

# WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL ... IN FOCUS

12 March 2020

## MAYORAL COLUMN

### ROCKET LAB A BOOST FOR WAIROA

When I first heard that Council had been approached to see if we could support launching rockets into space from the tip of the Mahia Peninsula I thought it was a joke.

I had visions of Darth Vader and Star Trek and really believed someone was setting us up.

Who would have thought that five years later, 11 launches and 48 satellites would have been deployed from Launch Complex 1 on the Mahia Peninsula?

Late last year construction began on a second Mahia launch pad.



One of Rocket Lab's commitments is to support local areas with a recorded \$20 plus million injected into the communities of Mahia, Hawke's Bay and Wallops Virginia, where another Rocket Lab launch pad has been built.

Rocket Lab has injected funds into the region through direct employment as well as a network of more than 300 local suppliers including engineering and consulting services, accommodation, catering, fuel and utilities, componentry, construction services and more.

By their nature rocket launch sites are located in remote areas with sparse populations.



Peter Beck has told me Rocket Lab is proud to be opening employment doors in these areas and their focus is on hiring local talent.

Mahia is a community of just 723, according to 2013 Census data, so Rocket Lab is a significant employer in the region.

Rocket Lab's operations on the Mahia Peninsula was also a contributing factor in the recent Provincial Growth Fund investment where our district received \$8.3 million to improve the Mahia East Coast Road.

The road is a vital route that connects the Mahia Peninsula and provides critical access for local farmers, stock trucks, forestry activity, the public and Rocket Lab.

This road will be sealed for the first time ever creating a safer and more reliable road that better connects the Mahia Peninsula with those who rely on it.

Rocket Lab also sponsors the Mahia Fishing and Boating Club, Mahia Golf Club, provided 3D printers to Te Mahia and Nuhaka Schools, sponsors the Rongomaiwahine Basketball team and volunteers time to support the DoC protection of endangered Shore Plover birds on Waikawa (Portland) Island,

Rocket Lab also sponsors a tertiary scholarship and the upcoming Mahia May 26 fun run, to commemorate the anniversary of the Electron's first launch, with proceeds donated to the QEII National Trust that maintains the Mokotahi Hill track.

Rocket Lab has been a gamechanger for our district. It is one of the few times in recent years we have had a fresh industry come into our area.

This is just the beginning; the Rocket Lab potential and spinoffs are enormous.

I hope you have enjoyed reading about Rocket Lab's effect on our district- and that I haven't taken up too much space!



Mayor Craig Little

And, that a second launch pad would be under construction.

Launch Complex 1 is the world's first and only private orbital launch site. The complex is home to a launch pad, vehicle integration facility, payload processing cleanrooms, launch range control, ground station tracking infrastructure and weather monitoring station.



The site's location can support launches from 39-degree inclinations up to sun-synchronous orbits - the inclinations frequently sought by small satellites to low Earth orbit.

### MAHIA HAS IDEAL CONDITIONS FOR ORBITAL LAUNCH - CLEAR SKIES, LOW MARINE TRAFFIC AND CLEAR TRAJECTORY OVER UNINTERRUPTED OCEAN ON THE WAY TO ORBIT.

Launch complex 1 was completed late in 2016 and its first launch occurred in May 2017.

Today the site provides direct employment for more than 27 people with roles in engineering, launch pad operations, logistics and administrative support.

The number of people employed globally by Rocket Lab has grown from 118 staff in 2016 to 500 plus and growing as at today.

Rocket Lab's vision is to open access to space to improve life on earth by providing frequent and reliable access with the revolutionary Electron launch vehicle.

We all rely on satellites. They connect us by providing communications services and internet from space and they help us monitor our planet, providing valuable insights on things like crop growth, pollution levels, fisheries and farming. Whether it's plugging a destination into your phone to navigate somewhere via GPS data, or you're checking the weather forecast on TV or online, all of this information comes from space.

### WHEN I LOOK AT THE POTENTIAL OF SPACE, AND WHAT PETER BECK AND HIS TEAM HAVE ACHIEVED, I FEEL PRIVILEGED THAT MAHIA AND WAIROA HAVE BEEN PART OF THIS SUCCESS.

## FOR YOUR DIARY

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

### INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Tue, 17 March: 1.30pm

### COUNCIL MEETING

Tue, 24 March: 1.30pm

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tue, 31 March: 1.30pm

### FINANCE, AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE

Tue, 14 April: 1.30pm



### CONTACT US

Wairoa District Council  
Queen St, Wairoa  
info@wairoadc.govt.nz  
(06) 838 7309

## Be prepared for tsunami



Practise your tsunami evacuation hīkoi by foot or bike

It's all about muscle memory - taking your route will be easier after previous practise

## TYPES OF TSUNAMI WARNINGS

Don't wait to act, if you experience any of these warnings evacuate immediately inland or to higher ground:

### NATURAL



**A long earthquake**  
A long (more than a minute) or strong (makes it hard to walk or stand up) earthquake



**Unusual noises**  
Unusual noises from the sea (noises like jet planes or trains)



**Sea level change**  
A sudden rise or fall in sea level