

Māpua and Districts Community Association meeting update – July 2025

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Tasman moves to transition period

Nelson Tasman will begin a transition period, moving from a state of emergency into a recovery focus, following the impacts from the severe weather the region experienced at the end of June 2025.

The Notice of Local Transition period, under Section 94B of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002, took effect at 10.30am today (7 July 2025) and ends on 4 August 2025 unless it is extended or ends before then.

Mayor King extended his thanks to all the agencies, community groups and volunteers who had supported the Nelson Tasman Emergency Management response.

"This has been a profoundly damaging event, and we have seen major impacts across our region, especially in the Wai-iti and Motueka Valley catchments. While we are moving from a state of emergency, this transition period means that support continues to be available to those affected.

"A big thank you to everyone involved, including those in our community who have supported and continue to support their friends, family and neighbours.

Emergency Management information

- [Latest updates can be found on the CDEM website\(external link\).](#)
- [Read about the Mayoral Relief Fund](#)
- [Wellbeing Support Flyer For Flood Affected Residents \[PDF, 155 KB\]](#)
- [Fact Sheet \[DOCX, 287 KB\]](#)

Mayoral Relief Fund available to help

Emergency Management and Recovery Minister Mark Mitchell, alongside Tasman Mayor Tim King, Nelson Mayor Nick Smith, and Deputy Tasman Mayor Stu Bryant opened the Mayoral Relief Fund, with the Minister announcing an immediate \$100,000 into the fund.

This fund will help residents to access funds to deal with issues in the immediate term.

If you would like to donate to the Nelson-Tasman Mayoral Relief Fund, please deposit funds into the Tasman District Council bank account: 12-3193-0002048-00. Name: Tasman District Council. Please use the reference "Mayoral Relief Fund".

For residents who want to apply for the fund please visit tasman.govt.nz/mayoral-relief-fund and fill out the form – please do not be shy or embarrassed to apply.

The fund is open to Nelson City and Tasman District residents, ratepayers or not-for-profit organisations who have suffered financial hardship because of the flood event that began on 26 June 2025.

Financial hardship is different for everyone. This may include things such as difficulty paying for your essential living costs (such as food, medication, and accommodation), or difficulty paying for additional costs that may not be paid for by your insurer (for example clean up and disposal of goods).

The fund provides assistance on a one-off basis for extraordinary circumstances, where real need can be shown. It is a last resort measure when people have exhausted other appropriate sources.

The aim is these grants go some way towards helping alleviate the emotional and financial stress experienced by individuals and families due to the June 2025 flood event.

It's nomination time

The clock is ticking if you plan to stand for Tasman in this year's local body elections.

Our Council and two Community Boards in Golden Bay and Motueka, play a critical role in supporting the resilience and prosperity of Tasman.

The role of a Tasman District Councillor is two-fold, encompassing governance and representation.

Through effective governance, our Council always acts in the best interest of our community, both for today and future generations, balancing both short and long-term responsibilities.

Representation means space for everyone to have a voice, be considered, and thrive. All ages and stages, all cultures and genders, all abilities and ambitions.

It's hard work but extremely rewarding. You'll be responsible for enhancing the wellbeing of the Tasman community and all that it entails – a healthy natural environment, thriving businesses, safe spaces for all, and a place that supports every individual's sense of belonging.

We need candidates with vision, empathy and commitment – collaborators who can listen to all viewpoints before reaching a considered conclusion. People who can think strategically and make decisions for the long-term wellbeing of their entire community and not just the loudest voices.

Nominations are open until noon on Friday 1 August.

Visit tasman.govt.nz/candidate-information to see our candidate information guide and find out more information about nominating someone to stand in Tasman.

Annual Plan adopted with 8.9% rates revenue rise

We have adopted our Annual Plan for the 2025-2026 year. After a well-publicised consultation round, subsequent hearings and deliberations, we adopted the Plan for the coming year, with a rates revenue increase of 8.9%.

From a starting point late last year of 13.5%, Elected Members, with the assistance of staff, have thoroughly reviewed numerous services and fees to limit the predicted rise to the current figure.

Tasman Mayor Tim King says there are only so many levers local government has available to pull to provide the services expected by its communities and those demanded by legislation and regulation in an affordable way.

We have taken advantage of the sale of unencumbered Carbon Credits in reducing the impact of rate increases to the tune of \$3million.

“Some of those levers such as fee increases or cutting services are not popular, but then, nor are rates increases.”

He says, all in all, the Council, with the assistance of its staff, believes we have created a plan that achieves the balance required. The environment is going to get no less challenging throughout the year, but together as an organisation, we will look to provide the services that enable Tasman to grow sustainably.

Tim says the true proof will be in the pudding at the end of the financial year when we’re able to see how closely we can match the budgets and final expenditure and revenue of what’s been planned.

“We’re working on the basis that everyone will do their best to achieve these outcomes.”

Fees aiming to please

We recently completed deliberations around Fees and Charges for 2025/2026.

The affordability of waste disposal and dog control fees were raised as issues of particular concern amongst the community throughout public consultation submissions.

Due to factors such as waste minimisation initiatives, some waste being taken directly to York Landfill, and increased fly-tipping, our Resource Recovery Centres are receiving less waste than forecast.

We had proposed an 18% increase in mixed refuse charges but reduced this to 15% to try and avoid further reductions in waste volumes at the Resource Recovery Centres.

This increase will need to be offset by an increase in rates revenue of approximately 0.215% in the Annual Plan 2025/2026.

