation-free envelope around our roads.

It's done every year for several reasons, including keeping clear sight lines for traffic and ensuring road signs can be clearly seen. It also reduces the risk of damage to vehicles from overhanging branches and allows residents to leave their properties without obstructed views.

It's a big job with more than 1600km of roads to maintain, but we can all do our bit to help by keeping roadside vegetation around our place trimmed back to avoid it being cut by the flail mower. Trees and shrubs should be at least two and a half metres back from the side of the road with overhanging trees no lower than five metres.