

MAYORAL COLUMN

MAJOR MAHIA ROADING BOOST

It is so encouraging to see our district and our people being invested in.

On Tuesday, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Regional Economic Development, Fletcher Tabuteau, announced an \$8.3 million Central Government investment for Mahia roading.

The announcement was held at Tuahuru Marae amongst a crowd of local people who I know were thrilled to have their local roading network and connectivity prioritised.

investments of more than \$30 million.

This money has come to us because our people have demonstrated a need and the positive outcomes this investment will create.

There has been no impact on our local ratepayers.

Figures have shown traffic numbers to Mahia increased from 17,000 over the 2018/2019 summer period to 49,000 over the 2019/2020 summer period so there is plenty of pressure on the infrastructure.

Mahia based historian Bill Shortt told me the Waikokopu dropout (Blowhole) and the area around it was problematic over 60-years ago

The slip, which occurred in the late 1950s, was one of the largest in New Zealand, and right up there with the Manawatu Gorge slip of a few years ago.

The \$300,000 will support investigations to look at all the options for access into the Peninsula, as well as the realignment of the Nuhaka/Opoutama Road.

This road is an 11.3km sealed road with dropout areas, including the Blowhole, of over 1.7km caused by coastal erosion. The funding will investigate alternative routes to bypass these dropouts with a new route critical to ensuring certainty of access.

The investigation will include assessing all relevant options to realign the road and include designs, consultation, and Geotech reports to produce a document that provides sufficient detail to assess funding options.

Thank you to everyone for your continued patience while we work to find long-term solutions that are sustainable for future generations, particularly for areas like the Blowhole.

We know these issues have been around for a long, long time and it is great to be part of a Council that is working with a Government that is finally realising the benefits and potential its investment can unlock.

We will continue to work with the Government to achieve as much as we possibly can to grow economic development in our district.

We also remain committed to advocating for improvements and sealing of sections on SH 38. I know there is frustration from our community over the state of this national highway and we will continue to lobby to have the unsealed sections of road improved.

I know there are other individuals and organisations looking for Government assistance. I encourage anyone who has an idea that will help boost Wairoa to make an application through the Provincial Growth Fund.



Mayor Craig Little



Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Regional Economic Development, Fletcher Tabuteau, and local MP Stuart Nash are welcomed onto Tuahuru Marae at Mahia by Wairoa Mayor Craig Little and chief executive Steven May.

I would like to acknowledge Rongomaiwahine and the work of Rongomaiwahine Iwi Trust Chief Executive Moana Rongo and the Mahia Maori Committee for their ability to see the bigger picture around this roading project. We are also very appreciative of the wonderful hospitality at Tuahuru on Tuesday.

The funding will improve the Mahia East Coast Road and Nuhaka/Opoutama roads, both of which are in need of urgent remedial work.

These roads are critical to the community, visitors and businesses on Mahia Peninsula and the upgrade will increase confidence in the long-term accessibility of the Mahia area.

THE \$8.3 MILLION WILL BE USED TO:

- Traction seal and work on 12.5km of road on the Mahia East Coast Road including 4km of road on Onenui Station that leads to the Rocket Lab site (\$7 million)
- Apply a second coat of traction seal to Mahia East Coast Road (\$1 million), and
- Investigate realigning the 11.3 km Nuhaka-Opoutama Road (\$300,000).

The Mahia East Coast road upgrade will also allow Rocket Lab to transport equipment to their complex so they can develop and operate a second launch site.

Investing in roading infrastructure adds to the district's regional economic development and has benefits for the wider community, visitors and local businesses.

Again, we are appreciative of this Coalition Government and the fact it recognises the extra value external funding can have on a region's economic growth.

Through the Provincial Growth Fund our district has received



Celebrating an \$8.3 million cash injection into Mahia's roading are from left, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Regional Economic Development, Fletcher Tabuteau, Rongomaiwahine Iwi Trust Chief Executive Moana Rongo, Wairoa Mayor Craig Little and Rocket Lab's Chuck Dowdell.

FARMING EXPO

The East Coast Farming Expo began yesterday and continues today at the A & P showgrounds.

The annual event features two days of exhibits and seminars for sheep and beef farmers and showcases agricultural innovation on the East Coast.

Farming is not without challenges and the interactive exhibits and seminars gives farmers the opportunity to interact face-to-face with industry innovators and experts in a relaxed environment close to home.

This event was created by locals Sue Wilson and Dave Martin and it is great to see their efforts being supported.

FOR YOUR DIARY

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

FINANCE, AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE

Tue, 3 March: 1.30pm

MĀORI STANDING COMMITTEE

Thur, 12 March: 12.30pm

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Tue, 17 March: 1.30pm

COUNCIL MEETING

Tue, 24 March: 1.30pm



CONTACT US

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TOTAL FIRE BAN HAWKE'S BAY

This fire ban includes all of the Wairoa District and Wairoa township.

All fires in the open air are prohibited including incinerators and braziers. Gas barbecues or heaters are still permitted.

