

# Unite against COVID 19



Mayor Craig Little

## COMMUNITY SPIRIT

What an incredible couple of months it has been and what a tremendous amount of community spirit we have seen in our district.

While we remain in Alert Level 2 our Civil Defence response has transitioned out and we begin to return to our new normal.

Bearing in mind we must remain flexible so Civil Defence is able to respond if the COVID-19 threat was to flare up again.

I am proud of the work carried out by our Council and Wairoa's Civil Defence. Our town kept on ticking through one of the greatest threats in living memory and I am grateful to everyone who played a part in this.

We had a wonderful response from our iwi, the Taiwhenua and the many volunteers who rolled their sleeves up and looked after our most vulnerable. The generosity from our local people was great. I watched as Di and John McCallum dropped off boxes of apples, a true sign of community spirit.

Over April and May the Community Welfare Food Hub volunteers have distributed 915 food parcels which assisted more than 2600 people.

These food parcels were gratefully received by our local elderly and families in need. It is fantastic to know these donations went to people who needed it the most and meant vulnerable people were able to stay safe in their bubbles.

While many communities distributed food to their vulnerable people Wairoa's point of difference was the donations received from AFFCO and the local farmers.

AFFCO got the ball rolling with donations of meat and frozen vegetables which meant thousands of dollars did not have to be spent on buying those products. This was then complemented by the lamb donations from local farmers which were processed by AFFCO free of charge and amounted to more than \$12,000 plus monetary donations.

The lambs were processed and packed free of charge by AFFCO Wairoa. The meat packs were then broken down into manageable portions with boxes distributed to the Community Welfare Food Hubs throughout the district and in town and the locally run 'Donations for Families in Need' Kai Cupboard.

This meat donation saved the Community Welfare Food Hub hundreds of dollars daily.

Again, thank you to those farmers who dug deep and to AFFCO for supporting its community.

The food hub deliveries were transitioned across to the Wairoa Food Bank last week.

## LOCAL RECOVERY

The Wairoa District Council has partnered with Tātau Tātau o Te Wairoa Trust, the Post-Settlement Governance Entity, and Ngati Pahauwera Development Trust to develop an economic recovery plan for our district.

Again, many communities are planning how they will recover post-pandemic, but our point of difference is our ability to all work together for the same goal of what is best for our community.

Business cases are being developed with immediate recovery and long-term empowerment the goals.

Council has also partnered with Tātau Tātau o Te Wairoa Trust to deliver a business wellness initiative, Pākihi Ora, to support Wairoa businesses in the wake of COVID-19.

I encourage our community to support local businesses as much as they can. By shopping and buying locally, we can help keep our very necessary businesses afloat.

## ROADING & CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

The announcement of \$2.5 million to carry out three local projects means our district has received more than \$15 million in additional central government funding in just over two years.

The projects that will be carried out are replacement of the Patangata Bridge at Whakaki, realignment of the Nuhaka River Road at Nuhaka and repair of the Rangatahi Dropout at Mahia which have all received 100 percent Central Government funding.

For us to be able to attract around \$2.5 million to complete three such worthwhile projects and without that having any impact on our rates is great news.

The work will be funded from the Government's \$100 million worker redeployment package, announced in March, and are part of the COVID-19 shovel ready recovery programme.

Council has always recognised these projects needed completing but our stumbling block has been how we were going to be able to afford to finance the work.

Council's strong relationship and reputation of getting the job done well with the Provincial Development Unit, combined with the collaborative work we have undertaken with the communities involved in these projects has produced a successful outcome.

As well as our local gains these projects will keep our businesses going, workers in jobs and regional economies afloat and viable.

There will be positive employment spin-offs which will just add to making Wairoa an even more desirable place to live and call home.

## ALERT LEVEL 2

New Zealand remains at Alert Level 2 and while we are doing well the threat is not over. You have more freedom of movement at Alert Level 2, but it's up to each one of us to keep the rest of New Zealand safe.

COVID-19 is still out there. Play it safe.



Keep your distance from other people in public.



If you're sick, stay home. Don't go to work or school. Don't socialise. If you have symptoms of cold or flu call your doctor or Healthline and get advice about being tested.



Sneeze and cough into your elbow, regularly disinfect surfaces.



Wash your hands. Wash your hands. Wash your hands.



If you have been told to self-isolate you must do so immediately.



Keep a track of where you've been and who you've seen.

From last Friday gatherings can be held with up to 100 people but people are advised to play it safe and maintain hygiene standards and meet existing record-keeping requirements for contact tracing.

The Government will again review the settings of Alert Level 2 next Monday, June 8 and has agreed that no later than June 22, they will consider a move to Alert Level 1.



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