

Māpua and Districts Community Association meeting update – June 2026

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Bylaw for the care of cats

Our cat management bylaw comes into effect from 1 June this year.

The bylaw requires owners of domestic cats over the age of six months to microchip, desex, and register them with the New Zealand Companion Animal Register. It's our way to encourage responsible pet ownership.

Our focus is education over enforcement to ensure that domestic cats are well cared for, can be easily reunited with their families if they get lost, and their population is managed humanely and effectively.

We want to ensure all cat owners meet the required standards by providing clear expectations and consistent support across the community. Veterinarians will continue to provide care without judgement, ensuring everyone feels confident bringing their pets in whenever they need help.

The bylaw may assist in distinguishing feral and stray cats from companion cats by requiring desexing and microchipping but does not have any powers relating to pest cats.

Unlike domestic cats, management of pest cats is covered separately under the Tasman Nelson Regional Pest Management Plan, which applies only to pest cats and excludes residential areas. It has specific site-led rules for feral cats in high-value biodiversity areas of Abel Tasman National Park, Waimea Inlet, and St Arnaud.

In rural areas with low risk of capturing domestic pets, biosecurity staff can provide advice and, if deemed necessary, may loan live capture traps to landowners.

Neither the bylaw nor the Regional Pest Management Plan provide new powers for community-led feral cat management. This includes individuals or groups taking cat management into their own hands. Owned cats are legally considered property and harming them is unlawful.

The 2025 storm recovery continues

Eleven months on from the severe storms that hit our region, recovery work is still progressing steadily.

Work is well underway on several major roading projects that require significant investment and detailed geotechnical assessment. These include Riwaka-Sandy Bay Road (particularly the hill section to Mārahau), Kaiteriteri-Sandy Bay Road, and Motueka River West Bank Road. We have also been working with the Department of Conservation to get Graham Valley Road repairs done, which should be complete by spring.

Crews also continue to make good progress on smaller repair sites. More than 700 jobs were completed between October and December 2025, with a further 400 finished between January and March 2026.

We have received \$5.1 million in response and recovery phase funding, with the remaining \$18.95 million now approved by the New Zealand Transport Agency, enabling continued momentum across roading recovery projects.

The rivers recovery programme has also shifted from immediate response work to a more planned, long-term approach, with crews expected to work full-time on this programme over the next 18 – 24 months.

Further marine clean-up work is also planned following reports of debris on the Motueka Sandbar, in Abel Tasman National Park, and on Farewell Spit. The Harbourmaster will carry out a survey from Pūponga to Māpua, alongside rubbish collection from Onetahua to Farewell Spit.

In the social recovery space, work is underway for an in-house group of volunteers to form a Recovery Navigator Taskforce. This team of around six trained staff will be ready to support affected communities quickly in future events.

Life tags – you're it for life

We're making dog registration a little more 'pawsitive' with the introduction of life tags – durable stainless steel registration tags designed to last for your dog's lifetime.

Instead of receiving a new plastic tag each year, your dog will keep the same tag and unique number for life. It's a simple change that means less hassle for owners, less waste heading to landfill, and a better way to help reunite lost pups with their humans.

While the tag is changing, annual dog registration is still required by law. Registration fees, microchipping requirements, and dog control rules all remain the same. Dogs must also continue to wear their registration tag at all times – no ifs, or mutts about it.

Think of a life tag like a car number plate – the plate stays the same, but registration still needs to be renewed each year.

The new tags are laser-engraved to help them stay readable for years to come. They also mean we can stop producing and posting thousands of plastic tags every year, which is something to bark about.

Meanwhile, although dog registration fees haven't changed since last year, there has been an alteration to dog categories. Category 1 is dogs on properties smaller than one hectare, while Category 2 is dogs on properties larger than a hectare, and the third is working or farm dogs.

Our life tags are a 'furtastic' step forward in modernising dog identification.

Don't 'fureget' to register your dog before 31 July to avoid penalty fees. Visit tasman.govt.nz/dog-registration.

Help create a top-shelf Local Alcohol Policy for Tasman

The review of our Local Alcohol Policy will begin its public consultation period next month. This will be your opportunity to help shape how alcohol is sold and supplied in Tasman. We have had a Local Alcohol Policy since 2014, and we review it every six years.

