

## NEWS FROM YOUR WAIKATO DISTRICT COUNCILLOR - 25 AUGUST 2021



Submissions to the **Draft Representation Review Proposal** closed at 5pm on 20<sup>th</sup> August. At 4pm on that day Council had received nearly 200 submissions and approximately 15 submitters via the phone system, implemented because of the Covid lockdown, so the final number will be over 200 – an increase of 25% from the last review. Thank you to the four Community Committees in Eureka Ward who consulted their communities and put in a submission.

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The “*not if but when*” **Covid** spread into the community arrived last week but it still caught us all on the hop. I feel the Government made the right decision to go into immediate level 4 lockdown and I think most of us have adapted back into the stay at home regime. However I have noted much higher traffic volumes compared to last year’s lockdown.

Council, and Councillors, continue to work. Councillors are meeting via Zoom and receive regular updates from our Executive Leaders Team. Our offices are closed with most staff working from home but still carrying out all normal work except for on site visits – planning applications etc continue to be processed. Our teams are doing urgent maintenance and infrastructure repairs when needed. If you see any issues needing urgent repair please put in a service request via Council’s website or phone me.

Rubbish and recycling will be collected as usual – please clean all recycling to keep our contractors safe. However all tips and transfer stations will be closed through Level 4 lockdown.

Parks are open in the district but playgrounds are closed – dogs must be on leash at all time. Stay local for exercise, no water based activities are allowed and the Hakarimata track is closed.

All community halls are closed until further notice and are unlikely to reopen until the Waikato goes into Level 2 and only then with strict guidelines on numbers who can attend a function and the necessity for rigorous cleaning and sanitising regimes.

**A comprehensive update on Councils response to the latest Covid 19 outbreak** can be found at <https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/your-council/covid-19> On this page you can also find a link to a document (*Covid 19 Support contact card*) that gives full details of people and agencies who can give a wide range of support and services. Please reach out if you, friends or family need assistance. Up to date information can also be found on our Facebook page. Today The Waikato Group Civil Defence organisation has been activated to support the Ministry of Health (DHB’s) and MSD in responding to the current Covid outbreak.

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You will have received your latest **rates notice**. **A Rates rebate scheme** is in place and details can be found at <https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/services-facilities/rates/rates-rebates>

So If you, or someone you know, is experiencing hardship, please contact Waikato District Council by email to [rates@waidc.govt.nz](mailto:rates@waidc.govt.nz) or phone 0800 492 452 to discuss and arrange a payment plan or apply for assistance through the rates remission/rates rebate.

Forms for the remission/rates rebate are also available from all Council offices, including the new office at Tamahere located off Airport Road/Wiremu Tamihana Drive. However during lockdown I suggest you phone Council to ask if a form can be emailed or posted to you.

### **Eligibility and benefits**

- The maximum rebate for the 2021/22 rating year is \$655.00
- The Gross Income threshold starts at \$26,150.00 (if you earn more than \$26,150.00 a year you could still be eligible)
- The additional income allowance for dependents is \$500 per dependent.

**Contact me any time -**

**Rob McGuire – Councillor Eureka Ward**

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