Elected Members also discussed the proposed increase in dog registration fees in response to the submissions opposing this.

The increase was proposed to recover the higher costs of providing a sustainable and fit-for-purpose dog control service across the District.

This means that urban dogs will pay \$90 for the coming year, rural dogs will pay \$70, and a new category for working dogs will be introduced with a \$50 registration fee. The resulting fees are comparable with the dog registration fees of many other councils across the country.

The annual monitoring and administration fee for mooring licences was reduced from the proposed \$226 to \$153 in response to submissions.

All other proposed fees and charges in the schedule were confirmed.

A final Schedule of Fees and Charges 2025/2026 was presented for adoption at the Council meeting on 25 June 2025, before coming into effect on 1 July 2025.

In-house option for Tasman's Local Water Done Well implementation

Tasman's future management of drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater services has taken a step forward, with our Council unanimously opting for an in-house business unit structure to implement requirements of the Government's Local Water Done Well programme.

This unit would be managed separately from other Council operations in a ringfenced capacity. While still part of the Council, it would be independently monitored to ensure high environmental and customer standards.

The Council has also agreed in principle to establish an internal advisory committee with the option of external members to help provide operational oversight of the three waters activities and provide advice to the Council.

A report will be provided to the Council that includes options for membership, terms of reference and associated costs.

Elected Members have expressed a desire for staff to continue discussions with other councils regarding options for greater alignment of services, information, and procurement, to increase efficiency savings across our water, wastewater and stormwater functions.

Two options involving setting up a Water Council Controlled Organisation, each governed by an independent board, were also considered. However, it was acknowledged that an in-house unit operating within its agreed parameters allowed better opportunities for community involvement.

The next steps in the process require a Water Service Delivery Plan to be completed and submitted to the Department of Internal Affairs by 3 September 2025. It will then be shared with the Commerce Commission, with a view towards the Plan being approved and ready for implementation by November 2025.

It is intended that the internal business unit will formally function from 1 July 2027 to align with our next 10-Year Plan.

Money matters and online safety

Next month, we're holding a couple of special events focused on our senior community members.

Our Positive Ageing forum in Richmond is going to look at financial wellbeing. Money matters aren't always easy to talk about, but conversations are important.

We're hosting a friendly session with people who truly understand the challenges many seniors face. We'll have speakers from Aurora Trust – formerly Budget Advice, Ministry of Social Development and other service providers, who will guide you through the support that's available to you and your whānau.

You can feel free to ask any questions – this is a safe and respectful space for you to feel heard and supported.

Come along and bring a friend to our Richmond Service Centre at 189 Queen Street at 1.00 pm on Monday 14 July.

Then, if you're worried about online scams or unsure what apps are safe, we can also help at our Forum in Motueka. Join us for a friendly and informative session about online safety for older adults.

You'll hear easy-to-understand presentations on common scams and how to spot them and get one-on-one support with your phone or tablet – like removing unwanted apps or fixing tech issues.

Bring your questions, bring your device, and bring a friend! Whether you're curious, confused, or just want to feel more confident online, this event is for you – morning tea's provided too! See you at the Motueka Over 50s Social Hub, Tuesday 29 July at 10.00 am.

Stay warm this winter with an insulation grant

With winter in full swing, it's this time of year when insulation can make a huge difference to your daily comfort and health.

The Warmer Healthier Homes Te Taihū Charitable Trust, supported by Council funding, is helping homeowners across Tasman District access insulation grants. Working alongside the Energy Efficiency Conservation Authority's Warmer Kiwi Homes grant scheme, the Trust has helped insulate hundreds of Tasman homes in recent years, with funding still available.

Homeowners who meet the criteria can access 80-100% subsidies for insulation if you own and live in your own home, the home was built before 2008, you live in an approved area OR have a Community Services Card or Gold Card with a CSC endorsement.

To find out if you qualify, contact Absolute Energy on 0800 423 454 or visit absoluteenergy.co.nz.

They will let you know if you are eligible for a subsidy, so ring and book now – their home insulation assessment is free!

Homeowners may also be eligible for a heating grant if they meet the above criteria and don't already have an existing operational efficient heating appliance in the main living area.

You may have seen our staff out and about giving free advice for warmer homes, if you missed us then check out our website for tips on better woodburning practices and lighting an 'upside-down' fire. You'll find you not only burn cleaner with less smoke, but you'll have a hotter fire that uses less wood. Visit tasman.govt.nz/good-wood.

Tasman's Resource Management Plan is now at your fingertips

After 27 years in paper form, Tasman's Resource Management Plan (TRMP) has gone digital. Whether at home, in the office, or out in the field, you can now access the plan anytime from anywhere.

The TRMP is Tasman's roadmap for managing our unique environment – from protecting our freshwater and coastal areas to balancing development with conservation. It is the go-to resource for anyone planning building work, agricultural projects, or coastal developments.

The new online platform makes everything simpler. Smart search functions and filters help you quickly find what you need to know, while integrated linking connects policies with practical requirements. Planning to extend your home or develop a property? The information you need is now just a click away.

This upgrade benefits everyone – planners, developers, real estate professionals, contractors, and everyday residents tackling home projects. It's the same comprehensive plan, just easier to navigate.

Need help getting started?

Our Environmental Policy team is running drop-in sessions between 10.00 am and 2.00 pm at our libraries:

- Motueka: Tuesday 8 July
- Tākaka: Wednesday 9 July
- Murchison: Thursday 10 July

Questions? Email environmentalplan@tasman.govt.nz.