Alcohol licences allow businesses, clubs, and organisations to sell or supply alcohol. Each licence application is assessed individually, taking into account its specific circumstances.

However, all licensed premises must operate within the framework set by the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act and Tasman's Local Alcohol Policy, which promotes the safe and responsible sale and supply of alcohol and the minimisation of alcohol-related harm.

While there are national default (maximum) opening hours, these affect different communities in different ways. A one-size-fits-all approach isn't always the best for local situations. Our review gives the opportunity and ability to tailor our policy to what will be of best value for Tasman.

We will be asking your views on:

- Whether Tasman should continue to have a Local Alcohol Policy.
- Whether current on-licence and off-licence trading hours are appropriate.
- The location of licensed premises, including proximity to sensitive sites such as schools or other places where children and young people gather (an area not currently addressed in our policy). Early engagement opportunities have already provided some important feedback and information to create a draft Local Alcohol Policy ready for consultation, which will open between 25 June and 26 July.

Help in a heartbeat

There are small portable devices dotted all over the Tasman District that are here to potentially save lives.

AEDs or automated external defibrillators are portable, emergency medical devices used to help somebody experiencing sudden cardiac arrest (SCA).

SCA happens when the electrical system of the heart becomes chaotic, causing it to stop beating effectively. It's not the same as a heart attack; it's an electrical problem, whereas a heart attack is a blood circulation problem.

SCA is one of the leading causes of death in Aotearoa New Zealand and can happen to anybody, anytime and anywhere.

Each year, more than 2,000 New Zealanders are treated for SCA away from a hospital, but early defibrillation, along with CPR, is the only way to restore the victim's heart rhythm.

Often you will see an AED located at a workplace, school, supermarket, gym or public place such as a swimming pool, community hall or sports ground.

We have AEDs at the front desk of our Richmond Service Centre and at Richmond Library that can be used by anybody without any medical training, as they contain clear instructions for use.

The devices analyse the person's heart rhythm, and if necessary, deliver an electric shock (a defibrillation) to help the heart get back to its natural rhythm.

Find out where the closest AED is at aedlocations.co.nz or download the AED Locations app on your phone.

Funders hit the road

As someone once said in some movie, "Show me the money!"

Well, we might not be able to show you the money, but we can point you in the right direction to find it with a series of funding drop-in sessions.

Do you have an exciting community project in the pipeline? A Tasman District Council Community Grant could help to make it happen.

The Department of Internal Affairs has various funding possibilities. Learn what funds could be available, how to apply, and what other resources there are for community groups and organisations.

Rātā Foundation invests in communities. Drop in, meet Rātā staff and engage in how their funding might help you in the difference you want to make in the community.

Top of the South Community Foundation is available to help generous people by providing easy and secure options to support the charities and community projects of their choice now and forever.

Come along and find out about the funding and resources available to support your community group or organisation – no bookings are needed, just drop in.

- Tuesday 9 June, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm, Golden Bay Anglican Parish, 42 Commercial Street, Tākaka.
- Tuesday 9 June, 3.30 pm – 5.30 pm, Motueka Recreation Centre, Old Wharf Road, Motueka.
- Wednesday 10 June, 3.30 pm – 5.30 pm, Tasman District Council, 189 Queen Street, Richmond.

Curtain Bank warming up local homes

The Curtain Bank is on a mission to ensure local homes have effective curtains to keep homes warmer in winter.

Started by Claire McKenzie (pictured) and a small team of dedicated volunteers in 2024, the Curtain Bank collects donations of good-quality second-hand curtains and tracks. The team then sorts, cuts, and sews these to fit in homes referred by health and social service agencies.

With support from Tasman District Council, the Curtain Bank has recently moved into new premises at the Hope Domain.

The team is looking for volunteers to help with collecting, sorting, measuring, cutting and sewing donated curtains, and updating their social media – no prior experience required.

They meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10.00 am – 3.00 pm. If you'd like to lend a hand, contact Claire at curtainbank.nelson@gmail.com.

Curtains and home insulation go hand in hand – if you have one but not the other, you're likely to have a cold home.

