

## MAYORAL COLUMN



Mayor Craig Little

### PARLIAMENT TRIP

Wairoa showcased its point of difference at Parliament on Tuesday.

Ikaroa-Rawhiti MP Meka Whaitiri paved the way for the Wairoa Showcase Day because she wanted Parliament to see the Wairoa that she sees, with all its uniqueness and ingenuity.

Our presentation to Parliament featured a range of responses and solutions to our wellbeing state with our already recognised cultural richness as our platform.

Our aim was to show the Ministries what we do well independently of Government funding, and how this Government can engage in our new environment.

### MĀHANGA WATER SUPPLY

Providing a water supply that meets the ever-changing and stringent requirements is becoming more and more difficult and costly.

We are working with Māhanga Beach residents to find the best option for a sustainable and affordable water supply for their community.

The 2017 Māhanga Water Referendum resulted in 78.4 percent of voters wanting the Council to deliver a water supply that meets the drinking water standards of New Zealand.

Since the Referendum and the Havelock North water event, the situation around water has changed significantly.

We have sought legal advice, and this Referendum is binding. Because of the changes around water if the community now decided to go back on its decision, a further costly process would be involved.

Due to these changes around water, and the learnings from the Blue Bay water supply, we are concerned that delivering a safe, reliable water supply to the Māhanga community may not be cost-effective.

Whether we use the existing bores, or a new bore, the cost of validation to ensure it is a suitable water supply could be \$80-120,000, that cost doesn't include finding out if the supply would meet demand.

It will cost a lot of money to find the capacity and quality of a bore, with no guarantees it would go on to provide a suitable supply.

There are also other considerations such as whether the Māhanga wastewater will meet the new requirements, as it is recognised that a property connected to a public water supply will use considerably more water than a property connected to a rainwater tank system.

We want the Māhanga, and also the Blue Bay, water supply upgrades to happen.

However, we need to ensure we are fully compliant with the drinking water standards for New Zealand and that the supply is sustainable and cost-effective.

There are significant challenges and longer-term consequences that the Māhanga community need to consider, including the fact the estimated costs are significantly higher than anticipated at the time of the Referendum.

We have sent an information sheet to residents and are planning a meeting for Saturday, June 8 at 10am at the Māhanga Marae. We are awaiting confirmation of this date.

From that meeting Council is hoping to get guidance from the community around which direction they would like to take.

We encourage residents to email any questions they have to [stevenmay@wairoadc.govt.nz](mailto:stevenmay@wairoadc.govt.nz) so we can ensure we have as many answers as possible to present at the meeting.

### MAYORS & CHAIRS VISIT

The most recent Mayors and Chairs meeting was hosted by Wairoa last week.

The Mayors and Chairpersons of the region try to meet once a month so we can share information and understand issues that affect our region.

It is a great time to share knowledge and listen to other people's thoughts.



Pictured from left Wairoa Mayor Craig Little, Napier deputy Mayor Faye White, Hawke's Bay Regional Council chairman Rex Graham, Hastings Mayor Sandra Hazlehurst and Central Hawkes Bay Mayor Alex Walker.

Throughout the region, we all have the same issues with the 3 waters, landfill, and roading receiving a lot of attention at the moment.

The meeting is held at different places throughout the region, and for Wairoa it was great to host the group so they could listen and see what we are all about.

I hope in the future we will be able to expand by including Gisborne and Tararua within the group.

### WASTEWATER WORK PROGRESSING

We are working with the Hawke's Bay Regional Council to renew consent for the district council's treated wastewater discharge.

Having lodged our application at the end of last year, we are now at the exchanging information stage which is expected to take a few more weeks before moving into the public consultation stage.

Hawke's Bay Regional Council chief executive James Palmer has told us the Wairoa District Council is providing a greater degree of transparency and there is a greater responsiveness from Council management who have undertaken a lot of work around reducing the infiltration and inflow of stormwater into the sewerage infrastructure.

He commended the fact this Council is working to pick up some long-standing issues from the past and that he was satisfied with the current district council's approach and the shift in their attitude and responsiveness.

This Council is no different to the people in the community. We want a system that is future proofed and environmentally sustainable.

Wastewater is everybody's issue, and I commend the Council staff who are working hard to achieve an affordable solution for our community.

## FOR YOUR DIARY

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

### FINANCE, AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 14 May: 1.30pm

### COUNCIL FORUM

Tuesday, 21 May: 1.30pm



### CONTACT US

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## BULKY WASTE COLLECTION

MAY & JUNE 2019

TUAI, NUHAKA, MAHIA, RAUPUNGA, RUAKITURI, TE REINGA

Do you have whiteware or bulky waste items you no longer need?

WDC is giving the community the chance to get rid of whiteware & other bulky waste items through a free collection service.

For more information visit [www.wairoadc.govt.nz](http://www.wairoadc.govt.nz), search for #rubbishrecycling

