

# NEWS FROM YOUR WAIKATO DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

## - 30 NOVEMBER 2021



What a difference a month can make. It was nice to enjoy a few days at the beach last weekend – we must now wait to see what difference the “traffic light” system will make to our lives.

Council will continue to meet virtually for the balance of 2021. This is to ensure the safety of all staff, elected members and the public until Covid policies are in place for both staff and elected members.

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**Community Halls** can now reopen. We received information from Council last week on protocols for halls under the traffic light system.

Under the Orange rules Community Halls come under the **Public Facilities category**. This means people must physically distance 1 metre, so each hall will have a different capacity. Your local Hall Committee can give you their capacity information when you make a booking. Masks must be worn, QR codes scanned/records kept. On 13 December Council will make a decision on their stance for a vaccine pass mandate.

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On 2 November Council released information about the **Total Mobility** rollout into the Waikato District.

*“A national door-to-door transport scheme involving disability agencies, taxi companies/transport providers and local government is being extended into the Waikato district. The Total Mobility Scheme is already operating in Hamilton, Tokoroa, Taupō and the Waipā district, and will be available for people with disabilities in Tamahere, Matangi and Newstead soon, followed by Raglan, Huntly and Ngāruawāhia.*

*Waikato Regional Council’s [WRC] public transport manager, Andrew Wilson, said the scheme gave registered users a subsidy off taxi fares and door-to-door transport services. Total Mobility users would also be eligible for the Accessibility Concession, meaning they would also receive free bus travel in the area..... Mr Wilson encouraged anyone with a condition that prevented them from getting around on their own to sign up.*

*..... A registration form for residents of Matangi, Newstead, Tamahere and Tauwhare can be completed online or via 0800 205 305. Once COVID-19 alert levels allow, a face-to-face eligibility assessment will be organised with a disability agency representative. I assume this covers Eureka but have asked WRC to confirm this. I should have that information shortly, so if you are interested phone me.*

*Under the scheme, Waikato District Council and Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency will pay half the fare up to a maximum discount of \$50 per trip, and the user pays the remainder. To find out more and to register online, visit [busit.co.nz](https://busit.co.nz) or call 0800 205 305.”*

The full media release can be read on –

<https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/news/media-releases/article/2021/11/01/total-mobility-comes-to-the-waikato-district>

### **Bylaws**

Council is working on various bylaws and policies including the **Livestock Movement Bylaw and Related Policies • Dog Control Bylaw and Policy • Speed Management Bylaw • Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw (new) • Gambling Venues Policy 2018 • Easter Trading Policy - details can be found on the WDC website.**

**Dog Control Bylaw and Policy** – Council wants feedback from the community on the proposed changes. Council is legally required to review the bylaw, which offers a great opportunity to look at ways to improve the rules governing dog ownership in our district.

Proposed changes to the bylaw include limiting the number of dogs in rural zones to two dogs per property, with some exemptions. Anyone wanting three or more dogs would require a Council permit.

Working dogs would be exempt from this rule. The rule would also not apply for multi-unit housing and Papakainga housing, or at boarding kennel or dog daycare centres. Council has proposed this change because, at times, large numbers of dogs are being kept unsafely on rural properties. Currently, there is no limit to the number of dogs that can be kept on rural properties in the Waikato district but there is a limit of two dogs on all properties which are not rural.

People can have their say about the proposed changes to Council’s Dog Control Policy and Bylaw. **Consultation closes at 5pm on 16 January 2022.** Detailed information on the proposed changes is available on Council’s website: [www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/dogbylaw](https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/dogbylaw).

Waikato District Council is also **seeking feedback on its Easter Trading Policy**, which allows shops to open on Easter Sunday.

The current policy, which was adopted in 2017, allows shops in the Waikato district to trade on Easter Sunday if they wish to. Without a policy, they would not be able to open unless they fit the criteria set out in section 4 of the Shop Trading Hours Act 1990.

The policy is due for review, and Council would like to hear whether you think we should continue to permit shops to trade on this day.

People can have <sup>their</sup> say about the Easter Trading Policy. **Consultation closes at 5pm on 16 January 2022.** Those who wish to be heard in support of their submission will have the chance in February.

For more information, including the draft policy and Statement of Proposal, please visit our website [www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/sayit](http://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/sayit).

**The easiest way to provide feedback on any policy or bylaw proposals is to make your comments online but paper copies of all the relevant documents and submission forms are also available at all Council offices and libraries.**

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**Council is changing the start time for kerbside refuse and recycling collection from 8am to 7am.**

**Reminder -**

- \* Ensure plastic, tins and bottles are rinsed clean
- \* Glass only in one crate
- \* All lids to be removed
- \* Clean plastic numbered 1, 2 and 5 accepted.

Note – if you require a new or replacement crate they can be obtained from the District Council's Tamahere office which is open Monday – Friday until 3pm

From 1 December, please ensure all kerbside rubbish and recycling is out by 7am.

The collection will start half-hour earlier due to an increasing population, longer collection routes and additional health and safety precautions.

Raglan's collection will start at 8am.



**I am available via email or mobile during the holiday period.** If you want to report any road damage or other urgent matters, you can phone Council on 0800 492 452 or “Request it” on the Council’s website that allows you to complete a relevant service request.

*I hope you are able to spend some time relaxing during the holiday season – drive safely and take care in the water. Hopefully 2022 brings some normality back to our lives.*

**Rob McGuire – Councillor Eureka Ward**

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