

WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL ... IN FOCUS

7 November 2019

MAYORAL COLUMN



Mayor Craig Little

It is an exciting time to be part of the Wairoa District Council.

With the election behind us it is now time to celebrate our new Council which offers a strong Māori representation as well as being female dominated and with a more youthful dynamic.

While this new Council features obvious differences, the one consistency that brings us all together is the desire to make

our district the best it can be.

As I enter my third term as Mayor of Wairoa it is important to take stock of where we have been and where we are heading.

When I first stood for the mayoralty six-years ago my goal was to stop Wairoa's population decline. I am really proud to say that we have achieved that, with our population now actually on the increase.

Statistics New Zealand Census figures revealed a population growth of 6.04 percent, 477 people, in the Wairoa district over the five-year period between Census data collections in 2013 and 2018.

In 2006 Wairoa's population was recorded at 8484. By 2013 it had decreased to 7890 and as at 2018 was recorded at 8367 Wairoa's population decline was against the national trend.

We were in a downhill spiral mode losing one percent of our population every year.

We are now back on track and aligned with the national population increase which is where we need to be.

It has been a priority to make Wairoa an attractive and affordable place to live. We are blessed with incredible natural resources and it is fantastic to see people wanting to live in our district and enjoy our community.

It is important that we as a Council look after our growing population and ensure we are delivering.

A major issue we are progressing through is the new consent and upgrade of the Wairoa Wastewater Scheme and

ensuring it is affordable and environmentally acceptable.

It is great to be in a position where we are actioning this and working to future-proof our town.

It is important we protect our district, that includes ensuring productive farmland is not blanket planted in forestry.

We need to keep our district safe and while we know we have some issues; it is reassuring to have our full quota of Police staff.

An increased Police presence must help in addressing the methamphetamine and drug problem that is destroying families both locally and throughout the country.

We need to ensure Council is monitoring its costs and spending wisely, but balance that against delivering the best service possible.

Achieving that will include a rating review that will involve working with the community to form a cross section-stakeholder group to investigate whether we can introduce a more equitable rating system.

Over the past couple of years this Council has attracted around \$10 million from Central Government, with a lot of that made possible through the Provincial Growth Fund.

This is extra funding that Wairoa ratepayers have not had to front up with.

We are continuing to build on attracting additional funding and have some exciting projects on the go which could mark an era of change for Wairoa.

Every workshop, meeting and decision Council makes has consequences for our district, so it is important we make the right decisions and that we are transparent and accountable.

Making decisions relies on shared info and channels such as the Community Partnership Group which has united Council, Iwi and Government Agencies and, helps everyone to be aware of how our community is functioning.

I am thrilled to be back in as Mayor and am looking forward to working with our new Council so we can continue to grow our economic base and create employment in line with our population growth.

FOR YOUR DIARY

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

MĀORI STANDING COMMITTEE

Tue, 19 November: 12.00pm

COUNCIL MEETING

Tue, 26 November: 1.30pm



CONTACT US

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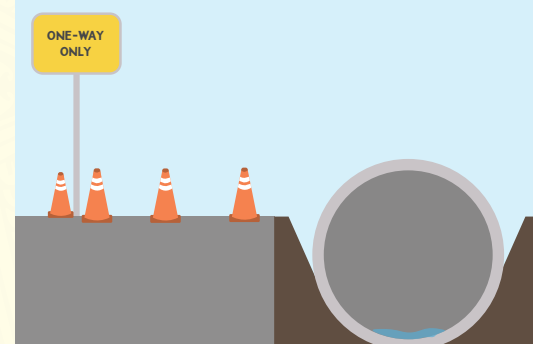
KITCHENER STREET STORMWATER DRAIN UPGRADE

STAGE 1

21 OCTOBER - 20 DECEMBER 2019

There will be a one-way only system in place, in stages between Robbie's Dairy-Rutherford St and Rutherford St-Achilles St.

Residents will only be able to turn left out of their driveways when the closure is adjacent to their driveway.



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