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority and Warmer Healthier Homes Te Taihupo Charitable Trust provide grants for home insulation and heaters to properties that meet specific criteria.

You may qualify for a grant to cover the costs of installing insulation and/or a heat pump if you own your own home, it was built before 2008, and you have a community services card OR live in a lower-income area.

Contact Absolute Energy to find out if you qualify for a grant on 0800 423 454.

New ways for free battery disposal

New proposed guidelines for the safe handling and storage of used batteries mean that we need to change how we deal with them – keeping battery handling safer for everyone.

This means that from now on, we are only going to accept batteries at our Resource Recovery Centres, where appropriate and safe handling facilities are set up. They can no longer be handed in at the front desk of our Service Centres.

Increasing numbers of devices use rechargeable Lithium-ion batteries, which means we're seeing greater numbers of old batteries being dropped off, and these need to be stored in the right way to reduce the risk of something going wrong.

Lithium-ion batteries can pose significant safety risks because they can be damaged when compressed in large quantities.

Those risks include catching fire (thermal runaway) and sometimes the release of highly toxic gases, and this is why we are taking a safety-first approach.

From now on, people with unwanted batteries need to take them to their closest Resource Recovery Centre in Richmond, Mariri, Murchison, Collingwood or Tākaka, and use the specially designed battery disposal bins.

Battery drop-off continues to be free of charge, and now also includes electric bicycle batteries.

Why winter grazing deserves a bit of thought

Winter grazing is about more than forage crops alone. Whether you are grazing crop and pasture mixes, strip grazing pasture, feeding supplements, or managing stock through sacrifice paddocks or stand-off areas, winter feeding systems all play an important role when pasture growth slows or stops.

Wetter soils, higher grazing pressure, and increased risk of nutrients and sediment moving off paddocks all need to be managed. Applying good practice across all winter-feeding systems helps protect animal performance, maintain soil structure, and keep nutrients where they belong.

Most farmers already have solid systems in place, and a few well-timed adjustments can make winter grazing easier on stock, simpler for staff, and kinder on soils and waterways.

Some winter grazing systems are considered Intensive Winter Grazing in the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater. This refers to grazing all livestock types on annual forage crops between 1 May and 30 September. Where this applies:

- Areas used must be at least five metres away from rivers, lakes, wetlands, and drains.
- Critical Source Areas must be left ungrazed and kept in permanent vegetative cover.

While these rules apply specifically to forage crops, the risks they address, such as runoff, pugging, and nutrient loss, can occur under any winter grazing system when conditions turn wet.

Good management practices focus on practical decisions that reduce risk and give you more options when winter throws a curveball.

For industry-specific guidance and practical tips, visit the Tasman Rural Hub at tasman.govt.nz/tasman-rural-hub-2 and click on 'winter grazing'.

\$1.125 million to leverage our river monitoring capabilities

We are one of ten councils receiving a share of \$7.728 million from the government's Regional Infrastructure Fund to upgrade early warning flood systems across the country.

The funding is administered by Kānoa – Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit, with Canterbury Regional Council (Environment Canterbury) overseeing the programme on behalf of councils.

Tasman's program of work totals \$1,125,000, with Kānoa providing 60% of the funding, and the remaining 40% funded by our capital expenditure allocations approved in the 2024-2034 10-Year Plan.

The project involves upgrades of existing sites as well as bridging gaps, blind spots and potential failure points identified in network reviews and learnings from national flood events.

The funding will enable the installation of cameras at key sites, enhance the utilisation of digital satellite technology, and relay information in real time to our website and other channels. It also covers the installation of the equipment.

The improved systems will provide benefits to many areas of Council work, as well as complement the new rain radar planned for the region by MetService.

Some work is well underway as part of efforts to recover from the weather event of June/July 2025. This included some new technology introduced near the Wairoa Gorge, as well as the upgrade of a site in the upper Motueka catchment.

The funding is being implemented right across the District – Waimea, Motueka and Tākaka Rivers, as well as increasing resources in areas such as Motupiko, Riuwaka, and sections of the Wai-iti River.

The funding covers a three-year period until 30 June 2029, but the benefits will be long-term and will help inform decisions related to emergency management in flood events.